

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: Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(8) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 10/24/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For

#### Impact Information

Date: 11/03/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-1196

Agenda Date: 10/11/2022

Item Number: 23

Summary: Beyond recognizing the unacceptable nature of the remarks discussed above, CHNC is pleased to see the Council take interest in ameliorating structural problems that exacerbated the harms wrought by this incident. The huge size of LA's council districts compared to its peer cities' grants each of its councilmembers extraordinary power. Likewise, that those districts' boundaries are subject to the political influence of sitting councilmembers overly insulates said power from the democratic process. We support the proposal to expand the Council to increase the representation of LA's diverse residents and insure against malfeasance by any one councilmember. Further, we support the proposal to tie the Council's size to LA's changing population, fixing the population of a district as opposed to the number of districts. Additionally, we support the proposal to instantiate a truly independent redistricting process, whereby the civic good---not the personal preference of sitting councilmembers---determines the geographies and residents our representatives must serve. Finally, we support the proposal to create an ad hoc committee to explore further structural/governance reforms that would bring our city closer to the equitable, sustainable, and just place CHNC believes it must and can be.



CENTRAL HOLLYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

**President** Elvina Beck **Vice President** Ferris Wehbe **Treasurer** Daniel Perez **Secretary** Trevor Reed  
**Board Members:** Nicole àBeckett, Louis Abramson, Charles Taylor, Alex Massachi, Nyasha Love

## Community Impact Statement

**PASSED 8-0-0 (1 absent) on October 24, 2022**

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

Elected Officials / Offensive Misconducts / Racist and Hateful Comments /  
City Charter / Immediate Resignation Demand

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

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

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

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

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

Charter Reform Ballot Initiative / Los Angeles 2024 /  
Population Growth / Major Immigrant Destination

The Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council on October 24, 2022 voted unanimously to SUPPORT the above city council files relating to statements during an October 2021 recorded conversation between Councilmembers Nury Martinez, Kevin De Leon Gil Cedillo, and Ron Herrera. The recording was released October 9, 2022. The Council joins the Los Angeles community in demanding all three immediate resignations from the Council.

Nury Martinez immediately stepped down from the position of City Council president and fully resigned from the Council on October 12, 2022. Ron Herrera stepped down from his role as the president of the Los Angeles county federation of labor. Council members Gil Cedilla and Kevin De León **have refused to resign**, and attended the October 11 city council meeting for a short time before protestors in the chamber would not allow the meeting to continue, so they left.

The [LATIMES](#) reported that De León appeared to compare Bonin's handling of his child to Martinez holding a Louis Vuitton handbag. Negative national attention is spotlighting our city with Governor Gavin Newsom and President Joe Biden [urging all three council members to resign](#). De León defended his stance in several TV interviews with Univision, KCBS and



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Telemundo affiliate KVEA, among others. Specifically to KCBS-TV, he said: “I failed in my leadership...” “I will not resign because there is a lot of work ahead...” “I feel very bad, I feel very sorry for the damage, for the wounds that exist today in our communities.” When asked about a joke he made on the recording about Councilman Mike Bonin carrying around his son like Martinez carries around her Louis Vuitton bag, de Leon called it a “bad joke and I apologize.”

Acting President Mitch O’Farrell acted swiftly in the public’s call for action by removing Cedillo and De León from their committee roles. De León chaired the committee on poverty and homelessness and had roles on committees dealing with finance, public works and environmental issues while Cedillo oversaw the housing committee and served on committees overseeing immigrant rights and environmental issues. The move means their influence in city hall has dwindled and they have largely become token figures, unable to participate in the day-to-day work of the council and unwanted in council chambers, where their appearance is likely to cause an uproar.

However, the city is paying in more than just reputation. As long as both members stay in office, they each earn their biweekly salary of \$8,779.20 as well as receive medical and pension benefits. De León’s term ends in 2024 but Cedillo lost his seat in the primary and will be replaced in December by Eunisses Hernandez, who defeated him in the June primary.

### **It is clear that self-service is more important than civic service for these two members.**

Angelenos are pushing forward as a city but change must occur with swift force. California’s attorney general has announced he will investigate Los Angeles’s redistricting process. On October 18 the Los Angeles City Council installed Paul Krekorian as new president who rightfully expressed “You cannot return to the council without causing more harm and disruption. There is no path forward that includes your continued participation in this council ... Every day you remain interferes with the council’s ability to function, delays the city’s healing process, hurts your constituents, and reduces your chance of redeeming yourself and your legacy.”

The City Council does not have the power to remove De León and Cedillo. Therefore more resources and time continue to be poured into “convincing” De León to resign such as the October 27, 2022 recall paperwork filed with the city clerk that still requires 15% of the total number of registered voters in the district, or 21,006 valid signatures in District 14. This action requires some degree of paid signature gathering and organizing.



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We support the proposal to expand the Council to increase the representation of LA's diverse residents and insure against malfeasance by any one councilmember. Further, we support the proposal to tie the Council's size to LA's changing population, fixing the population of a district as opposed to the number of districts. Additionally, we support the proposal to instantiate a truly independent redistricting process, whereby the civic good---not the personal preference of sitting councilmembers---determines the geographies and residents our representatives must serve. Finally, we support the proposal to create an ad hoc committee to explore further structural/governance reforms that would bring our city closer to the equitable, sustainable, and just place CHNC believes it must and can be.

Our board, fully comprised of District 13, will continue to support our neighbors in District 14 to have representation that upholds the city's ethics requirements that are applied to all elected officials.