

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:38 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support



WORKSITE WELLNESS L.A.
HEALTHY WORKERS, HEALTHY WORKSITES

June 20, 2025

Hon Eunisses Hernandez
Councilmember 1st District
Los Angeles City Council

Dear Ms. Hernandez,

As an organization dedicated to providing community empowerment through health education and enrollment assistance for Medi-Cal in downtown and South Los Angeles we are writing to express our concern about the inappropriate language and behavior that continues to take place during Los Angeles City Council Meetings.

Our organization relies on being able to provide public comment or advocate during Council meetings and our members are exposed to hateful language. Vulgar and offensive language does not contribute to resolving the issues at hand. Public meetings should prioritize constructive and meaningful engagement, and this type of behavior must not be normalized in any public forum.

Council Chambers should be a safe space free of prejudice where all participants feel safe and where respectful dialogue is the standard. We strongly urge Councilmembers to establish and enforce clear standards to restore order and ensure a productive environment for public discourse.

Sincerely,

Luis Pardo
Executive Director
Worksite Wellness LA

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:39 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support



Audubon

Audubon Center
at Debs Park

June 20th, 2025

Dear Honorable Councilmembers,

As an organization dedicated to inspiring people to connect with and protect the natural world through community, education, and civic engagement, we are writing to express our strong support for the motion under Council File 16-1104-S3, which addresses the ongoing need to uphold respectful and inclusive standards of conduct during Los Angeles City Council meetings.

Public meetings are a vital platform for civic participation, and our organization depends on the ability to attend and provide public comments on matters that directly affect our communities, our environment, and the wellbeing of Angelenos. Unfortunately, in recent months, we and our members have been exposed to increasingly inappropriate language and behavior in Council Chambers—behavior that has been vulgar, offensive, and harmful.

Such conduct does not contribute to resolving the complex challenges we face as a city. Instead, it undermines the purpose of public forums, silences meaningful voices, and threatens the safety and dignity of those who wish to participate in good faith. Council Chambers should be a space where all participants—regardless of background—feel safe, heard, and respected. Respectful dialogue must be the standard, not the exception.

We strongly urge the City Council to establish and enforce clear standards of decorum that prevent hate speech, discriminatory remarks, and other disruptive conduct from being normalized in public forums. Restoring a sense of order and civility is not only necessary for effective governance but essential for public trust and engagement.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to maintaining a democratic space that works for all Angelenos.

Sincerely,
Evelyn, Audubon Center at Debs Park
debspark@audubon.org

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:39 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support



info@mas.la
213.465.0410
1159 Cypress Ave,
Los Angeles, CA 90065

June 20, 2025

Dear Councilmembers,

At LA Más, we work to keep working-class communities of color rooted in Northeast Los Angeles through community housing, mutual aid, and shared leadership. Our work is grounded in trust, built alongside neighbors who are often left out of decision-making spaces—immigrants, non-native English speakers, renters, and first-time civic participants.

We are writing today out of concern for how inaccessible and unsafe City Council meetings have become. The ongoing use of hateful, dehumanizing language during public comment creates real barriers to participation for the very communities impacted by the policies being debated.

We've heard directly from our neighbors: they don't feel safe attending or speaking at Council. When public meetings normalize targeted hate and harassment, the message is clear: these spaces are not for us. That undermines the promise of civic engagement and silences voices that need to be heard.

LA Más believes that public institutions must do more than open their doors—they must ensure that all who enter are treated with dignity. We urge Council to implement and uphold clear standards that protect against harm while preserving the right to dissent. Creating a culture of respectful, inclusive dialogue is not about tone—it's about equity. It's about ensuring access, cultivating belonging, and protecting democratic participation in Los Angeles.

We remain committed to showing up for our community and we call on City leadership to do the same by making Council Chambers a space where harm is not tolerated and Angelenos can safely speak to the future that they deserve.

In solidarity,

Helen Leung

Executive Director, LA Más

helen@mas.la | www.mas.la | (213) 465-0410

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:39 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support

June 20, 2025

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

As someone who wants to be more involved in local government, I've found myself discouraged and even shaken by what I've witnessed at recent Council Meetings. The hostile atmosphere—filled with shouting, hate speech, and constant disruptions—makes it feel unsafe and unwelcoming to speak or simply be present.

I've left meetings feeling anxious, unheard, and disconnected from a process that should empower and include me. This environment does not reflect the kind of city we claim to be. Council Chambers should be a space where all people feel safe to participate and where our time and voices are respected.

I'm asking you to take action—to set and enforce clear expectations for respectful conduct. We need a space where civic engagement is not only possible, but protected.

Sincerely,

Nina A Brown
Nina Brown

June 20, 2025

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

As a concerned resident of Los Angeles, I am writing to express my deep frustration and growing disillusionment with the conduct and tone that have become all too common in recent City Council meetings. Like many Angelenos, I want to be more involved in local government and contribute to shaping a better future for our city. However, the current environment within Council Chambers often makes civic participation feel unsafe, unproductive, and unwelcoming.

What should be a space for respectful debate and democratic engagement has increasingly become a stage for hostility, hate speech, and disorder. Time and again, I've witnessed meetings devolve into shouting matches, personal attacks, and theatrical disruptions. These behaviors do not reflect the values of our city and undermine the integrity of the legislative process. They discourage everyday citizens from attending, speaking, and participating—particularly those who may already feel marginalized or unheard.

When community members take time out of their day to show up and speak, they deserve a forum that upholds basic standards of decorum, safety, and mutual respect. The breakdown of order and civility not only wastes valuable time and resources but also sends the damaging message that this government space is not truly open or accessible to all.

Council Chambers belong to the people. This is where decisions that affect our lives are debated and made. This space must reflect the seriousness of that responsibility. Residents should be able to speak their minds, raise concerns, and ask questions without fear of being harassed, shouted down, or subjected to intimidation. This is a fundamental expectation of any functioning democracy.

I urge the City Council to take proactive steps to restore order and dignity to its meetings. This includes establishing and enforcing clear, consistent guidelines for public comment and Councilmember conduct; providing staff with the tools and support they need to manage disruptions; and making a public commitment to maintaining a space where everyone—regardless of background, identity, or opinion—feels safe and respected.

We deserve better. Our city deserves better. It is your responsibility as elected leaders to ensure that the public forum operates with the integrity and respect the people of Los Angeles expect and deserve.

Sincerely,

Dorothy BARKS


June 20, 2025

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

I am writing as a concerned citizen who wants to be more civically engaged but is discouraged by the language and conduct displayed during Council Meetings. The behavior I have witnessed—ranging from hate speech to disruptive antics—creates a hostile environment that deters participation and undermines the purpose of these forums. Instead of dialogue and problem-solving, time is wasted on chaos and disrespect.

How much longer do we have to endure this? Council Chambers should be where voices are heard and our time is not wasted. This is our space—a space for the people—and we deserve better.

I urge Councilmembers to take action by setting and enforcing clear expectations for respectful dialogue and professional conduct. Our community deserves a public forum where everyone feels empowered to contribute, free from hostility and intimidation.

Sincerely,

Paulette Curtis
PAULETTE CURTIS

June 20, 2025

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

As a concerned resident seeking to participate more actively in civic life, I am discouraged by the language and behavior that often occur during Council Meetings. The frequent displays of hate speech and disruptive conduct create a hostile environment that discourages public engagement and undermines the purpose of these gatherings. Instead of fostering dialogue and solutions, valuable time is consumed by chaos and disrespect.

Council Chambers must serve as a space where all voices can be heard and community time is respected. This is a public forum—meant for the people—and it must reflect the dignity and seriousness that civic engagement deserves.

I urge Councilmembers to take meaningful action by setting and consistently enforcing clear standards for respectful dialogue and professional conduct. Our community deserves a safe, inclusive, and constructive space where everyone can participate without fear or intimidation.

Sincerely,



WILMA JOHNSON

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:39 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support

June 23, 2025

Dear Council Members,

I am writing as a concerned citizen who wants to be more civically engaged but is discouraged by the language and conduct displayed during Council Meetings. The behavior I have witnessed—ranging from hate speech to disruptive antics—creates a hostile environment that deters participation and undermines the purpose of these forums. Instead of dialogue and problem-solving, time is wasted on chaos and disrespect.

How much longer do we have to endure this? Council Chambers should be where voices are heard and our time is not wasted. This is our space—a space for the people—and we deserve better.

I urge Councilmembers to take action by setting and enforcing clear expectations for respectful dialogue and professional conduct. Our community deserves a public forum where everyone feels empowered to contribute, free from hostility and intimidation.

Sincerely,

Concerned Community Member

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:40 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support

Kenny Yau
10912 Oxnard Street
North Hollywood, CA 91606

June 17, 2025

Dear Councilmember Nazarian,

I am the Principal at Oxnard Street Elementary and I am writing as a private citizen. As an educator entrusted with preparing the next generation of informed and engaged citizens, I am deeply concerned by the hateful language and crass behavior displayed during public comment in LA City Council Meetings.

I would like to bring students to observe government in action by attending LA Council Meetings. However, the use of racial slurs and mockery of the democratic process during public comment has forced me to reconsider whether this setting still reflects the values I strive to instill.

I urge the LA City Council to cultivate an environment that embodies the civility and professionalism we teach in our classrooms. Students deserve to see forums of public engagement that model respect and common decency—values essential to sustaining a healthy democracy. It is critical that the Council restore public trust and create an environment worthy of the next generation's aspirations and participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenny Yau', written in a cursive style.

Kenny Yau

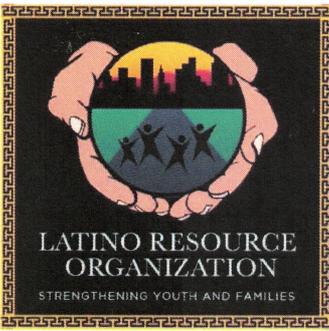
Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:40 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support



June 17, 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Esperanza Banuelos

Chuy Ponce

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Joseph Soto, MS

Dear City Council,

As an organization dedicated to provide a continuum of core services designed to financially empower all low-income families to become self-sufficient through the provision of asset-building programs; and prepare low-income youth to graduate from High School and qualify for post-secondary education, we are writing to express our concern about the inappropriate language and behavior that continues to take place during Council Meetings.

Our organization relies on being able to provide public comment or advocate during Council meetings and our members are exposed to hateful language. Vulgar and offensive language does not contribute to resolving the issues at hand. Public meetings should prioritize constructive and meaningful engagement, and this type of behavior must not be normalized in any public forum.

Council Chambers should be a space where all participants feel safe and where respectful dialogue is the standard. We strongly urge Councilmembers to establish and enforce clear standards to restore order and ensure a productive environment for public discourse.

Sincerely,

Joseph Soto
Executive Director
Latino Resource Organization, Inc.
North Hollywood - Sun Valley FamilySource Center

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:40 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support

June 17, 2025

Dear City Council,

I am disappointed in the chaos created at city council meeting when people use language rife with pejoratives that are intended to insult and demean others during the public comment period of the meetings.

The result is a lot of time wasted dealing with the disruptions and it takes away from the business at hand. While I am a firm defender of the First Amendment, there is no point in using racially-or otherwise insulting language. It slows everything down and prevents the city from enacting legislation.

I urge Councilmembers to take action by setting and enforcing clear expectations for respectful dialogue and professional conduct. Our community deserves a public forum where everyone feels empowered to contribute, free from hostility and intimidation.

Sincerely,
Jay Irwin
El Portal Theatre
5269 Lankershim Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91601

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:41 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support

The Alley Burger

5072 Lankershim Boulevard
North Hollywood, CA 91601

June 18, 2025

Dear Councilmember, Nazarian,

I am writing as a concerned citizen who wants to be more civically engaged but is discouraged by the language and conduct displayed during Council Meetings. The behavior I have witnessed—ranging from hate speech to disruptive antics—creates a hostile environment that deters participation and undermines the purpose of these forums. Instead of dialogue and problem-solving, time is wasted on chaos and disrespect.

How much longer do we have to endure this? Council Chambers should be where voices are *heard* and our time is not wasted. This is our space—a space for the people—and we deserve better.

I urge Councilmembers to take action by setting and enforcing clear expectations for respectful dialogue and professional conduct. Our community deserves a public forum where everyone feels empowered to contribute, free from hostility and intimidation.

Sincerely,



Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:41 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support

June 19,2025

Councilmember Adrin Nazarian:

As a constituent of CD 2, I request that the LA City Council take immediate action to control the level of hate speech and hostile discourse that is becoming all too common during your public meetings. Civil discourse seems to be a thing of the past on the federal level, and I hope that local authorities will take heed before it denigrates our democracy even further. It is an insult to those who wish to participate in civil affairs, and a hindrance to those elected officials who are conducting the Public's business.

