

**Valley Alliance of  
Neighborhood Councils**  
**VANC**

Date: 5/11/16  
Submitted in Rules Committee  
Council File No: 16-0093  
Item No.: 1

**DWP Governance Reform**

*Communication  
from the Valley Alliance  
of Neighborhood Councils*

**Recommendations**

The **Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC)** supports the recommendations of the DWP MOU Oversight Committee and the DWP (Advocacy) Committee regarding the reform and restructure of DWP.

VANC supports a diverse Board of Commissioners representing many community interests consisting of seven (7) members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, serving staggered terms. The Commissioners may not be removed, except for cause.

VANC opposes a full-time paid Board of Commissioners. However, Commissioners would be entitled to reasonable per diem fees.

The Board would appoint the General Manager, determine policy, and establish rates.

The City Council would have the right to assert jurisdictions, by a supermajority vote, in certain matters, including rates, and only for the purpose of affirming or denying the action.

The Board would be assisted by a staff similar to the CAO analysts.

The Ratepayer Advocate will be independent and not assigned to the Board or City Council, or any other City official or agency.

Contracting and procurement policies would be modified allowing the Department more flexibility.

The Department would be responsible for labor negotiations.

The Department would establish its own Human Resources Department, separate and distinct from the City's Personnel Department.

DWP would not be subject to the City's Civil Service rules.

The Transfer Fee would be subject to a citywide vote.

Jill Banks Barad

Founder and Chair VANC

Passed by the NCs present April 14, 2016