



clerk CIS <clerk.cis@lacity.org>

Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Council File Number: 24-0867

1 message

LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>
 Reply-To: LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>
 To: Clerk.CIS@lacity.org
 Cc: jacobnwwnc@gmail.com

Wed, Oct 9, 2024 at 9:19 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 to 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 rResolution 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: North Westwood

Name: Jacob Wasserman

Email: jacobnwwnc@gmail.com

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(9) Nay(0) Abstain(4) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 10/08/2024

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 10/09/2024

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 24-0867

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: NWWNC opposes this motion, as it misdiagnoses and misaddresses the problems facing Neighborhood Councils. The motion, if implemented, would harm Neighborhood Councils, leave more seats vacant, and stifle community participation. Neighborhood Councils rely on volunteer labor, have little actual power, are expected to pick up the slack for other levels of government and face criticism for their missteps, and must retain board members with a stake in a relatively small geographic area over time. Put together, these factors create tremendous turnover and burnout. This is

particularly true in our district, with its high level of transient (but nonetheless important and affected) residents and stakeholders. Many, many Neighborhood Council seats across the city go uncontested or have no candidates at all every election cycle. Whole Councils have had their elections canceled for lack of any contested races, and some have entered exhaustive efforts for lack of interested stakeholders to serve on their boards. Term limits will only shorten the service of the few stakeholders willing to serve long-term. Finally, we suggest that the youth seat, if made mandatory, be expanded to include all students enrolled in high schools and undergraduate institutions. An age threshold could be added to this, but it should be higher than 18. Given the presence of UCLA and its tens of thousands of students, our Neighborhood Council has an unusually high share of young people—81 percent of people between 15 and 29, compared to 23 percent citywide. We also very likely have had a much higher share of board members in that age range than other Councils, and we reserve seats for students as well in our bylaws. However, our district likely contains less than the city average of residents under 18. We contend that college students can and do also represent the voices of young Angelenos.

Ref:MSG11237305

 **CIS_NC Term Limits and Youth Seats.pdf**
149K



- COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT -

Council File: [24-0867](#)

Title: Neighborhood Council Bylaws / Youth Participation / Diversity Increase / Leadership Growth

Position: Against

Summary:

The North Westwood Neighborhood Council (NWWNC) opposes this motion, as it misdiagnoses and misaddresses the problems facing Neighborhood Councils. The motion, if implemented, would harm Neighborhood Councils, leave more seats vacant, and stifle community participation.

The motion asserts that “the current challenge faced by Neighborhood Councils is the recurrence of the same individuals serving on their governing boards.” In our first-hand experience, we find that the opposite is true. Neighborhood Councils rely on volunteer labor, have little actual power, are expected to pick up the slack for other levels of government and face criticism for their missteps, and must retain board members with a stake in a relatively small geographic area over time. Put together, these factors create tremendous turnover and burnout. This is particularly true in our district, with its high level of transient (but nonetheless important and affected) residents and stakeholders. In other words, Neighborhood Councils face an opposite problem: having too *few* people willing and able to serve, both short- and long-term.

This is evidenced by the many, many Neighborhood Council seats across the city uncontested or with no candidates at all every election cycle. Whole Councils have had their elections canceled for lack of any contested races, and some have entered exhaustive efforts for lack of interested stakeholders to serve on their boards.

Term limits will only shorten the service of the few stakeholders willing to serve long-term. Moreover, as [a review of academic studies on term limits](#) concludes, “the overall summary of the literature is that term limits weaken [elected bodies] (to the benefit of [executives], parties, and lobbyists), increase polarization, and fail to achieve much of their good government goals.”

Finally, we suggest that the youth seat, if made mandatory, be expanded to include all students enrolled in high schools and undergraduate institutions. An age threshold could be added to this, but it should be higher than 18.

Given the presence of UCLA and its tens of thousands of students, our Neighborhood Council has an unusually high share of young people—[81 percent of people between 15 and 29](#), compared to [23 percent citywide](#). We also very likely have had a much higher share of board members in that age range than other Councils, and we reserve seats for students as well in our bylaws. However, our small district likely contains less than the city average of residents under 18. We contend that college students can and do also represent the voices of young Angelenos.