We should begin practicing what Rodney King espoused....” why can't we all just get along...”

V M Hatfield

Ginny Hatfield



Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:41 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support

June 16, 2025

Los Angeles City Councilman Adrin Nazarian
5250 N. Lankershim Blvd.
Suite 530
North Hollywood, CA 91601

Dear Mr. Nazarian:

I am writing to express my concern about inappropriate language and behavior at City Council and Council committee meetings. I live with my family in CD2, and regularly participate in Council meetings.

I have witnessed first-hand vulgar language, disturbing behavior and embarrassing signage at meetings. This acts as a disincentive for stakeholders like me to participate in city meetings, and often causes a feeling of not being safe.

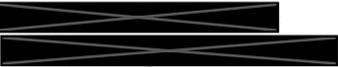
I hope you and your colleagues can find some way to reign in and eliminate these bad behaviors so that everyone can have a positive Council meeting experience and feel safe sharing their thoughts and concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input.

Sincerely,



Tony Braswell



Communication from Public

Name:

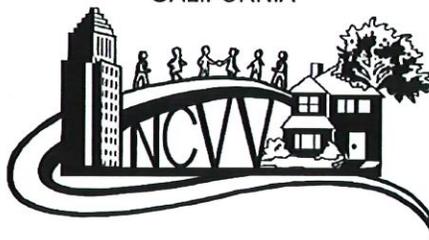
Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:42 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



CELEBRATING 24 YEARS OF SERVICE

Tony Braswell, President
Jake Yocham, Vice President
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Marc Woerschling, Secretary
Carol Kiernan Convey
Alice Hart
Ginny Hatfield
Sandy Hubbard
Suzanne Lewis
Ernie Mérian
John Moser
Jenna Powers
Christyn Saracino
Paulette Stokes
Maribel Ulloa-Garcia

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL VALLEY VILLAGE

P.O. Box 4703
Valley Village, CA 91617
www.myvalleyvillage.com

STUDENT COMMITTEE

Beckett Block
Christian Bryan
Adrien Faubert
Madeline Hookom
Alina Laaly
Nathan Minton
Dylan Reaves
Wyatt Wade
Jerry Yang

June 16, 2025

Los Angeles City Councilman Adrin Nazarian
5250 N. Lankershim Blvd.
Suite 530
North Hollywood, CA 91601

Dear Mr. Nazarian:

We are writing to express our concern about inappropriate language and behavior that happens far too often at City Council and Council committee meetings.

Neighborhood Council Valley Village values the opportunity to provide public comment and/or advocate during Council meetings. Our members and our stakeholders have experienced hateful, vulgar and offensive language and behavior that should not be part of the meeting experience. Some have even stated that they will no longer participate in Council/Committee meetings due to these experiences.

Our Board of Directors and Student Board strongly believe that Council Chambers should be a space where all participants feel safe and where respectful dialogue is the expectation. We urge Councilmembers to take all steps needed to establish and enforce clear standards of behavior, and to restore order and ensure a productive environment for public discourse.

Sincerely,

Tony Braswell
President
NCVV

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:42 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support



MCC UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST IN THE VALLEY



A Caring Community of Christ
Living Compassion ✦ Loving Creation

June 18, 2025

Dear Honorable Councilmembers:

As an organization dedicated to building community and bringing healing to those we serve (primarily those in the North Hollywood area and Los Angeles County), it has come to our attention that inappropriate language and behavior continues to take place during Council Meetings.

We are more than aware that the tensions have been incredibly high between people in our country and especially our county for many years. There are more than enough reasons to be upset with one another. However, vulgar and offensive language does not contribute to resolving anything, in fact, the opposite is accomplished...further division and an inability to get anything accomplished for those you serve.

Our organization relies on being able to provide public comment or advocate during Council meetings and our members and others are being exposed to hateful language. Public meetings should prioritize constructive and meaningful engagement, and this type of behavior must not be normalized in any public forum. It is never too late to return to civility. If I were speaking with my congregation, I would say, "Follow the Golden Rule"...treat others as you would like to be treated, or the one I love even more, "Everything you need to know you learned in Kindergarten." In the latter, Rule #2: Play fair, and Rule #7: Say you're sorry when you hurt someone.

