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**Council File Number**

[96-1157](#)

**Title**

CREATING NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

**Subject**

Motion - If there's one clear message throughout the city, it's that people want to be heard. They have something to say. They want a change to participate. They want to feel they can make a difference and make things better. We need to unite Angelenos of every race and color and creed, and rebuild this city not from the top down, but from the bottom up. And the best place to start is in our neighborhoods. If there's one thing we all have in common, it's a neighborhood. A place where we call home. Neighborhoods must be seen as a gift, not a problem. Envision Los Angeles being turned into a Family of Neighborhoods, a family in which everyone participates and everyone takes pride. It must start with the City Ccl formally empowering each of our City's neighborhoods to form their own neighborhood Ccl, which in turn selects its own leaders, determines its own priorities, and reflects the broad diversity of its community. Recognizing that government has, and probably always will have, an inadequate supply of resources to solve our problems, the neighborhood councils would bring with them a greater initiative, responsibility, and reservoir of resources to help solve our pressing problems. As they do in cities like Portland, St. Paul, Birmingham, Dayton, San Antonio, Tempe, Seattle, Salt Lake City, all of which have already begun similar neighborhood Ccls, they will meet regularly to participate in a wide range of critical issues. And to create unity out of diversity, representatives of all the neighborhood Ccls will meet together at least quarterly on a citywide basis, as a Congress of Neighborhoods, to exchange concerns and form consensus on citywide issues. To begin, the City Ccl shall establish as policy a system through which neighborhood ccls are created throughout the city. Starting in each of our existing 103 identified neighborhoods, community, business, school, religious and other leaders will come together and begin the process of further defining the boundaries of their neighborhoods, of forming their own ccls, and of selecting their own leaders in whichever manner they choose. Each neighborhood ccl will adopt its own by laws and procedures for selecting its representatives. The City will create a support system to assist the neighborhood ccls in organizing and staffing themselves. Each neighborhood ccl will: organize open elections and provide free membership for anyone who lives works, or owns property in the neighborhood; adopt a non-discrimination policy; develop a plan of goals and objectives, including a "Bill of Responsibilities"; develop a neighborhood disaster preparedness plan which would be part of a citywide "Prepare L.A." plan; ensure that the ccl truly represents the diverse interests of the neighborhood; train staff and community volunteers in conflict mediation skills; and communicate with all the people in the neighborhood on a regular basis. The City shall adopt a policy giving each neighborhood a reasonable amount of time to review, debate, and make recommendations on a wide range of matters including, but not limited to: community based policing; crime prevention projects; job training programs; transportation; planning and zoning decisions; neighborhood revitalization projects; alcohol permits; conditional use permits; community clean up projects; street closures and barricades; traffic controls; preferential parking zones; parking meter rates; lighting; acquiring and improving parks and recreation facilities; variances to Building and Safety requirements; speed limits; police permits for parades, pool halls, etc.; design of community buildings libraries, parks, and city facilities; historic designations; placement of bus benches; creation of assessment districts; demolitions; use of public lands for development; availability of tax forfeited and surplus properties; water and power rates; and most importantly, the determination of city budget and spending priorities. As in some cities, this early warning procedure will be guaranteed by ordinance. Additionally, the City may eventually want to allow the neighborhood ccls to bid on contracts to perform certain local services such as park maintenance, graffiti removal and prevention, etc. in order to provide an opportunity for neighborhood job opportunity programs to flourish. All city departments and agencies shall be required to provide each neighborhood ccl with priority access to all information, records, etc. needed to conduct their deliberations. Public funds

would be made available to the neighborhood ccls, starting with a small base amount needed to help pay for rent (if appropriate city facilities are unavailable), office expenses, and communications within the neighborhood on a regular basis. Further funding for the ccls could come from a combination of the city funds, new or redirected state and federal grant funds, private foundation grants, and money raised by the ccls on their own. If public funds are provided, the city will prescribe the methods of financial accountability. The neighborhood ccls will also be given first priority to surplus city equipment such as furniture and computers. Additionally, leaders from each of the neighborhood ccls will convene at least quarterly as a citywide Neighborhood Congress to discuss citywide matters such as City Charter amendments, ordinances, initiatives, programs multi-culture dialogue, and the general overall course of the city. The key to the success of the neighborhood ccls must be their independence from City Hall, and their ability to truly represent the diverse interests of their community. Unlike other city sanctioned community groups, representatives would not be appointed by governmental official, and their structure would not be designed by City Hall. Instead, the Ccls mandates would come directly from their neighbors. The Ccls will be able to build their strength through their ability to bring together all the diverse community interests, coming to a consensus, and thereby creating an influential community force that can't be ignored Through this process, neighborhoods will begin developing the connective tissue throughout which they share concerns, create a genuine understanding, discover common goals, and create unity through diversity. Our problems are shared challenges. So then should be our solutions. THEREFORE MOVE that the Governmental Efficiency Comt develop and present to the City Ccl for adoption a plan to fundamentally reform city government through the establishment of independent neighborhood ccls as hereinabove described.

### **Last Change Date**

03/03/2005

### **Mover**

JOEL WACHS

### **Second**

RICHARD ALATORRE  
MARVIN BRAUDE  
LAURA CHICK  
MICHAEL FEUER  
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
RUDY SVORINICH, JR.

