

Dear City Council Members,

The Formation Committee of the Historic Cultural North Neighborhood Council (HCNNC) is pleased to announce that on Monday, October 29, 2018, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) certified HCNNC as the City of Los Angeles' 99th neighborhood council, representing the communities of El Pueblo, Victor Heights, Solano Canyon, and Chinatown. We look forward to working with your council offices in the interest of our stakeholders. We also hope to have your support as we build this neighborhood council into an inclusive and effective forum for community members to voice their concerns to city leaders. We would like to bring you up to date on what has led to HCNNC's certification, so that you may accept BONC's unanimous decision with confidence.

An overview of the process can be found in the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's (DONE's) HCNNC Certification Report (<http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/HCNNC-Report.pdf>), and in the attached summary report from the HCNNC Formation Committee Report ([HCNNC FC Report.pdf](#)). We would like to highlight a few key points here:

- Work began approximately 11 months ago, with community members who believed that the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council (HCNC) no longer had the capacity to focus on the needs for all areas.
- The proposal to divide north-south along the 101 FWY was based not only on similar demographics, language needs ([HCNC Language Report.pdf](#)), and shared cultural histories of the northern communities, but also on consultations with community members and existing HCNC board members.
- Throughout the 11 month period, there has been substantial effort invested into outreach, meetings, reports, bylaws revisions, and discussions, including negotiations with HCNC board members regarding the proposed board structure for HCNNC. All of this is well documented via emails and other records.
- This subdivision cycle provided a short application timeline, which was not without its challenges. We submitted the application on January 15, 2018, and it was deemed as complete by DONE in a letter sent on February 9, 2018.
- BONC hosted an informational meeting, held on March 12, 2018, which was well-attended, and included a large group of Solano Canyon stakeholders. Several days after this 4-hour long meeting, DONE approved the subdivision petition, and moved HCNNC forward to the elections phase.
- Outreach leading up to the election included three townhalls hosted by DONE. Outreach by HCNNC supporters included door-to-door canvassing in both Victor Heights and Solano Canyon, distribution of flyers at events and in high-traffic areas, and presentations at community meetings.
- **June 7th Election:** Over 90% of voters approved the proposal to form HCNNC. There were 418 "YES" votes, and only 43 "NO" votes. Voter turnout was more than twice that of the 2016 HCNC election, in which only 194 ballots were cast. The certified election results are reflective of the desire and need for improved representation at the neighborhood level.
- In July, 2018, after additional consultations with DONE, the Formation Committee completed another bylaws revision that included previously unrepresented, or "orphaned" areas east of Chinatown in HCNNC ("Dogtown", Ann Street Elementary School, and William Mead Homes). There were also revisions to the western boundary of Victor Heights to follow the zip code line, and to the boundaries between Solano Canyon and Elysian Park, which will be a shared asset with Echo Park Neighborhood Council.

- HCNNC has received approximately 150 letters of support from all districts of HCNNC.
- At a 3.5-hour long public hearing on October 29, 2018, BONC voted unanimously to certify HCNNC as the City's 99th neighborhood council. The commissioners also voted to add two At-Large seats (an At-Large seat open to all stakeholders, and an At-Large Community Interest Stakeholder seat), and made recommendations for various bylaws corrections unrelated to board structure and boundaries.

Despite BONC's unanimous decision to certify HCNNC, there remain some very vocal opponents, led primarily by a group of HCNC board members. We are aware that there may be calls for City Council to reverse BONC's decision. However, we've said this before, and we'll say it again: ***the will of the voters needs to be respected.*** There was ample opportunity for all stakeholders to vote in the subdivision election, either in person or by mail. An overwhelming majority of voters approved the plan to form HCNNC as a new neighborhood council that includes the neighborhoods of Solano Canyon and Victor Heights. We believe that, for 13 of the 33 HCNC board members to continue to insist on amending HCNC bylaws to include Solano Canyon and Victor Heights in HCNC, shows a contempt and disregard for the voice of stakeholders and our democratic processes. We believe that this refusal to acknowledge the outcome of the election is a reflection of the disrespect and dysfunction that gave rise to the movement for the HCNNC subdivision in the first place.

HCNC did not conduct election outreach. Opposing HCNC board members—well aware of the proposal and strongly voicing opposition from December through June—did not disseminate elections information nor post on the HCNC website, Facebook page, or Google calendar. (**Evidence RE HCNC Outreach.pdf**). This lack of outreach from HCNC likely contributed to lower voter turnout overall.

The aim is for HCNNC to be inclusive. It will be essential to welcome all stakeholders to participate, regardless of where they stood on the subdivision. This will not be easy, and we hope to have your support as we try to bridge divides. For your reference, we have attached additional documents in response to community members' concerns, so that we can lay to rest certain misconceptions, misunderstandings, and myths about HCNNC's subdivision process (**Response to Stakeholder Comments.pdf**).

The immediate next steps for HCNNC include conditional bylaws corrections, per the recommendations of the BONC, and seating of an interim board. We would be glad to provide regular updates about HCNNC's progress to any interested City Council members and we hope that field representatives from CD1 and CD14 will join us at regular HCNNC board meetings once they are convened.

We really cannot afford any further delays to get HCNNC operating. Once an interim board is in place, committees will need to be formed, and systems set up for board administration and outreach. Further delays would also be detrimental to preparations for the 2019 neighborhood council elections, which are only 5 months away.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to collaborating with you and your staff, and hope that this will be the beginning of a very long and productive working relationship.

Sincerely,  
HCNNC Formation Committee

## Response to Stakeholder Comments October 29th BONC meeting

### **I. Response to Written Comments from Retired Justice Carlos R. Moreno Regarding DONE**

#### **Report to BONC dated October 19 2018**

In an email sent to HCNC Board Member Lydia Moreno, which was included with his public comment submission, Justice Moreno noted that there are likely “additional facts that would be helpful in assessing the full import of the Report”. The Formation Committee would like to respond to Justice Moreno’s preliminary comments by sharing information that may alleviate most, if not all of his concerns:

#### **A. Comment: “These points [#1-4] should give BONC great pause in proceeding further with the approval of the Petition...”**

(Note: Justice Moreno’s points #1-4 are addressed individually in sections B-F below.)

BONC does not have any authority to approve or deny a subdivision petition. DONE approved the subdivision petition in March, over 7 months ago. Also, GM Liu clarified at that October 29th meeting, that the purpose of the BONC hearing was not to relitigate the petition; BONC’s authority, and the item on the agenda for the October 29th meeting, was the amendment of HCNNC’s board structure and boundaries, and certification of HCNNC bylaws.

#### **B. Comment: An investigation is merited into the petition signatures.**

There were two investigations of the petition signatures: one conducted by DONE and one by David Ryu’s office. The investigation by David Ryu’s office was acknowledged at HCNC’s regular board meeting in April (<http://hcncla.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/HCNC-2018-04-10-Board-Minutes.pdf>). At that meeting, it was also acknowledged by Ms. Moreno, who was opposed to the HCNNC subdivision, that the petition signers said that they knew what they were signing, and they signed it. Furthermore, the Formation Committee received reports from individuals who signed the petition indicating they were contacted by DONE. DONE made phone calls, sent email messages, and visited physical addresses listed on the petition to vet signatures.

#### **C. Comment: Failure to submit sufficient signatures by the deadline should not be considered a clerical mistake.**

The original subdivision petition was uploaded to the DONE application portal. This petition included, but was not limited to, separate files that were digitized on a scanner. To this day, it is still uncertain whether the error related to the petition pages was on the sending or receiving side. The missing pages included signatures of multiple formation committee members (including Angelica Moyes and Eugene Moy), a Solano Canyon resident, as well as the signatures of those who openly supported the effort and provided agenda presentations on the proposal.

With regard to the delay, the preferred email address for Ms. Moyes listed on the subdivision application is her personal email account, since she was acting as an individual stakeholder—not in her capacity as a neighborhood council board member. Ms. Moyes explained at the October 29th meeting that the reason for the delay in response was that DONE contacted her about the error by sending correspondence to her HCNC email account that she had not checked. DONE had, in fact, sent email correspondence to Ms. Moyes's neighborhood council email address. Since the subdivision application was submitted mid-January, and Ms. Moyes took recess from neighborhood council activities—with the next regular HCNC Board meeting scheduled for February 13th—she was not aware of any issues with the application until receiving a phone call from DONE staff. As soon as she was contacted by phone, she emailed the missing pages to DONE without further delay. Ms. Moyes reaffirmed that all of the signatures were gathered before the January 15th deadline.

Furthermore, GM Liu explained that the deadline pertaining to the subdivision application was never meant to be disqualifying in nature, and that it was common practice for DONE to work with the applicants to complete the submission of all required materials. She added that if DONE had treated the application deadline as disqualifying, then every subdivision applicant thus far in the history of subdivisions would have been disqualified.

**D. Comment: Outreach to affected areas is questionable, and lacks documentation.**

The Formation Committee took note of every single public comment made at the March 12th BONC meeting, and followed up with all speakers who were against and who could be contacted, in the days that followed. Of all of the individuals who were emailed, only one did not respond. All others, including multiple HCNC board members against the subdivision proposal, engaged in email correspondence. The Formation Committee submitted all of the correspondence and other relevant documents to DONE to demonstrate efforts to work collaboratively and arrive at compromises with those in opposition, while further developing the proposed HCNNC bylaws. A document summarizing all of the public comments in opposition, along with the Formation Committee's responses and supporting documentation, were submitted to DONE for consideration.

**E. Comment: Subdivision reforms may be retroactively applied to this case, and again, why the rush?**

HCNNC's communities have not been represented in almost 5 months. In neighborhoods that

are undergoing rapid changes in development, 5 months is already a very long time. HCNNC needs to prepare for 2019 elections. There were no election challenges, and the election results were certified. To nullify the election would be to disregard the voters.

**F. Comment: Justice Moreno argues against incorporating eastern, previously unrepresented area (Ann Street Elementary School and William Mead Homes) into HCNNC without first reaching out and consulting with them.**

There has been outreach, including correspondence with the principal at Ann Street Elementary School, the management office at William Mead Homes, and public housing director of the Boys and Girls Club. Flyers were distributed to William Mead Homes residents, who are also parents and guardians of Ann Street Elementary School students, informing them about the October 29th BONC meeting, and the proposal to include them in HCNNC. A flyer for the special meeting was posted at William Meade Homes's bulletin board and distributed to residents there.

**II. Response to Other Comments from Stakeholders at the October 29th BONC Meeting**

**A. Comment: Solano Canyon and Victor Heights have different language needs than Chinatown, and therefore, should be in a separate neighborhood council from Chinatown (or allowed to stay with Little Tokyo/Arts District).**

This is a misconception. The demographics and language needs in Solano Canyon and Victor Heights are very similar to those in Chinatown. According to the 2010 census and more recent American Community Survey data, Solano Canyon and Victor Heights were approximately 60% asian, and only approximately 50% of all residents in these districts speak English "Very Well". In Solano Canyon and Victor Heights, the top languages spoken at home for residents who speak English "less than very well" are Chinese, and then Spanish. An analysis of the language needs in these communities was presented to HCNC board members at HCNC's regular board meeting in April, in a discussion about translation funding. (See attachment, HCNC Language Report.pdf.) Regardless of the misconceptions about language, all of our communities have been represented by HCNC for over 15 years, and the reasons for subdivision should not be based primarily on language.

**B. Comment: Solano Canyon and Victor Heights are residential communities, while Chinatown is mostly pro-development commercial and business interests with few residents, and therefore, should be in a separate neighborhood council from Chinatown.**

This is a misconception. Chinatown actually has the most residents of any community in HCNC -- approximately 4 times as many residents as Solano Canyon, and twice as many as Victor Heights. While there are several large housing developments in Chinatown, a large portion of

the residents live in 2- to 3-story apartment buildings, similar to those throughout Solano Canyon and Victor Heights.

**C. Comment: A person at the March 12th BONC meeting admitted to forging the signatures on the subdivision petition.**

This is a misunderstanding. At the March 12th BONC meeting, the speaker, Mr. Toy, declared that he had to sign-in for the 60 or so Chinese seniors at the meeting because DONE didn't provide enough staff to help them sign-in. When he was talking about signatures looking the same, he was talking about the signatures on the BONC meeting sign-in sheets. He was pointing out this fact about the meeting's sign-in sheet because people at the meeting were claiming that the signatures on the petition had been forged.

The following is a transcript of that portion of the meeting. The recording is available on the Commission's website at <http://empowerla.org/commission/policies-and-meetings/>:

[03:23:08] Mr. Toy: Because of the lateness in hour, in fact we had 30 people had to leave because they were on medication. They came at 5:30, so we hope you will bear with us. They didn't know it was gonna last until almost 10 o'clock. So those people had to, and we had vans, take them back up to Victor Heights, take them back up to, actually,

[unintelligible] OK. So if you don't mind, Mr. Tam and myself will try to summarize, and give us a few minutes. Then let's end it. You know, we don't really want to keep you here for that long. But on the record, let it be reflected, that other than the people that are still here, and if you look at the sign-in sheet, there were over close to 60 people that were here, supporting the petition. And the reason is, and if you look, some of the people were talking about signatures, being looking the same, you will see all those signatures the same, because you did not have staff to help our people fill out cards, you did not have staff to fill out their names and their phone numbers, so I took it upon myself, and I'm not the best writer. So if you look at it, it will look like one person. Which is true. Which gets to the point of other people saying, how come petitions look this way. That's the reason it looks that way.

**D. Comment: Low voter turnout, and general complaints about inadequate outreach by the HCNNC Formation Committee and DONE about the election.**

Turnout in this election was relatively low compared to other subdivision elections. There are several circumstances, however, that may have contributed to lower voter turnout:

- The repeated allegations of fraud and collusion from those opposing HCNNC may have sent a false message of inevitability to stakeholders, depressing voter turnout.
- Stakeholders may not have felt engaged enough with HCNC to want to come out and vote. Only 194 people voted in 2016.
- No outreach from HCNC about the election: nothing on HCNC's Facebook page, calendar,

website, or email blast. (See attachment, Evidence RE HCNC Outreach.pdf.)

Outreach about the subdivision from DONE included an online, social media post on Nextdoor, which reached at least a few stakeholders in Solano Canyon, and one HCNC board member from the Arts District. (See attachment, DONE Outreach on Nextdoor.pdf.) Volunteers with the HCNNC campaign also went door-to-door in Solano Canyon and Victor Heights in the weeks prior to the election, and distributed flyers at various community events.

