

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 11-1020-S3

Comments for Public Posting: This motion may seem innocuous, but it is about the agency of NCs. NC across the City have given funds to The Budget Advocates for years. The Budget Advocates provide a service to the NCs, advocating on their behalf on budget matters and educating board members and stakeholders alike on topics pertinent to The City Budget. In the last year, Angelenos from 94 of the 99 Neighborhood Councils participated in the Budget Advocates' events and the NCs would like to fund this work as well as the NCBA's yearly whitepaper and budget recommendations. This motion codifies ceasing the NC's ability to do that. Instead money would be placed into an account to be allocated at DONE's discretion, stripping the NCs of their ability to direct their funds as they see fit. At this point in time, many NCs simply do not trust DONE. If changes are to be made to the Administrative Code, it should be the codification of the ability to create subaccounts in the NC special funds so that NCs can direct their funds for the use of Alliances and NC entities such as the Budget Advocates that match their communities' needs and beliefs. The Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC), Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC), and several NCs have already voted to oppose this Council File. I urge the Budget and Finance Committee to not move on this file until NCs have had a chance to weigh in -- September at the earliest. To do otherwise would be an assault on the Neighborhood Councils' right to self-determination.