



## 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, commission@empowerla.org

Tue, Aug 29, 2023 at 2:30 PM

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](mailto:empowerla@lacity.org).

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

### Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: South Central

Name: Ricardo Marquez

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(5) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 08/15/2023

Type of NC Board Action: Against

### Impact Information

Date: 08/29/2023

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 23-0630

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: Dear Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, The South Central Neighborhood Council (SCNC), as a collective body representing our community, opposes the motion to suspend Councilmember Curren D. Price Jr. pending trial, as per City Charter Section 211.2. While recognizing the seriousness of charges presented by Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascón, we advocate for caution in suspending an elected official. We recommend withholding the vote until a verdict is reached in a court of law, in line with democratic principles of fairness and due process. This approach safeguards stability in District Nine's vital city services, fosters unity, and ensures a healing process for constituents. The Committee's role provides an opportunity to demonstrate dedication to democratic values by incorporating constituents' perspectives into the decision-making process. Our district, marked by

diversity and challenges, requires a comprehensive understanding of the impact of a pre-verdict suspension. Councilmember Price's contributions, including his robust COVID-19 response and legislative successes, underline his commitment to improving constituents' lives. Collectively, the SCNC urges the Committee to defer its vote on the motion, affirming our commitment to justice, democratic ideals, and Councilmember Price's rights as a citizen. We appreciate your attention to this matter and your dedication to democratic processes. Sincerely,

Ref:MSG8913948

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 **CIS 8-15-23.pdf**  
204K



**Council File:** 23-0630<sup>1</sup>

**Title:** Charter Section 211 / Councilmember Curren Price / District 9 / Los Angeles City Council / Suspension

**Expiration:** 06/23/2025

**Pending:** Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

### **Community Impact Statement (CIS)**

Dear Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee members:

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascón filed criminal allegations such as embezzlement, perjury, and conflict of interest against Councilmember Curren D. Price Jr., for which, by the next day, Councilmember Paul Krekorian motioned and was seconded by Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson to suspend Councilmember Curren D. Price Jr., pursuant to City Charter Section 211.<sup>2</sup> As clearly defined, the Council may suspend any elected officer pending trial, serving as a remedy for any grievances or violations against codified law and code ethics. Nevertheless, the Council’s decision, or in this case, the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee’s decision, is discretionary and subject to public scrutiny. Therefore, the South Central Neighborhood Council (SCNC) utterly opposes the motion to suspend Councilmember Curren D. Price Jr., pending a criminal trial and recommends to the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee to postpone the vote until a court of law rules a verdict. By doing so, the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee can further stabilize the sustainability and operationalization of city services throughout district nine and to all its constituents, mitigate the vital necessity to unite and heal public distrust, and assist in increasing political efficiency.

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<sup>1</sup> “23-0630 (CFMS),” accessed August 10, 2023, <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=cfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=23-0630>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

Newton's third law of action and reaction states that whenever an object exerts a force on a second object, the second object exerts an equal and opposite force on the first.<sup>3</sup> When the LA District Attorney filed charges against Mr. Price, Mr. Gascón added another bombshell amongst the many political scandals Angelenos have confronted recently, ranging from resignations to federal indictments.<sup>4</sup> Now, the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee has the power and opportunity to genuinely listen to constituents' and stakeholders' inputs and proposals in the decision-making process that deeply involves but lacks adequate and equitable representation from underrepresented communities in the political process. A process that, for centuries since the ratification of the U.S. Constitution, has continued to be a beacon of hope and an exemplary tenant in American society and especially in the City of Los Angeles. According to the disciplinary studies of democracy, some of these tenants or prerequisites to measuring democracy are a society-wide economy, economic prosperity, a diversified social structure, acceptance of dissents or opposition, and compromise.<sup>5</sup> Given the recent changes in demographics, public opinion, attitudes, and voter generational patterns, the power structure in Los Angeles city politics is currently experiencing a political transitional change. In the article, "Democracy as an equilibrium: rational choice and formal political theory in democratization research" by Milan W. Svobik, he describes political transitions to democracy as unpredictable due to the complexity, uncertainty, and reversibility involved.<sup>6</sup> While Dahl defines democracy as the characterization of free and open elections, low barriers to participation, genuine competition, and wide protection of civil rights.<sup>7</sup> To that end, constituents from the ninth district should be able to have direct participation in deciding whether to suspend Mr. Price before a verdict and the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee should use all means necessary to remove and reduce any barriers to the political process.

From the LA Census 2020 data, Council District Nine is classified as "very high" in the low response score, with a higher percentage of African American and Latino residents, and higher levels of percentage of residents living in poverty.<sup>8</sup> Not to mention other factors that deeply affect residents in the SCNC and Council District (CD) 9 jurisdictions, including but not limited to socio-economic barriers, low levels of education, crimes, a lack thereof economic investment, a lack of technological advancement, infrastructure depravity, homelessness, illegal dumping, and a lack of affordable housing. In addition, the ninth district was one of the most affected communities across the demographic sectors, where data shows that African Americans and Hispanic/Latinos were

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<sup>3</sup> "Newton's Laws of Motion," Glenn Research Center | NASA, accessed August 10, 2023, <https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/beginners-guide-to-aeronautics/newtons-laws-of-motion/>.

<sup>4</sup> "Los Angeles City Councilman Charged with 10 Counts, Including Embezzlement and Perjury," AP News, June 12, 2023, <https://apnews.com/article/los-angeles-city-council-curren-price-embezzlement-13001d4105614c67b1c5db7198c77fdf>.

<sup>5</sup> Fischer, Mary Ellen. 1996. *Establishing Democracies*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press. 282.

<sup>6</sup> Svobik, Milan W. "Democracy as an Equilibrium: Rational Choice and Formal Political Theory in Democratization Research ." *Democratization* 26, no. 1 (January 2, 2019): 40–60.