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rel="noopener">Sign up</a> for our Email Newsletter (You do not need to be signed up or logged in to Facebook, even if it asks.)
</p>
<p style="margin: 0;"><span style="font-size: 16pt;"><strong><b>NEXT MEETINGS</b></strong></span></p>
<hr />
<p><span style="font-size: 14pt;"><strong>LARABA Meeting (<i>HCNC Land Use Committee Meeting Canceled</i>)</strong></span><br />
<b>Date & Time:</b> Thursday, September 20, 2018, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. <br />
<b>Location:</b> Creative Spaces - 530 Molino Street #107, Los Angeles, CA 90013<br />
<b>Agenda:</b> See Calendar<br />
<b>Supporting Documents:</b> See Calendar<br />
</p>

<p><span style="font-size: 14pt;"><strong>HCNC Special Board Meeting</strong></span><br />
<b>Date & Time:</b> Tuesday, October 2, 2018, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. <br />
<b>Location:</b> St. Francis Xavier Church - 222 S. Hewitt Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012<br />
<b>Agenda:</b> Pending<br />
<b>Supporting Documents:</b> Pending</p>
<em>(The agenda will be available at least 72 hours prior to regular meetings, and 24 hours prior to special meetings. Meeting
documents will be posted as soon as they are distributed to a majority of board members.)</em></p>

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<strong>--CURRENTLY THERE ARE NO CALLS FOR CANDIDATES </strong><br />
<em>All qualified constituents are encouraged to apply. <br />
For more information please contact the HCNC at </em>hcnccla@gmail.com.<br />
</span></p>
<p> <strong><span style="color: #333300; background-color: #ffffff;">See the CALENDAR page for meeting times and locations.<br />
</span></strong><em><span style="color: #333300; background-color: #ffffff;"><strong>ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</strong>
</span></em><br />
<em>Overview (subject to change):</em><br />
<em>&gt;General Board Meeting: Second Tuesday of the month, Location TBD </em><br />
<em>&gt;Land Use Committee: Third Thursday of the month, </em><em>@ St. Francis Xavier Church - 222 S. Hewitt Street, Los
Angeles, CA 90012<br />
(enter parking lot through driveway on 3rd Street)</em><br />
<span style="font-size: 10pt;"> Meeting notices will be physically posted at 1855 Industrial St. #106, and <br />
the Arts District Corner Store at the corner of Traction Ave. & Hewitt St.</span><br />
<em>&gt;Action Committee: TBD</em></p>
<span style="color: #333300;"><strong>ABOUT US</strong></span> The Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council is made up of six
Word count: 324
Last edited by hcnccla on September 19, 2018 at 7:01 am

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## Attachment C - HCNC Outreach

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Attachment C - HCNC Outreach

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Attachment C - HCNC Outreach

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- hcncla, 3 years ago ([August 25, 2015 @ 03:01:39](#))
- hcncla, 3 years ago ([August 25, 2015 @ 02:24:28](#))
- hcncla, 3 years ago ([August 18, 2015 @ 03:59:07](#))
- hcncla, 3 years ago ([August 18, 2015 @ 03:58:08](#))
- hcncla, 3 years ago ([August 18, 2015 @ 03:55:58](#))
- hcncla, 3 years ago ([August 18, 2015 @ 03:36:34](#))
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## Title

HCNC Home

HCNC Home

## Content

`<p>Welcome!</p>`

`<p>Welcome!</p>`

`<p><a title="HCNC Email Newsletter sign-up" href="https://www.facebook.com/hcncla/app/100265896690345/" target="_blank">Sign up</a> for our Email Newsletter (You do not need to be signed up or logged in to Facebook, even if it asks.)</p>`

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`<p><span style="color: #222222;"><strong>NOTE: The following seats are vacant on the Board</strong> <strong>of Directors</strong>. <br /> <em>All qualified`

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constituents are encouraged  
to apply. <br />For more  
information please contact  
the HCNC at  
</em>hcncla@gmail.com<br />  
</span> <strong>--At-  
Large Youth  
Representative</strong> -  
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Candidates</a> (also in <a  
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and <a  
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Representative</span>  
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and <a  
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target="\_blank">Spanish</a>)  
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Candidates</a> (also in <a

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href="http://hcncla.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/2018-04-11-Call-for-Candidates-VictorHeightsResident\_ChT.pdf" target="\_blank">Chinese</a> and <a href="http://hcncla.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/2018-04-11-Call-for-Candidates-VictorHeightsResident\_Sp.pdf" target="\_blank">Spanish</a><strong><br /></strong></p>

<hr />

<p> <strong><span style="color: #333300; background-color: #ffffff;">See the CALENDAR for meeting times and locations.<br /></span></strong><em><span style="color: #333300; background-color: #ffffff;"><strong>ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</strong></span></em><br /><em>Overview (subject to change):</em><br /><em>&gt;General Board Meeting: Second Tuesday of the month, Location TBD</em><br /><em>&gt;Land Use Committee: Third Thursday of the month, </em><em>@ Sci-Arc, 255 S. Santa Fe Ave. room 160<br /> (enter building from parking lot at

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350 Merrick St., Los Angeles, 90013)  
Attachment C - HCNC Outreach

<em><br /><span style="font-size: 10pt;"> Meeting notices will be physically posted at 1855 Industrial St. #106, and <br /> the Arts District Corner Store at the corner of Traction Ave. & Hewitt St.</span><br /></em>&gt;Action Committee: TBD</em></p>

<p><span style="color: #333300;"><strong>ABOUT US:</strong></span> The Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council is made up of six historic communities around the original center of Los Angeles. <strong>Board Meetings</strong> are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month, at rotating locations so as to accommodate our diverse neighborhood members. Locations rotate between: Hellman Quon/Pico House, The Chinatown Public Library, The Japanese American Cultural and Community Center and others as announced.</p>

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## Title

HCNC Home

HCNC Home

## Content

<p>Welcome!</p>

<p>Welcome!</p>

<p><a title="HCNC Email Newsletter sign-up" href="https://www.facebook.com/hcncla/app/100265896690345/" target="\_blank">Sign up</a> for our Email Newsletter (You do not need to be signed up or logged in to Facebook, even if it asks.)</p>

<p><a title="HCNC Email Newsletter sign-up" href="https://www.facebook.com/hcncla/app/100265896690345/" target="\_blank" rel="noopener">Sign up</a> for our Email Newsletter (You do not need to be signed up or logged in to Facebook, even if it asks.)</p>

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<p><strong>SPECIAL MEETING 7/2/18</strong> to Vote on HCNC New Bylaws. <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f7XKINS7QxU0AYnIEoKcpil0jphHmmPt/view?>



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target="_blank">Chinese</a>
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Attachment C - HCNC Outreach  
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Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council

June 7 · 🌐

HCNC Board Meeting - Tuesday, June 12th, 2018 @ 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM -



MAILCHIMP

HCNC Board Meeting - Tuesday, June 12th, 2018 @ 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM

HCNC Board Meeting - Tuesday, June 12th, 2018 @ 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM

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Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council June 8

HCNC Board Meeting - Tuesday, June 12th, 2018 @ 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM -



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HCNC Board Meeting - Tuesday, June 12th, 2018 @ 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM  
HCNC Board Meeting - Tuesday, June 12th, 2018 @ 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM

1

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HCNC Board Meeting - Tuesday, June 12th, 2018 @ 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM -



MAILCHIMP  
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(Profile/180241...) Communications Empower Los Angeles (/profile/180241...

#### Vote in the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council Subdivision Election June 7th

(/news\_feed/?post=83626160)  
Greetings,

As a stakeholder of the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council, you're eligible to vote on whether the existing Council should be subdivided to form a new Historic Cultural North Neighborhood Council. The new Council would include the regions of El Pueblo, Chinatown, Solano Canyon, and Victor Heights.

#### WHO CAN VOTE

Minimum voting age for this election is 15. The decision to subdivide an existing Neighborhood Council is made by the stakeholders of that Council, who will vote on this issue in a special election. A Neighborhood Council stakeholder is defined as someone who lives, works, owns a property/business, or who has substantial and ongoing involvement in a local organization such as a school or church within that Council's boundaries.

#### HOW TO VOTE BY MAIL OR IN PERSON

Election Day is June 7th, but you may also vote by mail, if you apply to do so by May 31st. Here's the application: https://clerkappsele.lacity.org/vbmreg/#/vbm (https://clerkappsele.lacity.org/vbmreg/#/vbm)

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE - proof of stakeholder status is required to vote in this election.** If you have a photo ID with your current residential address on it, that's all you need! If your photo ID does not show a current address within the Historic Cultural NC boundaries, click here to see documentation options: https://clerkappsele.lacity.org/vbmreg/app/modules/vbm/resources/qualifying\_...

(https://clerkappsele.lacity.org/vbmreg/app/modules/vbm/resources/qualifying\_...

#### ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACES

There are two polling locations on Election Day; free parking is available at both locations. Both polling places are open from 2 - 8 pm on Thursday, June 7th:

**CASTELAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
Multipurpose Room  
840 Yale Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
map: https://goo.gl/maps/GGNXDKVitnC2 (https://goo.gl/maps/GGNXDKVitnC2)

**LOT 613**  
613 Imperial Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90021  
(map: https://goo.gl/maps/kjp7GntirqN2 (https://goo.gl/maps/kjp7GntirqN2))

Read the subdivision application and see a map of the proposed new Neighborhood Council at http://empowerla.org/hcnc/ (http://empowerla.org/hcnc/)



Attachment B - Nextdoor Outreach



**SPECIAL  
SUBDIVISION  
ELECTION**



(https://d3926qxcw0e1bh.cloudfront.net/post\_photos/ab/d5/abd5e4d56d1fee5231aa3c5bcd6f35d4.jpg)

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(https://flask.nextdoor.com/ct/nM41f3EyVw97KkyAB7Kpl6JZcMmrNIVYnWNTCzu...

3d ago · Subscribers of EmpowerLA in 1 area

Thank Reply

3

(/news\_feed/?post=83626160)

(/profile/16923846323534/), Lake Balboa's Hart West · Edited 3d ago

This election is a sham. VOTE NO! Also why is this being posted in the Valley? More incompetence from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

1 Thank

(/profile/3176180/), Solano Canyon · 1d ago

Once a cheat always a cheat!

VOTE NO to the cheaters.

Make no mistake: the group that is promoting the subdivision of the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council (HCNC) is desperate to consolidate political power in Chinatown. This effort is being spearheaded by Angelica Lopez Moyes (read more about Ms. Moyes in the link below), although there is reason to believe that she is being controlled by others in this effort. The intent of the effort is to negate as much political power as possible in Victor Heights, El Pueblo de Los Angeles, and Solano Canyon and consolidate it in Chinatown.

<http://cheaterreport.com/angelica-moyes-california/>  
[\(http://cheaterreport.com/angelica-moyes-california/\)](http://cheaterreport.com/angelica-moyes-california/)

1 Thank

(/profile/21863705/), Chinatown North · 1d ago

This is all a scam so DONE can get more money. Vote NO to any subdivision.

1 Thank

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([https://clerkappsele.lacity.org/vbmreg/app/modules/vbm/resources/qualifying\\_...](https://clerkappsele.lacity.org/vbmreg/app/modules/vbm/resources/qualifying_...))

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**SPECIAL  
SUBDIVISION  
ELECTION**

**Cultural  
Neighborhood  
Council**

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5d ago · Subscribers of EmpowerLA in 1 area

 Thank  Reply

 1

(/news\_feed/?post=83626160)

 (profile picture ID 323534/), Lake Balboa's Hart West · 2d ago

I co founded and curate a column called DONEWatch  
<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/done-watch>  
(<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/done-watch>).

We are part of the Citywatch LA family and are made up of a coalition of NC Board Members both past and present. Every story is vetted and documented before publishing via CPRA requests and interviews.

We started the page to combat the lies coming out of DONE (Department of Neighborhood Empowerment). DONE is solely responsible for this page being created and this particular election was the last and final straw. You can find all the reasons people are angry about this election taking place including fraudulent documents, fake signature and the list goes on.

David Ryu Chair of the HENC Committee released this statement and it comes as a direct result of the work we have done thru DONEWatch:

"I just introduced a motion to reform and improve our Neighborhood Council System, and I want your feedback for City Council to consider. Please read my letter to Neighborhood Councils here.

When I became the chair of the City Council committee that oversees the Neighborhood Council system, I set out to review the current issues facing the Neighborhood Council system and hear from you. That's why I sent out a survey to every Neighborhood Council board member in December, asking for your feedback. Thank you for your response.

This past week I introduced a comprehensive motion to consider reforms of the Neighborhood Council system based on your feedback, my meetings with the NC Alliances last year, the work of the Health, Education, and Neighborhood Councils Committee, and my office's review of prior legislative proposals for the NC system. Now I'm asking for your input once more.

To provide feedback on the proposals, please have your Neighborhood Council submit a formal Community Impact Statement (CIS) within the next 90 days. Please send any individual feedback to the City Clerk overseeing the Health, Education and Neighborhood Councils, Eric Villanueva at [eric.villanueva@lacity.org](mailto:eric.villanueva@lacity.org) (<mailto:eric.villanueva@lacity.org>).

Click here to read the Neighborhood Council System Reform Motion.  
[http://davidryu.lacity.org/r?u=http%3A%2F%2Fclkrep.lacity.org%2Fonlinedocs%2F2018%2F18-0467\\_mot\\_05-25-2018.pdf&e=ef156600be9cf4980614a2bfcff377a9&utm\\_source=davidryu...](http://davidryu.lacity.org/r?u=http%3A%2F%2Fclkrep.lacity.org%2Fonlinedocs%2F2018%2F18-0467_mot_05-25-2018.pdf&e=ef156600be9cf4980614a2bfcff377a9&utm_source=davidryu...)  
([http://davidryu.lacity.org/r?u=http%3A%2F%2Fclkrep.lacity.org%2Fonlinedocs%2F2018%2F18-0467\\_mot\\_05-25-2018.pdf&e=ef156600be9cf4980614a2bfcff377a9&utm\\_source=davidryu...](http://davidryu.lacity.org/r?u=http%3A%2F%2Fclkrep.lacity.org%2Fonlinedocs%2F2018%2F18-0467_mot_05-25-2018.pdf&e=ef156600be9cf4980614a2bfcff377a9&utm_source=davidryu...))

