

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

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Honorable Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Chair and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee
Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**SUBJECT: COUNCIL FILE 22-0600 - DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023
BUDGET REQUEST**

Dear Chair Krekorian

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners ("Board"), which held a regular meeting and approved this letter on May 3, 2022.

Neighborhood Councils are on-the-ground every day creating a bridge between the City of Los Angeles and local communities, playing an integral role in communicating and implementing the services the City provides. Neighborhood Councils work to ensure that funds and resources are being distributed equitably amongst the City's most vulnerable population. This includes:

- Delivering supplies such as groceries, household essentials, diapers, and more to vulnerable residents;
- Providing translation services so that residents can access benefits and public meetings;
- Providing micro-grants to local nonprofits on the front line of supporting our most vulnerable residents
- Creating or working with mutual aid networks that match volunteers with people in need for services like grocery delivery, prescription pick-up and dog-walking;
- Creating a system of block captains, individuals who are responsible for contacting entire block of individuals to connect, build community, and connect with services;
- Improving parks and recreation services, identifying fixes to streets and roadways, supporting the City's Vision Zero efforts, finding housing for homeless neighbors, and much, much more.
- Improving outreach to communities in order to grow their Neighborhood Councils.

Despite all this, Neighborhood Councils and the Department received disproportionate budget cuts during the pandemic relative to other departments and, despite state and federal funding, have not seen a restoration of their budgets.

Therefore, we ask that you restore Neighborhood Council annual budgets to a minimum of \$50,000. This is necessary as Neighborhood Councils pay individually for technology licenses to meet virtually, meeting spaces when we return to in-person meetings, and outreach for upcoming election activities.

In addition to restoring individual neighborhood council budgets, we ask that you approve the request from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to ensure the success of our Neighborhood Councils. This includes ongoing funding for awareness and engagement, and elections outreach, more staff to support Neighborhood Councils to address operational

bottlenecks such as the timely posting of agendas, administrative support for our Commission, training platform and translation services, and the restoration of the project coordinator position.

We believe that these are reasonable and prudent requests that will save the City funds over the long-term as Neighborhood Council leaders will have better support from the City to achieve better outcomes in their neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. Lipmen".

Eli Lipmen
President
On Behalf of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners