



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: darren@therosegrp.com

Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 10:32 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 enable 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 Councils 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: Historic Highland Park

Name: Darren Gold

Email: darren@therosegrp.com

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(11) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 10/17/2024

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 10/22/2024

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: The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council (HHPNC), representing over 60,000 stakeholders in Highland Park and Garvanza, opposes Council File 24-0867. This proposal to impose term limits and mandate a Youth Seat undermines the autonomy granted by the City Charter, which allows Neighborhood Councils to create bylaws tailored to their community's needs. Term limits would disrupt continuity and reduce the effectiveness of long-serving members whose experience and institutional knowledge are vital. Retention is the real issue, not long service, and

frequent turnover forces councils to start over, hindering progress. Mandating a Youth Seat without protections for minors serving in public official roles is also problematic. Youth members would be subject to public records laws and scrutiny without the necessary guidance and protections in place. We urge the City Council to reconsider these proposals, which would weaken the independence and effectiveness of Neighborhood Councils, and instead allow us to maintain the flexibility to govern in a way that best supports our communities.

Ref:MSG11301130



CIS Council File 24-0867.pdf

337K

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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http://www.highlandparknc.com
Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

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HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

October 17, 2024

RE: Council File 24-0867

Dear Council Members:

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council (HHPNC) represents over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property or conduct business in the neighborhoods of Highland Park and Garvanza. The HHPNC voted at its General Board meeting held October 17, 2024 to approve this Community Impact Statement.

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council **firmly opposes** Council File 24-0867 “Neighborhood Council Bylaws / Youth Participation / Diversity Increase / Leadership Growth” for the following reasons:

- The core principle of the Neighborhood Council system is to foster community identity. The system is designed to ensure that the unique needs, interests and voices of the City’s 99 neighborhood council areas are reflected in their respective bylaws and governance documents. The City Charter explicitly grants Neighborhood Councils the authority to establish their own bylaws, including term limits. Council File 24-0867 would limit the ability of neighborhood councils to create bylaws suited to their specific nature.
- The City Charter assigns neighborhood councils an advisory role to City government. City Council is a leading recipient of such advice. Therefore, City Council’s proposed term limits for Neighborhood Council members represents an inappropriate attempt to restrain the independence of these advisory bodies and their Charter-granted right to provide opposition and support to City Council motions.

- Neighborhood Council members are volunteers, elected by their communities to represent local interests. This proposal would interfere with the ability of these councils to create bylaws suited to their specific needs.
- There is no evidence that long-term members form a problematic voting bloc. On the contrary, the experience and institutional knowledge of long-serving members are crucial to the effective functioning and ethical standards of Neighborhood Councils. Retention, rather than overextension of service, is the greater challenge. Frequent turnover results in a loss of institutional knowledge, causing councils to restart their efforts each time a new board takes over. Many neighborhood councils have difficulties filling council seats and reaching quorum. Restricting term limits would worsen persisting obstacles.
- Until there is proper attention devoted to developing appropriate policies and support for minors serving on the board, it is negligent for the City Council to mandate a Youth Seat. There currently are no protections provided to Youth Seat members who are expected to be held to the same policies and scrutiny of City Council members, including the California Public Records Act which could lead to their correspondence and social media activity becoming a matter of public record. The City Administrative Code recognizes the special circumstances of a minor serving on the board only to prohibit their voting on financial matters. However, this is the only exception, and Youth Seat board members are not provided any council, specific training, or protections while serving as a minor in the capacity of a public official. It is also recognized by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment that board members can be expected to spend between 10-20 hours a week while serving on the board.

Neighborhood Council should retain the freedom to set its own term limits and membership through its bylaws, based on what works best for their community.

Thank you for your attention to our thoughts on this matter.

Darren Gold

Darren Gold

President

Highland Park Neighborhood Council