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Click here to visit the Neighborhood Council System Reform Council File.  
[http://davidryu.lacity.org/r?](http://davidryu.lacity.org/r?u=https%3A%2F%2Fcityclerk.lacity.org%2Fcityclerkconnect%2Findex.cf...0467&e=ef156600be9cf4980614a2bfcff377a9&utm_source=davidryucc&...)  
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Thank you,

David Ryu  
<http://davidryu.lacity.org/> (<http://davidryu.lacity.org/>)"

Today I received the following from next door for calling this out as a sham:

"Laura Velkei  
 Subject: Your Recent Content on Nextdoor  
 JUN 02, 2018 | 10:06AM PDT  
 Holly wrote:  
 Hi Laura,

I'm reaching out today because several of your neighbors have reported one of your posts for violating Nextdoor's Community Guidelines on politics and campaigning.

In particular, the content below was brought to our attention:

This election is a sham. VOTE NO! Also why is this being posted in the Valley? More incompetence from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

On Nextdoor, we encourage members to post about local issues relevant to the community to keep their neighbors informed and to mobilize their community to take action. However, members should not use Nextdoor as a soapbox to campaign for their candidate or cause. Please note: Telling your neighbors how to vote on a specific issue or candidate is prohibited on Nextdoor.

As a result, Nextdoor Support removed your comment, and we ask that you refrain from posting further content of this nature to the main newsfeed. If you feel there is sufficient interest in this issue, please create a Group dedicated to conversations about this topic. We've found that this can be a great way to foster deep and constructive discussion, while still keeping the main newsfeed a positive and productive space for topics of general interest.

Although we do not discuss the actions that we take against a member's account with anyone but that member, I can confirm that we did take action on other accounts as well.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Holly  
 Nextdoor"

---

Our neighborhoods councils are here to support our neighborhoods and

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must be done in a fair and transparent way. None of those conditions exist here.



Add a reply...

---

# Report on the Language Needs in HCNC

HCNC Translation Task Force

Phyllis Ling  
Angelica Moyes  
Don Toy

April 6, 2018

## **Introduction**

The Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council (HCNC) is comprised of six neighborhoods: Arts District, Chinatown, El Pueblo, Little Tokyo, Solano Canyon, and Victor Heights. Several of these neighborhoods are ethnic communities that have historically served as destinations for newly-arrived immigrants, and continue to do so today. As such, these neighborhoods contain significant populations with low English-proficiency.

Neighborhood Councils are by design the most local form of civic engagement. Language barriers, however, are a big challenge to inclusiveness, and may inhibit the participation of stakeholders with low English-language proficiency.

The purpose of this report is to characterize the extent to which language barriers exist in HCNC, to review possible solutions for narrowing language gaps, and to make recommendations to the board for how to provide translation services in a fiscally sustainable way.

## **Language Needs**

### **Data Sources**

Language needs within HCNC were studied using two sources of data: The 2010 decennial census for block-level population counts and racial demographics, and the American Community Survey's 5-year estimates for tract-level language data. Both of these sources were needed in order to examine differences between HCNC caucus areas, which do not align with census tracts (Figure 1).

