

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

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

Date of NC Board Action: 11/15/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

#### Impact Information

Date: 11/16/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-1232

Agenda Date: 11/15/2022

Item Number: N/A

Summary:

Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council ("GTLNC") Community Impact Statement  
Filed to the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission through CIS portal  
([Charter Sec 700 Ethics Reforms](#)) AND [Council File 22-1232](#)

**Approved at GTLNC General Board Meeting on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**VOTE: 11 / 0 / 2**

**Position: Support If Amended**

The Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council supports the recommended changes to the Los Angeles City Charter if amended, as described hereinbelow. Our city's Ethics Commission was a model for the nation when it was created over three decades ago and an update is overdue. We urge the city to do the work necessary to finalize a proposal for a future ballot. This deserves a full and fair hearing and discussion in committee (and should not be waived out of committee).

The Ethics Commission's recommendations reflect input received on how to empower it to enforce the law, change policy, and would change City Hall power dynamics. The recommendations fall short in establishing the Commission's independence. This could give rise to elected officials strong-arming commissioners, meddling with enforcement actions and policy proposals they carry out. We therefore recommend the following amendments:

- **Independent Appointment:** The City of LA will not have a truly independent ethics commission until it ends the involvement of elected officials in the appointment process. Incumbent commissioners should accept and vet applications through a public process like the Oakland and Long Beach Ethics Commissions.
- **Eligibility Requirements:** The Ethics Commission proposes adding restrictions excluding any bidder, contractor, developer, or someone with a direct financial interest in work of the city from service on the Commission. These restrictions are warranted but incomplete. We recommend excluding from serving on the Commission former municipally elected officials in the City of LA, anyone who is a recent candidate for the City of LA for a period of five (5) consecutive years from the candidate's qualification on the ballot, and anyone who has donated or raised above a certain threshold for local candidates.
- **Raise Vote Threshold For Commissioner Removal:** The Commission recommends increasing the number of elected officials who may initiate removal and reducing the threshold to a majority vote. We recommend requiring a two-thirds (2/3) vote for all removal proceedings of ethics commissioners.
- **Increased Maximum Penalty:** The Commission recommends increasing the maximum administrative penalty to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) per violation. We recommend adopting Chicago's maximum penalty model of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) per violation.
- **Raise Minimum Budget:** The Commission recommends its budget be set at \$4.5 million and tied to the Consumer Price Index. This protects against retaliation or defunding during a financial crunch but freezes the status quo into the charter and might create a shortfall. The recommendations include new expenditures such as outside counsel which will require more money. If the Los Angeles City Council expands, the Ethics Commission will require more money. A budget in the range of \$7 to \$10 million would give the Commission the resources needed to fulfill its broad mandate.

These reforms promote the Commission's independence and to be entrusted with the expanded power offered.