

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org).

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

#### Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Mid City WEST Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(28) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 06/14/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

#### Impact Information

Date: 07/05/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-0600-S66

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: Neighborhood councils are the boots on the ground for LA city government and are often the first place stakeholders turn when having issues. Our service to the City and our communities is on a volunteer basis, but there is a limit to how much time and labor each of us can give. When the pandemic hit and all departments were asked to cut their budgets, Neighborhood Councils took a disproportionate 24% reduction. We need our budgets restored to their original \$50,000 plus an adjustment for inflation which would bring our budgets to \$82,000 per year. It is very hard to function on our current \$32,000 a year allocation and make a significant difference in our communities.



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**June 14, 2022**

**To: Los Angeles City Council  
Sent via CIS Portal and Email  
In regards to Council File 22-0600-S66**

Neighborhood councils are the boots on the ground for LA city government and are often the first place stakeholders turn when having issues. Our service to the City and our communities is on a volunteer basis, but there is a limit to how much time and labor each of us can give. When the pandemic hit and all departments were asked to cut their budgets, Neighborhood Councils took a disproportionate 24% reduction. We need our budgets restored to their original \$50,000 plus an adjustment for inflation which would bring our budgets to \$82,000 per year. It is very hard to function on our current \$32,000 a year allocation and make a significant difference in our communities. If we provide simple snacks for our meetings that's 2% of our budget. If we fully fund a single neighborhood purpose grant and that's over 15% of our yearly budget. Our rent to have a meeting space in our community as required under the Brown Act is over 56% of our budget.

We have to decide between basic operational expenses and making a difference in our neighborhoods. Most NCs are making this up by over relying on the free labor of our board member volunteers and we are getting exhausted and worn out. This has a disproportionate effect on disadvantaged communities where board members do not have the luxury and privilege of time to dedicate hours upon hours to service of their communities. It has become clear that the City is leaning very heavily on our free labor and the situation is untenable and will drive active volunteers out of the NC system.

It was especially disheartening to hear Capri Maddox exemplify this point during the Budget Hearings on May 2nd, saying that the Civil, Human Rights, and Equity Department was leveraging the free labor of Neighborhood Councils to save money in their outreach budget. If the NC system is to survive and thrive, we need our budgets reinstated to \$50,000 a year with an additional adjustment for inflation which would bring our budgets to \$82,000 a year.

Sincerely,

Dre Guttag  
Chair, Outreach and Civic Engagement  
Mid City West Neighborhood Council