It is time to get back to basics, so I implore you to have the courage to establish and enforce clear standards to restore order and ensure a productive environment for public discourse and learn how to disagree and debate as we have taught our own children. I say all this knowing full well of the myriad of complex issues you are dealing with, but to serve one another and your community well, please set the standard for all to follow since we can focus on solutions to the problems and not have to focus on bullying and bad behavior.

Truly, I thank you all for your service during this time.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Pat Langlois
Senior Pastor

██████████
revpat@mccuccv.com

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:43 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support

June 19th, 2025

Dear Councilmember Adrin Nazarian,

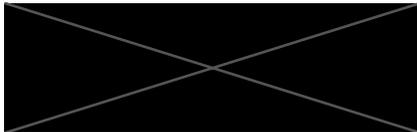
I am writing as a concerned citizen who wants to continue to be more civically engaged but is discouraged by the foul language, Nazi Regalia and disruptive conduct displayed during Council Meetings. The behavior I have personally witnessed—ranging from hate speech to disruptive antics—creates a hostile environment that deters participation and undermines the purpose of these forums. Instead of dialogue and real problem-solving, so much time is wasted on chaos, disruption and disrespect.

How much longer do we have to endure this Chaos? Council Chambers should be where voices are heard and our time is valued. City Hall is the People's space—and we deserve better treatment and not fear for our safety.

I urge Councilmembers to take action by setting and enforcing clear expectations for respectful dialogue and professional conduct. Our community deserves a public forum where everyone feels empowered to contribute, free from hostility, fear and intimidation.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Lewis-Gregory



Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:43 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support

June 27, 2025

Dear Council Member Imelda Padilla,

I am writing as a concerned citizen who wants to be more civically engaged but is discouraged by the language and conduct displayed during Council Meetings. The behavior I have witnessed—ranging from hate speech to disruptive antics—creates a hostile environment that deters participation and undermines the purpose of these forums. Instead of dialogue and problem-solving, time is wasted on chaos and disrespect.

How much longer do we have to endure this? Council Chambers should be where voices are heard and our time is not wasted. This is our space—a space for the people—and we deserve better.

It is very difficult to make time to speak at City Council meetings due to personal commitments, so the few minutes that we get to speak are very valuable. It is very discouraging to travel to City Hall only to find out that the same speakers with the same foul language get to speak and no matter how early we arrive there is no more room for us. At times, one must take their children along and it is overwhelming having to explain to them why attendees cannot speak with respect when we are trying to teach our children to do so.

I urge Councilmembers to take action by setting and enforcing clear expectations for respectful dialogue and professional conduct. Our community deserves a public forum where everyone feels empowered to contribute, free from hostility and intimidation.

Sincerely,



Norma O. Chávez
(818) 844-7072
profchavez@aol.com

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:44 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support



Dear Council,

We're reaching out as an agency that works closely with children and families every day. Our mission is about creating safe, supportive spaces where people, especially young people, can feel respected and heard. We are concerned about the tone and language that has been used during council meetings. Our organization relies on using public comment. The use of inappropriate language during public sessions is unacceptable. These meetings are meant to be a space for open, respectful dialogue and not a place for hostility, vulgarity or profanity. When our staff, youth, families, and community members attend to speak or listen, they deserve to do so without being exposed to hateful or aggressive behavior.

We're asking the Council to enforce clear expectations for how we communicate in these public forums to enforce clear standards to restore order and ensure a productive environment for public discourse. Everyone benefits when meetings are productive, respectful, and inclusive.

We would like for Council Chambers reflect the values we all say we stand for especially when it comes to protecting and uplifting our community.

Sincerely

The UCLA Head Start Team

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:44 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support



Kathy Schreiner
kathy.schreiner@vnnc.org
President

Maduka Nkuku
maduka.nkuku@vnnc.org
Vice President

Vacant
Secretary

David Harari
david.harari@vnnc.org
Treasurer

Myrra Bolla
myrra.bolla@vnnc.org
Parliamentarian

Van Nuys Neighborhood Council

Hakop 'Jack' Azatyan
Pam Bingham
John Camera
Connor Chiu
Quirino de la Cuesta
Brian Edelman
John Hendry
Ann Kalb
Dalilah Perez-Vigo
Derrick Spears
Cyle Zezotarski

Van Nuys
Neighborhood Council
P.O. Box 3118
Van Nuys, CA 91407-3118

Email: info@vnnc.org
www.vnnc.org
818-357-2446

June 20, 2025

Councilmember Imelda Padilla

Council District 6
14410 Sylvan Street, Ste. 215
Van Nuys, CA 91401

RE: Support for Council File 2016-1104-S3 regarding the use of epithets

Dear Councilmember Padilla and other members of the Los Angeles City Council.

I want to let you know that at its General Board Meeting on April 9th, the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council voted to approve a Community Impact Statement (CIS) supporting the City Council motion in Council File 16-1104-S3 that would revise the Rules of the City Council to prohibit the use of N-word and C-word epithets during City Council and Committee Meetings. The VNNC also wants **to ask the City Council to extend the rule to apply to meetings of Boards of Neighborhood Councils and their committees.**

For years, the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council (VNNC) has unfortunately had public commenters who liberally use the N-word and C-word epithets. In particular, when Michael Browning was President of the VNNC from December 2020 through November 2022, he was frequently called the N-word during VNNC Board and Committee meetings. Since I became President in December 2022, I have frequently been called the C-word. It is personally offensive and disheartening to be subjected to this hateful and disrespectful language. But even worse is the impact on the public who have to listen to this name-calling. The VNNC has an unusually small attendance from the public at our meetings, and we know that one major reason is how difficult it is to sit through meetings where so many vulgar and nasty public comments are made

(not only using epithets, but also including many negative and untruthful comments about the Board and individual Board members).

Almost every time a new person joins the VNNC Board, they personally express their revulsion at the nature of the comments that are made in the meetings and ask if there is something we can do about it. I have to regretfully inform them that we have repeatedly asked both DONE and the City Attorney's office for help and that they end up telling us that there is no way to remove public commenters who make these types of remarks. I recently had occasion to read back over a few years of emails and was reminded of the number of people with years of experience in meetings of many different government agencies who told me that they had never heard the types of language that was used at our meetings and thought that there must be some way to curtail it.

I read many of the letters in this Council File from a number of community-based organizations who wrote about what a negative experience it is for residents of the City of Los Angeles to attend meetings where the N-word and C-word epithets are used so frequently and that many people feel wounded and/or unsafe on the basis of the unfettered use of such language. I can attest that I personally cringe whenever I listen to City Council meetings and hear those demeaning words used. They are only used for the purpose of disrespecting City Council Members.

I recognize that it might be unrealistic for the VNNC to request that the City Council take an action that could help apply a similar rule to the meetings of Neighborhood Councils – especially since this Council motion applies to rules that only govern the City Council. However, I respectfully request that you explore whether there is some way you could help prohibit the use of these epithets at all Neighborhood Council Board and Committee meetings.

Sincerely,

Kathy

Kathy Schreiner
President
Van Nuys Neighborhood Council

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/01/2025 09:45 AM

Council File No: 16-1104-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Letter of Support

Michael Browning

Immediate Past President, Van Nuys Neighborhood Council
15050 Hartland Street Van Nuys, CA 91405

June 18, 2025

Councilmember Imelda Padilla

Los Angeles City Council
And All Members of the Los Angeles City Council

Dear Councilmember Padilla and Honorable Members of the City Council,

I am writing to express deep concern regarding the continued use of inappropriate, racist, sexist, and hateful language during City Council meetings and other public meetings held under the Brown Act.

As the immediate past President of the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council, I have personally experienced this kind of abuse. I was repeatedly subjected to racial slurs, including being called the N-word during official meetings. These disturbing and offensive remarks caused significant emotional distress not only for me but also for other community members in attendance. At multiple sessions, we also heard crude and demeaning language directed at women, including the use of the C-word. Such speech is not only disrespectful—it is harmful and undermines the integrity of public participation.

Unfortunately, many residents have shared with me that they no longer feel comfortable or safe attending civic meetings due to the hostile environment created by such rhetoric. This is unacceptable. Public meetings must be spaces where all individuals, regardless of race, gender, or background, can participate in meaningful dialogue without fear of verbal abuse.

I respectfully urge the Council to adopt and enforce clear standards of conduct that protect the dignity of all participants and uphold the values of equity, inclusion, and civil discourse. Restoring a safe and respectful environment is essential to ensuring that all Angelenos can engage fully in the democratic process.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I remain hopeful that with your leadership, we can foster public spaces that reflect the respect and unity our city deserves.

Sincerely,



Michael Browning

Immediate Past President
Van Nuys Neighborhood Council