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MOTION

NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

Los Angeles has various Neighborhood Councils that were created to connect its diverse communities to City Hall. They were established in 1999 by an amendment to the City Charter. Together these Neighborhood Councils form the grassroots level of City government. Although Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers, they are public officials elected to office by the members of their community.

The Neighborhood Council system tailors City municipal government to its individual communities, ensuring that recognition and accommodation of these communities' diversity is built into City governance.

Every Neighborhood Council is held to the local, state, and federal standards that other City offices and agencies must observe. Each Neighborhood Council is uniquely tailored to the communities' specific needs. Each Neighborhood Council has a governing board, structured with seats representing the particular type of stakeholders that they serve. Some Neighborhood Councils have seats for renters while others have seats for equestrians. Boards range in size from 7 to 35 members. Board terms vary as well with most consisting of two- year terms and others consisting of four-year terms. The current challenge faced by Neighborhood Councils is the recurrence of the same individuals serving on their governing boards. Implementing term limits would facilitate the evolution of leadership, ensuring alignment with current events and the evolving needs of the constituents they represent.


Youth development and participation in local activities and government is vital in our communities. In order to increase youth participation and youth leadership in local issues, the City recently established the Youth Development Department. As such, youth participation in Neighborhood Councils should be promoted to keep Neighborhood Councils in touch with the needs of the youth who are vital members of the community as well.

Relative to increasing youth participation, the City should also consider the feasibility of implementing term limits for board members. In this manner, Neighborhood Councils may facilitate greater member participation and leadership development. Presently, the Neighborhood Council bylaws provide for a youth seat on the governing board as an optional provision. To enhance youth participation, it is advisable to mandate the inclusion of a youth seat.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, with assistance of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, the Youth Development Department and the City Clerk, be requested to provide recommendations on potential methods and options to amend the Neighborhood Council Bylaws (Bylaws) to ensure youth participation in Neighborhood Councils including the designation of a youth seat on each Neighborhood Council board to increase diversity and allow for leadership growth;

I FURTHER MOVE the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, with assistance of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the City Attorney, be requested to report to the Council on potential options to amend the Bylaws to include term limits for Neighborhood Council board members in order to facilitate greater member participation and leadership development.

PRESENTED BY:   
MONICA RODRIGUEZ  
Councilwoman, 7<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: 

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