

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

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

Date of NC Board Action: 11/03/2016

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 11/24/2016

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 14-1184

Agenda Date:

Item Number: 7

Summary: The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council joins with the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates and other Neighborhood Councils affiliated with LANCC to request the City Council to immediately establish a separate Council File on and take all necessary actions to create and fund an INDEPENDENT Office of Transparency and Accountability as recommended by the 2020 Commission.

We note that nothing seems to have been done with the good work and suggestions of this commission other than the combining of elections with the County and we urge the City Council to revisit their recommendations and take action starting with this one.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Post Office Box 50791
Los Angeles, CA 90050
<http://www.highlandparknc.com>
Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT
200 N. Spring St. Ste.2005
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Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

November 3, 2016

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Members of the Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Creating an independent Office of Transparency and Accountability (CF 14-1184)

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council, which represents over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property, or conduct business in our neighborhood is concerned about the escalation of costs and the apparent lack of input or control of City spending. We are especially concerned with these issues as they pertain to requests that the electorate approve increased taxation and bonds for which there appear to be inadequately detailed plans, as well as omnipresent lawsuits launched against the City and large settlements reported and discussed in recent months.

In its 2014 Report 'A Time for Action', the LA 2020 Commission stated:

"Accountability and transparency provide the foundation of any effective democratic institution. Governments that are open with their citizens not only provide useful information, they promote access to it, knowing they will be held accountable for what they say and do.

HHPNC calls for the creation of an independent Office of Transparency and Accountability

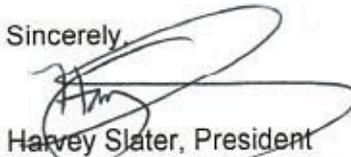
This spirit of transparency builds public trust and encourages a level of civic engagement, which in turn, demands better outcomes. A virtuous circle.

The ability to effect positive change in Los Angeles has been diminished by a political system that has lost touch with its citizenry and provides little useful information to measure outcomes. The onus is on City Hall to foster a culture of transparency and accountability that will lead to more efficient delivery of services and an increase in public participation in government."

The report calls for the creation of an *independent* 'Office of Transparency and Accountability' saying that "this body will provide taxpayers, voters, and the media with information and analysis of the City's budget, services, and related operations. This nonpartisan, apolitical entity will be charged with preparing critical analyses of what goes on in City Hall and how effectively the City is using taxpayer money to provide services' before going into further detail on how this could be implemented and underlining that this Office is intended to open lines of communication between the electorate and City Council and to give all parties the facts and knowledge necessary to effectively engage with policy makers.

City Hall and the City Council have access to all this information and more, so we, the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council joins with the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates and other Neighborhood Councils affiliated with LANCC and calls on the City Council to immediately establish a Council File on this matter and to take all actions necessary to expedite the creation and funding of such Independent Office of Transparency and Accountability.

Sincerely,



Harvey Slater, President
Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council