

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.

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Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: North Westwood Neighborhood Council

Name: Eric Coestad

Phone Number: (415) 688-1136

Email: ericnwwnc@gmail.com

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(12) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 11/09/2022

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 02/27/2023

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-0981

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: See attached regarding racists on LA City Council. This CIS refers to multiple council files.

Community Impact Statement for Council Files and Commissions

[Council File 22-0981](#) (AGAINST)

Heather Hutt / Office Holder Appointment / Council District 10

[Council File 22-0987](#) (FOR)

Temporary Appointment / Eligibility Requirements / Council District 10

[Council File 19-1488](#) (AGAINST)

City Council President / President Pro Tempore / December 3rd, 2019 / Election

[Council File 19-1470](#) (FOR)

Office of Racial Equity / Establish / City Policy / Programs

[Council File 22-1196](#) (FOR)

Charter Reform Ballot Initiative / Los Angeles 2024 / Population Growth / Major Immigrant Destination / Los Angeles City Council Seats / City Residents Representation

[Council File 23-0002-S1](#) (FOR)

SB 958 (Lara-Hall) / County of Los Angeles Citizens Restricting Commission / Independent Process / New Commission / New Redistricting Maps / April 2023

[Council File 22-1197](#) (FOR)

New Ad Hoc Committee / City Government Reform / October 2021 Recordings Release / Transparency and Limit Corruption / Los Angeles Residents Trust

[Council File 22-1195](#) (FOR)

Racially Insensitive and Divisive Statements / Professional Conduct Failure / City Charter / Ground for Removal

[Council File 22-1189](#) (FOR)

Elected Officials / Martinez, de Leon and Cedillo / Offensive Misconducts / Racist and Hateful Comments / City Charter / Immediate Resignation Demand

[Council File 22-1192](#) (FOR)

Removed from Office / Select New Council President / Vacant

[Council File 22-1193](#) (FOR)

Replacement / Elect New Council President / Resigned from Office

[Council File 22-1199](#) (FOR)

Removal of Councilmember de Leon / Chair of Homelessness and Poverty Committee

[Council File 22-1201](#) (FOR)

Removal of Councilmember Gil Cedillo / Chair of Housing Committee

[Council File 22-0004](#) (FOR)

2022 / Commendatory Resolutions - Motion Introduced 10/11/22

[Council File 22-1233](#) (FOR)

Special Election / Council District 6

[Council File 22-1234](#) (FOR)

Special Election / Vacancy / Council District 6

[Council File 22-1282](#) (FOR)

Charter Section 207 / Incumbent Vacancy / Council Consent

[Council File 22-1285](#) (FOR)

Rules of City Council / List of Potential Consequences / Censured Councilmember / Restrictions

[Council File 23-1300](#) (FOR)

Special Election / Special Runoff Election / Vacancy / Los Angeles City Council / District 6

The North Westwood NC calls on Councilmembers de León, and Cedillo to immediately resign from the Los Angeles City Council. As widely reported by the [LA Times](#) and [Knock LA](#), these councilmembers along with former Councilmember Martinez engaged in an abhorrent conversation that disparaged and disrespected Councilmember Mike Bonin and his family, other City Councilmembers, the Black community, the redistricting process, and Angelenos everywhere. These councilmembers should take ownership of their vile and inexcusable actions and immediately resign. While resignation will not begin to repair the damage that has been done to our City, it is the first step in showing true accountability and remorse. Los Angeles cannot begin to heal while these members remain in power.

In the event these councilmembers fail to see the urgency of the need for their resignations, the City Council itself has a duty to act. The City Council must agendize a censure of Councilmembers de León and Cedillo, if they fail to resign. Neighborhood Council leaders expect a unanimous vote on these censures. Anything less is tantamount to an endorsement of anti-Black racism, anti-Indigieous racism, anti-Semetism, anti-Armenian racism, anti-Asian racism, homophobia, violence against children, classism, gerrymandering, and power brokering in backroom deals.

Make no mistake. The current situation is not merely a matter of some errant words spoken in frustration and taken out of context. Instead, the portions of the recording already released are evidence of intentional violation of the law during the redistricting process. Specifically, Section 5 of the Voting Rights Acts requires that redistricting changes can be proven to not have a discriminatory purpose or effect. In the recording released and commented on by the LA Times, we see clear evidence of an overt discriminatory purpose in redistricting proposals which were subsequently adopted. This opens up the city to liability and makes urgent the need for a truly

independent redistricting commission. We also believe that the City Council desperately needs expansion. We are the most underrepresented City Council in the entire nation with a constituent to representative ratio of 260,000 to 1. This concentration of power in too few hands drives the favor-brokering and horse trading on display. Angelenos desperately need diverse representative government, not those who cling to racism in justification for their policymaking.

Neighborhood Councilmembers once again call attention to the unusual circumstances in Council District 10. The choice by CM Nury Martinez to appoint Herb Wesson, who was clearly barred from holding the seat by the City charter, exposed the City to liability and disenfranchised the residents of Council District 10 - all in pursuit of her own power. When community members and Councilmembers called out the swift appointment of Heather Hutt as a backroom deal or puzzling they were accused by CM Martinez of not wanting to see a Black woman in power. We know now that this appointment was the result of power brokering whose purpose was to benefit CM Martinez, not the stakeholders of Council District 10. That CM Martinez would wield identity politics to create divisive chaos in Council District 10 to hide her backroom deals is fiducially, morally, and ethically reprehensible. This is not the leadership that Angelenos deserve.

The behavior evidenced by Nury Martinez, Kevin de León, and Gil Cedillo would never be tolerated at the Neighborhood Council level. Neighborhood Council members are required to both adhere to a Code Conduct and take Anti Bias training as part of our service. We believe the City Councilmembers should lead with their behavior rather than becoming a national mockery. The rules around our decorum and training are clear. Equally clear is the double standard that exists for members of the City Council. Were Neighborhood Council members to behave in a similar manner, we would face censure, removal and dismissal by our own board, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. Indeed, elected officials have been removed from Neighborhood Councils for far less egregious violations than what we are sickened to have listened to here.

The North Westwood Neighborhood Council also believes that many of these conversations may also be evidence of violations of the Brown Act. Both redistricting and the Council District 10 appointment were matters that were agendaized in Council, but it is clear that these decisions were being made prior to open and observable Council meetings. Given that it has been reported that there is over an hour of disgusting rhetoric, Neighborhood Councils therefore wonder what other topics may have been discussed not only that day, but in any other secret meetings.

In 2022, we don't expect to hear explicit recordings of literal, systemic racism, recordings of the leaders of City Hall participating in racist, anti-Black rhetoric while discussing gerrymandering on the basis of race and socioeconomic status and backroom deals to keep themselves in power.

To Councilpersons de León and Cedillo, resign immediately so the city can begin healing.

To Councilpersons O'Farrell, Krekorian, Blumenfeld, Raman, Koretz, Rodriguez, Harris-Dawson, Price, Hutt, Bonin, Lee, and Buscaino we call on you to immediately agendaize a censure motion for Councilpersons de León and Cedillo.