### **Archive History**

6-18-96 - This days Ccl session - File to Cal Clk for placement on next reg Ccl agenda  
2-28-97 - This days Ccl session - Mo - Ridley-Thomas Mover 1997 / Chick / Goldberg / Wachs / Hernandez - THEREFORE MOVE that the Neighborhood Council items (Wachs, Ridley-Thomas, et al) currently being considered by GE Comt be amended to adopt a three year Citywide neighborhood congress as a pilot project consisting of neighborhood councils which respect community and council district boundaries as appropriate.  
2-28-97 - Ref to GE Comt  
2-28-97 - File to GE Comt Clk  
2-18-98 - CLA transmittal rept received re: Office of Neighborhoods, a system of neighborhood councils, and a Citywide neighborhood congress - to GE Comt Clk  
3-4-98 - CAO 0220-03385-0000 rept re: Creation of Neighborhood Councils - to GE Comt Clk  
3-30-98 - CAO 0220-3385-0000 rept re: Comparison of Cities with Neighborhood Council Programs - to GE Comt Clk  
4-8-98 - CAO 0220-03385-0000 rept re: Neighborhood Councils Proposals for the City of Los Angeles - to GE Comt Clk  
4-14-98 - CAO & CLA rept re: Neighborhood Councils & City Hall Infrastructure - to GE Comt Clk  
4-20-98 - CAO 0220-03385-0000 rept re: Neighborhood Ccl Proposal - to GE Comt Clk  
5-8-98 - CLA / CAO transmittal regarding Governmental Efficiency Committee Members proposals for Neighborhood Councils - to GE Comt Clk  
6-17-98 - CAO 0220-03385-0000 transmittal regarding Neighborhood Council Proposals - to GE Comt Clk  
6-17-99 - City Atty R99-0172 rept re: Draft Ordinance establishing a Dept of Neighborhood Empowerment  
6-18-99 - City Atty R99-0181 rept re: Draft Ordinance establishing a Dept of Neighborhood Empowerment  
7-13-99 - Mo 32N - Bernson Mover 1999 / Ferraro - REFERRED TO Ad Hoc Comt on Charter Implementation

7-13-99 - Verbal Mo - Miscikowski Mover 1999 / Wachs - ADOPTED in lieu of Comt rept - HEREBY MOVE that Ccl ADOPT the following recommendations relative to the establishment of a new City Dept of Neighborhood Empowerment (Council agenda Item No. 32,CF 96-1157-S3, et al.):

1. PRESENT and ADOPT accompanying ORDINANCE dated 7-13-99, as presented by the Governmental Efficiency Committee and as revised to incorporate the following amendments:
  - a. Amending Mo 32E, as amended (Hernandez-Chick) (attached to the Council file).
  - b. Amending Mo 32F, as amended (Walters-Galanter) (attached to the Council file).
2. REFER all other Amending Motions submitted in Council relative to this matter, to the Ad Hoc Comt on Charter Implementation

7-13-99 - Ord over one week to 7-20-99

7-13-99 - Mo 32L - Galanter Mover 1999 / Hernandez - REFERRED TO Ad Hoc Comt on Charter Implementation

7-13-99 - Mo 32K - Bernson Mover 1999 / Goldberg - REFERRED TO Ad Hoc Comt on Charter Implementation

7-13-99 - Mo 32J - Bernson Mover 1999 / Ferraro - REFERRED TO Ad Hoc Comt on Charter Implementation

7-13-99 - Mo 32I - Feuer Mover 1999 / Goldberg - REFERRED TO Ad Hoc Comt on Charter Implementation

7-13-99 - Mo 32H - Feuer Mover 1999 / Goldberg - REFERRED TO Ad Hoc Comt on Charter Implementation

7-13-99 - Mo 32G - Feuer Mover 1999 / Goldberg - REFERRED TO Ad Hoc Comt on Charter Implementation

7-13-99 - Mo 32F - Walters Mover 1999 / Galanter - ADOPTED \*AS AMENDED - MOVE THAT Section 22.805(c) of the Ordinance to establish the Dept of Neighborhood Empowerment be clarified to read as follows:

The Board Members shall be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council and may be removed \*and vacancies filled in accordance with the provisions of the City Charter (Walters-Galanter)

7-13-99 - Amending Mo 32E - Hernandez Mover 1999 / Chick - ADOPTED \*AS AMENDED - MOVE that the Ordinance to add a new Chapter 28 to the LAAC to create the Dept of Neighborhood Empowerment BE AMENDED to delete the following section:

That the City Council:

1. Delete Section 22.801(k) of the ordinance as follows:
 

(k) "facilitate the delivery of City services to the neighborhoods as requested by neighborhood councils, including, but not limited to, acting as an advocate for meeting the neighborhood needs for City services, and coordinating and involving the relevant City staff in integrated problem-solving with the neighborhood councils."
- \*2. Add the following language to Section 22.800:
 

"be coordinating and involving the relevant City staff in integrated problem-solving with the neighborhood councils (Hernandez-Chick)"

7-13-99 - Mo 32D - Goldberg Mover 1999 / Hernandez - REFERRED TO Ad Hoc Comt on Charter Implementation

7-13-99 - Mo 32C - Goldberg Mover 1999 / Hernandez - REFERRED TO Ad Hoc Comt on Charter Implementation

7-13-99 - Mo 32B - Goldberg Mover 1999 / Chick - REFERRED TO Ad Hoc Comt on Charter Implementation

7-13-99 - Mo 32A - Goldberg Mover 1999 / Chick - REFERRED TO Ad Hoc Comt on Charter Implementation

7-13-99 - GE Comt rept RECEIVED AND FILED - See Mo (Miscikowski-Wachs) adopted in lieu of GE Comt rept

7-20-99 - Ord ADOPTED amending Division 22 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, by adding a new Chapter 28 to create a new City Department of neighborhood Empowerment

7-21-99 - File to Mayor for signature

10-27-99 - File to GE Comt Clk OK

10-27-99 - File in files

11-15-99 - File to Rob Sandiford - CAO - x53519

8-15-00 - File in files

8-16-00 - File to Todd Gaydowski - City Clerk - x58783

8-21-00 - File in files