

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: My name is Brandi D'Amore, and I am the president of Hollywood United NC and Community Assistance Chair for the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC). While I am not representing either, my positions on both have informed my statement. Additionally, I was on the the committee that wrote the LANCC Charter Reform Recommendations. Significance of the LANCC Report: The LANCC Charter Reform Recommendation report represents the unified voice of the grassroots level of Los Angeles government. It was developed through a rigorous public process that included weekly meetings and the exhaustive review of 192 Charter Reform-related Community Impact Statements submitted since 2022. The report serves as a definitive roadmap to move Neighborhood Councils from a subordinate support structure to their intended role as "Elected Advisors" to the City government. Practical Assessment vs. Theoretic Potential While the City Council frequently makes decisions based on theoretic potential or crisis-driven responses, Neighborhood Councils are mandated to monitor the actual delivery of City services and provide guidance based on real-world local consequences. The LANCC report emphasizes that NC recommendations are intended to convey local conditions that decision-makers at City Hall often overlook. Systemic Violations of Charter and Ordinances The City has frequently violated the spirit and letter of the Charter by failing to provide Neighborhood Councils with their legally allotted speaking time or proper notice. This report seeks to end these violations by codifying: A guaranteed five-minute speaking queue for Neighborhood Councils at all public meetings, separate from general public comment. The right for NCs to speak on any agenda item, even if it has already been heard in committee. A mandatory 30-day notice period for all departments and commissions issuing permits or regulatory decisions, ensuring NCs have a practical window to provide input. Protecting Self-Governance from Disenfranchisement: A core component of this report is preventing the City Council from disenfranchising local communities through administrative overreach. The LANCC recommendations limit the City Council's authority to adopt ordinances that substantively modify NC governance, composition, or board terms. Under these reforms, any major

changes to the structure or autonomy of Neighborhood Councils must be placed on the ballot for the public to decide. Essential Support for NC Volunteers As a system powered by volunteers, Neighborhood Councils require codified support structures to be effective. The report demands: Written legal advice from the City Attorney upon request by an NC President or Chair. The creation of a publicly available database of procedural knowledge maintained by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE). Budgetary protection ensuring that NC funding is not disproportionately cut during fiscal challenges compared to the Mayor's office. Accepting the LANCC report is a necessary step to restore public trust and ensure that the "people's financial guardian"—an independent Office of Transparency and Accountability—can operate alongside empowered local advisors to keep City Hall accountable