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Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Council File Number: 22-1111-S14

LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>
 Reply-To: LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>
 To: Clerk.CIS@lacity.org

Thu, Apr 11, 2024 at 9:56 AM

A Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) has been successfully submitted to your Commission or City Council. We provided information below about CISs and attached a copy of the CIS.

We encourage you to reach out to the Community Impact Statement Filer to acknowledge receipt and if this Community Impact Statement will be scheduled at a future meeting. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers and it would be helpful if they received confirmation that you received their CIS.

The CIS process was enable by the to Los Angeles Administrative Code §Section 22.819. It provides that, "a Neighborhood Council may take a formal position on a matter by way of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or written resolution." NCs representatives also testify before City Boards and Commissions on the item related to their CIS. If the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so, the Neighborhood Council representative must provide the Commission with a copy of the CIS or rResolution sufficiently in advance for review, possible inclusion on the agenda, and posting on the Commission's website.Any information you can provide related to your agenda setting schedule is helpful to share with the NC.

If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *listed on the Commission's agenda*, during the time the matter is heard, the designated Neighborhood Council representative should be given an opportunity to present the Neighborhood Council's formal position. We encourage becoming familiar with the City Councils rules on the subject. At the Chair's discretion, the Neighborhood Council representative may be asked to have a seat at the table (or equivalent for a virtual meeting) typically reserved for City staff and may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more time than allotted to members of the general public. They are also permitted up to five (5) minutes of time to address the legislative body. If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *not listed on the agenda*, the designated Neighborhood Council representative may speak during General Public Comments.

We share this information to assist you with the docketing neighborhood council items before your board/commission. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at empowerla@lacity.org.

***** This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. *****

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: North Westwood

Name: Jacob Wasserman

Email: jacobnwwnc@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: 09/07/2022

Type of NC Board Action: Neutral Position

Impact Information

Date: 04/11/2024

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-1111-S14

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: Community Impact Statement for Council File 22-0560 if amended: Please see attached Community Impact Statement

Ref:MSG10156038



CIS_Municipal Lobbying Ordinance.pdf
148K



- COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT -

Council File: [22-0560](#)

Title: Municipal Lobbying Ordinance / Updates

Position: Support if Amended

Summary:

The North Westwood Neighborhood Council (NWWNC) supports the changes to the municipal lobbying ordinance (MLO) regarding neighborhood councils. We also request the consideration of changes to a few minor areas of the draft MLO that we believe will benefit transparency in the city. We urge the Committee Chair to schedule this Council File for consideration and a vote in the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Under section 48.08.8 of the current lobbying ordinance, a lobbyist disclosure is only required for written communications to neighborhood councils. We believe the ordinance should be updated to include the same disclosure when a lobbyist makes an oral presentation or public comment to a neighborhood council that is related to their lobbying efforts. Therefore, we deeply agree with section 48.11 of the draft municipal lobbying ordinance under consideration.

As you may be aware, neighborhood councils continue to meet telephonically due to COVID-19, and it is widely expected that this will continue in at least some form even when/if the pandemic passes. Additionally, under AB 361, we are prohibited from requiring "speaker cards," which is where traditionally lobbying disclosures had happened on our council. While NWWNC can require a disclosure for its own meetings, that disclosure has no teeth for enforcement, as it is not an ordinance, and it also does not address the other 98 neighborhood councils, which similarly serve as elected advisory bodies to the city.

We believe the lack of oral lobbyist disclosure requirement leaves many neighborhood council board members at an information disadvantage and that it should be addressed for the following reasons:

1. **Transparency:** We believe every voting member at a board meeting has the right to the knowledge if a lobbyist is speaking on an item for which they are compensated to lobby.
2. **Diffusion of responsibility:** A lobbyist may send a correct written disclosure either via mail or e-mail, but often these communications do not go to every member of the board. Unless the board member is diligent in passing along these communications, then it is possible there would be other members of the board who do not know of the lobbyist status of the individual speaking.
3. **Lack of training:** We do not receive training on identifying or looking up lobbyist activities in the city through the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. We believe the legal onus should be on the lobbyist to be as upfront and straightforward with the board as possible. Additionally, the responsibility is then on the paid lobbyist rather than the volunteer board member when it comes to the pursuit of this information.

In addition, NWWNC would like to request a similar lobbying disclosure for City Council and committee meetings. This announcement could either be done by the lobbyist or by the presiding officer of the meeting, in order to ensure that the public is fully aware of the associations of all speakers who are paid lobbyists. Neighborhood Council members frequently listen to City Council meetings or recordings of the meetings and we strongly feel that this minor addition would bring greater transparency to the City processes. We urge the City Council to adopt this minor change.

Lastly, NWWNC urges the City Council to adopt a nonprofit exemption of \$200,000 in revenue or \$500,000 in assets, instead of the proposed \$2,000,000. This change aligns with the IRS tax filing system and would essentially allow any nonprofit that files a 990-N or 990-EZ to gain exemption. This change also reflects the current San Francisco ethics ordinance. The current recommendation of \$2 million in revenue is far too high and would exempt the vast majority of nonprofits in Southern California. Only 16 percent of Southern California non-profits have revenues above \$1 million, so an exemption set at twice that amount would have a grave effect on transparency.