

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to a pilot online voting project for the 2016 Neighborhood Council (NC) elections.

Recommendations for Council action, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

1. AUTHORIZE the Controller to appropriate \$275,000 from the Unappropriated Balance Fund No. 100/58 to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) Fund No. 100/47, Account 3040 (Contractual Services) for the development of the online voting system for NCs.
2. REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance delegating authority to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Commission) to further define the duration, time, and types of contacts that would satisfy the term "substantial and ongoing" for a Community Interest Stakeholder, subject to the concurrence of the Council and the Mayor.
3. REQUEST the City Attorney include in the aforementioned ordinance a prohibition for any stakeholder definition changes by the Commission that affect NC elections during the 6 month election period defined by the opening of Candidate Filing on or about January 1 in even number years until the last NC election has been canvassed and certified no later than June 30 in even number years.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The DONE reports that the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget includes \$275,000 in the Unappropriated Balance for a pilot online voting project for the 2016 NC elections. However, during the FY 2015-16 Budget process, the DONE was instructed to report to Council on policy issues prior to the release of the funds. The DONE further reports that once the online voting platform is implemented, the DONE anticipates a significant decrease in the cost of online and telephone voting for subsequent NC election years.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

## SUMMARY

At its regular meeting held on September 21, 2015, the Budget and Finance Committee considered a report from the DONE dated August 28, 2016 relative to a pilot online voting project for the 2016 NC elections.

The DONE General Manager and the President of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Board) addressed the Committee on the matter and responded to related questions. During the discussion, the issue of the definition of NC Community Interest Stakeholder and what constitutes "substantial and ongoing" contacts was raised. The Board President submitted into the record a letter from the Board to the Council requesting authorization for the Board to further clarify the Community Interest Stakeholder definition. The Committee Chair concurred with the Board's request, but moved that Recommendation No. 2 in the DONE report be amended to include in the proposed ordinance delegating to the Board the authority to define the term "substantial and ongoing" for Community Interest Stakeholder that such authority shall be subject to the concurrence of the City Council and the Mayor.

After consideration and after providing an opportunity for public comment, the Committee approved the recommendations in the DONE report as amended. This matter is now forwarded to the Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE



<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>VOTE</b>
KREKORIAN:	YES
ENGLANDER:	ABSENT
KORETZ:	YES
BLUMENFIELD:	YES
BONIN:	ABSENT

REW  
9/21/15  
FILE NO. 15-1009

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**