

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.

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

Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(9) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 08/22/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 08/22/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-1111-S2

Agenda Date: 08/22/2022

Item Number: VI. E. 2

Summary: Summary: The Reseda Neighborhood Council desires to serve our community, but present disproportionate budget cuts severely restrict the amount of funds available for discretionary projects and neighborhood purpose grants after covering operating expenses. Unlike any other Department, neighborhood councils cannot seek outside funding to support their base operations and neighborhood projects as a way of offsetting their costs. The Reseda Neighborhood Council believes there are at least two viable pathways for neighborhood councils to pursue outside grant funding. The revival of a sunsetted ordinance 179545 or the funding model used by the police commission both present options that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) should consider and pursue. While we do not believe these suggestions should serve as a panacea to the disastrous and disproportionate cuts, we do believe that many neighborhood councils would welcome a revival of the ability to pursue grants and gifts. We are asking the commission to actually empower neighborhood councils to do the work at a scale so many of us would like to pursue. Please see the attached file for our full statement. This item was passed on 8/15/22 with a vote of 10 yes, 3 abstain. We voted on 8/22/22 with a vote of 9 yes to add this to the public comment council file for the Budget and Finance committee.



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The Reseda Neighborhood Council desires to serve our community, but present disproportionate budget cuts severely restrict the amount of funds available for discretionary projects and neighborhood purpose grants after covering operating expenses. Unlike any other Department, neighborhood councils cannot seek outside funding to support their base operations and neighborhood projects as a way of offsetting their costs. The Reseda Neighborhood Council believes there are at least two viable pathways for neighborhood councils to pursue outside grant funding. The revival of a sunsetted [ordinance 179545](#) or the funding model used by the police commission both present options that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) should consider and pursue. While we do not believe these suggestions should serve as a panacea to the disastrous and disproportionate cuts, we do believe that many neighborhood councils would welcome a revival of the ability to pursue grants and gifts. We are asking the commission to actually empower neighborhood councils to do the work at a scale so many of us would like to pursue.

[Section 5.467](#) of the Los Angeles Municipal Code established the creation of the Police Department Trust Fund. The fund is “used to augment established programs and activities of the Police Department, and may be used for the purchase of equipment, services or furnishings in support of such programs and activities, subject to any special terms or conditions attached to individual gifts, contributions, or bequests to the City” When the Trust was first established, it allowed for the the Police Commission to accept gifts valued up to \$10,000. The amount the Commission can approve is tied to the consumer price index, thus the cap increases every year. Presently, the commission can approve up to \$18,000 without seeking City Council approval.



If the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners adopted a similar model to the Police Department Trust Fund, a neighborhood council could apply for outside grant funding and if they are awarded the grant, BONC could accept that grant on behalf of the neighborhood council without seeking City Council approval. The city clerk already administers special funding accounts intended for neighborhood councils such as the Clean Streets Fund. The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners would do well to seek a report back from the Office of the City Clerk regarding the feasibility of establishing accounts for grant money.

[Ordinance 179545](#) is a sunsetted ordinance that allowed neighborhood councils to accept gifts and in kind donations between 2008-2011. The ordinance was allowed to expire and despite attempts in 2018 by neighborhood council leaders to reinstate the ordinance and remove the sunset provision, there has been no significant movement by City Council or BONC to address this problem. Our financial situation has only deteriorated since 2018 with neighborhood councils being expected to do even more administratively with less budget to fulfill those tasks. In a [June 22, 2015 report](#), DONE stated that “the Office of the City Attorney has stated that the reinstatement of the previous donation ordinance is possible by removing the sunset clause.”

The Reseda Neighborhood Council believes either of these administrative methods provide a viable pathway forward for neighborhood councils to work with BONC on expanding our opportunities. We also believe that many neighborhood councils would be supportive of the development of a process that allowed us to seek outside grant funding as long as it was clearly communicated that these actions were not being made in lieu of fighting for our budgets to be restored, but rather as an additional augmentative tool for neighborhood councils to advocate for their communities.

We would also like it noted that the 2015 DONE report says there is a current existing process to accept gifts through the City Council. However, DONE representatives on previous inquiries have denied knowledge of this process or the details of how to coordinate it. The Reseda Neighborhood Council would like to request information regarding how and when this process ceased to exist and under what council file that occurred. If there was no official action ending the ability for the City Council to accept gifts on behalf of neighborhood councils, then the Reseda Neighborhood Council would like to ask for immediate corrective action on the part of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for informing neighborhood councils as we have previously been discouraged from applying for outside grant funding. However, should this process still exist under the City Council, we do believe it is imperative that a process be created that allows BONC to accept gifts on behalf of neighborhood councils up to a monetary limit.

This vote took place in a Brown Act compliant meeting on August 15, 2022. The vote was 10 yes, 0 no, 3 abstain, 0 recused, 2 absent.