



clerk CIS <clerk.cis@lacity.org>

Community Impact Statement - Submission Details

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

Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 8:59 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 enabled by the 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 resolution 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 Council's 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: Sun Valley

Name: Lionel Mares

Email: lionel.svanc@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: 09/12/2023

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

Impact Information

Date: 09/17/2023

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees, City Ethics Commission

Council File Number: 22-1232

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council supports the recommended changes to the charter if amended. The Ethics Commission's recommendations would largely reflect input received on how to empower the body to enforce the law, meaningfully change policy, and would change power dynamics at city hall. Please see the attached for the full Community Impact Statement (CIS) and recommendations.

Ref:MSG9012231

 **CIS CF 22-1232 ETHICS COMMISSION SEP 16, 2023.pdf**
724K

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CALIFORNIA

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Neighborhood Council

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COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Council File: [22-1232](#) (To be filed to the Ethics Commission through the CIS portal)

Title: Charter Reform / Ethics Commission / Powers and Responsibilities / Ballot Measure

Position: Support If Amended

The Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council, SVANC, in its regular meeting of September 12, 2023, passed the following community impact statement by a vote of: 12 yes, 0 no, 3 absent, 0 recused, and 0 ineligible.

The Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council supports the recommended changes to the charter if amended. Our City's ethics commission was a model for the nation when it was created over three decades ago, and an update is long overdue. We urge the city to do the work necessary to finalize a proposal for a future ballot. However, rushing this work and waiving it out of committee is patently unacceptable as an answer to the ever evolving scandal at City Hall. This work cannot be done as an election stunt or for good press. It deserves a full and fair hearing in committee with robust discussion.

The Ethics Commissions recommendations would largely reflect input received on how to empower the body to enforce the law, meaningfully change policy, and would change power dynamics at city hall. However, they fail to equally enhance the independence of the commission. This could give rise to elected officials strong arming commissioners and meddling with the enforcement actions and policy proposals they carry out.

We recommend the following specific 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. The incumbent commissioners should be responsible for accepting and vetting applications through a public process like the Oakland and Long Beach Ethics Commissions.

- **Eligibility Requirements:** The 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 also recommend excluding anyone who is a recent candidate for the city of LA, former elected officials in the city of LA, and anyone who has donated or raised above a certain threshold for local candidates.
- **Raise the vote threshold for removal of a commissioner:** 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 2/3rds vote for all removal proceedings of ethics commissioners.
- **Increased maximum penalty:** The commission recommends increasing the maximum administrative penalty to \$10k per violation. We recommend adopting Chicago's max penalty of \$20k per violation model.
- **Raise minimum budget:** The commission recommends their budget be set at \$4.5 million and tied to CPI. While this would protect against retaliation or defunding during a financial crunch, this essentially freezes the status quo into the charter. \$4.5 million is a few hundred thousand above the commission's current budget. The recommendations include new expenditures, like outside counsel, which will require more money. If the Council is expanded, ethics will require more money. A minimum budget in the range of \$7-10 million would give the commission the resources needed to fulfill its broad sweeping mandate.

These reforms would ensure the commission is sufficiently independent enough to be entrusted with the expanded power offered.

Thank you for your consideration of this topic,



Norma O. Chávez

President, Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council