<sup>7</sup> John Higley et al., *Elites and Democratic Consolidation in Latin America and Southern Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 1992). 1.

<sup>8</sup> Mayor LACensus, "Average LRS Score Citywide," *Los Angeles*, 2020.

more likely to contract and die from COVID-19.<sup>9</sup> However, it is crucial to highlight the tremendous COVID-19 response that came from Councilmember Price since the initial stages of the pandemic, where he led a humanitarian and “all hands on deck” COVID-19 response to keep all residents supported and safe. Some of the contribution to CD9 and citywide were the allocation of \$200,000 in bereavement funds for financial assistance for COVID-19 related funerals, the securement of personal protective equipment (PPE) and distribution to the community, increasing access to testing and vaccines, securing partnerships with the local medical community, including Kedren Community Health Center, St. John’s Community Health, AltaMed Health Services, and the Central Neighborhood Health Foundation, bringing mobile vaccination pop-up clinics directly to senior facilities and public housing, mobilized and infused a grassroots of volunteers and canvassers to go door-to-door to make vaccine appointments and more.<sup>10</sup> Not to mention that Mr. Price proposed in 2021 the initial \$6 million Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) Pilot Program in America, which has changed the quality of lives for many families and Angelenos.<sup>11</sup> The GBI program arrived as a sign of relief for the plight of thousands of CD9 residents during the peak of the pandemic.

It is also inherently important to highlight Councilmember Price’s legislative accomplishments and priorities, such as working in preventing and ending homelessness, increase affordable housing in CD9, an immigrant ally that secured over \$3 million in discretionary funds to expand free immigration legal services to CD9 constituents, \$4 Million in clean up programs, improving Parks and Recreation Centers across CD9 as well to mentioned bringing infrastructure investments such as the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art and Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC) soccer stadium, while increasing employment levels leveraging on project labor agreements with local hire requirements and fighting to decriminalize street vending.<sup>12</sup> To that end, the SCNC, among other stakeholders and constituents, continues to support Councilmember Price for his ongoing decades of public service, embodiment of leadership, legislation, and advocacy for democratic principles.

Moreover, due to the nature of living in a pluralistic society, it is fair to assess that if the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee votes to suspend Councilmember Price before the adjudication of a verdict, then the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee will be demonstrating to CD9 residents the paradox of democratic governance. Where politicians and constituents fail to increase political participation explicitly or implicitly and will further disenfranchise voters who will become utterly distressed by the

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<sup>9</sup> CDC, “Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19),” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, February 11, 2020, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant.html>.

<sup>10</sup> “COVID-19 Response | Council District 9,” accessed August 10, 2023, <https://councildistrict9.lacity.gov/community/COVID-19>.

<sup>11</sup> “BIG:LEAP Making a Difference in District 9 | Council District 9,” accessed August 10, 2023, <https://councildistrict9.lacity.gov/articles/bigleap-making-difference-district-9>.

<sup>12</sup> “Home | Council District 9,” accessed August 10, 2023, <https://councildistrict9.lacity.gov/>.

government. And it will be signaling to CD9 residents that the recent dutiful election does not matter—in other words, that their vote and voice do not matter—in these tumultuous political times. CD9 residents overwhelmingly voted for Councilmember Price, with 66.14% of the vote in 2022.<sup>13</sup>

Councilmember Price has yet to have his day in court to defend himself. It is important to stipulate that grand juries are meant to check the government, which is a tradition carried from English law, where grand juries acquired independence “free from control by the Crown or judges.” *Constello v. United States*, 350 U.S. 359, 362 (1956).<sup>14</sup> In this case, common and codified law serves as a protection against government with the requirement of beyond reasonable doubt and upholding the presumption of innocence that favors the accused, which, in other words, means a defendant is innocent until proven guilty, where the burden of proof falls under the prosecutor or LA District Attorney George Gascón, not in the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee or LA Chambers.<sup>15</sup> Mr. Price must be given the same fundamental rights protections entitled to all citizens, regardless of whether he is a civilian or an elected official. The principle of due process dictates the Magna Carta in 1215 limiting the powers of the King of England, which under contemporary law, guarantees the protections of the Fifth Amendment where no person shall be “deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process,” the Sixth Amendment provides the accused of an “impartial jury,” the Seventh Amendment grants the preservation of a trial by jury, and the Fourteenth Amendment under selective incorporation further establishes the equal protection clause, which applies to the states, *Gideon v. Wainwright*, 372 U.S. 335 (1963).<sup>16</sup> To that end, Councilmember Price is another fellow African American citizen who also deserves his day in Court under the safeguards and protections of the U.S. Constitution, American jurisprudence, and common law.

To that end, the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee should postpone or practice prudence until a court of law rules a verdict against Councilmember Price because SCNC community residents, CD9 residents, and stakeholders continue to support and want Councilmember Price to remain their councilmember until otherwise decided by the appropriate jurisdictional body with legal standing and not political grandstanding.

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<sup>13</sup> “Election Results Text Version,” accessed August 10, 2023, <https://results.lavote.gov/text-results/4269#contest-18>.

<sup>14</sup> Fisher, Louis, and Katy J Harriger. *American Constitutional Law* (version Tenth edition.). Volume 2, Constitutional Rights, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. Tenth. Vol. Volume 2, Constitutional Rights, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. (Durham, North Carolina: Carolina Academic Press, LLC, 2019), 644.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*, 636.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid*, 635-669.

The South Central Neighborhood Council (SCNC) recognizes the incredible importance of what City Chambers and the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee members are doing to keep City of Los Angeles business afloat, while remaining vigilant to justice and public scrutiny.

Sincerely,

The South Central Neighborhood Council

## Bibliography

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