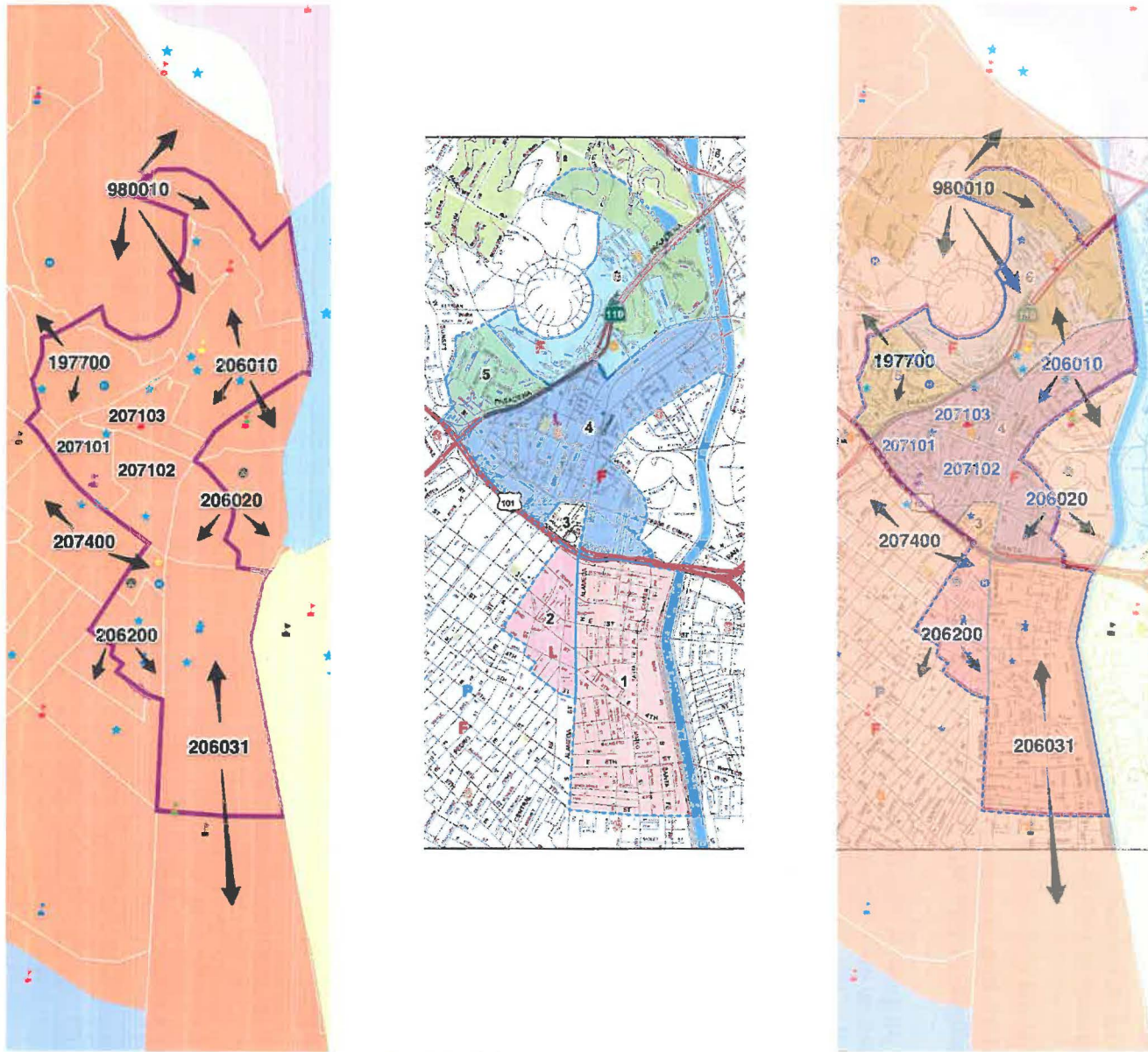


Figure 1. Census Tracts (Left), HCNC Caucus Areas (Center), and Combined Maps (Right)  
 1 = Arts District, 2 = Little Tokyo, 3 = El Pueblo, 4=Chinatown, 5=Victor Heights, 6 = Solano Canyon

## 2010 Decennial Census Population Data

The decennial census contains population counts at the block level, which is the smallest geographical area for which the Census Bureau tabulates and publishes data. However, the questions on the decennial census are limited, and do not contain information about language use. The decennial census does contain racial information, and that information was broken down by HCNC caucus area (Table 1 and Figure 2).

Table 1. HCNC Racial Demographics - 2010 Census

	Total Population	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic-Latino	Multi-Racial	Native-Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	"Other" Race	White/ Non-Hispanic
<b>Solano Canyon</b>	2049	8	1260	34	609	12	0	2	124
<b>Victor Heights</b>	3690	7	2340	85	857	22	6	12	463
<b>Chinatown</b>	8060	10	5982	298	1151	37	7	14	562
<b>El Pueblo</b>	192	5	7	24	129	0	0	0	27
<b>Little Tokyo</b>	3072	5	1309	418	903	14	2	7	414
<b>Arts District</b>	2653	17	1136	175	314	30	3	17	961
<b>HCNC Totals</b>	<b>19716</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>12034</b>	<b>1034</b>	<b>3963</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>2551</b>

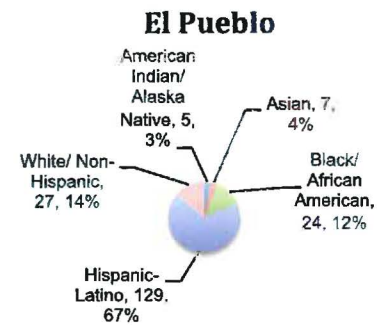
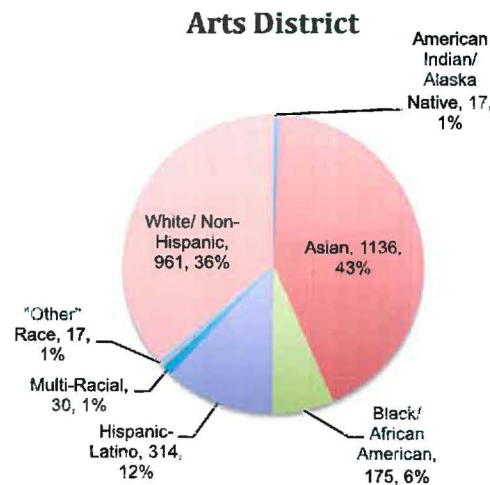
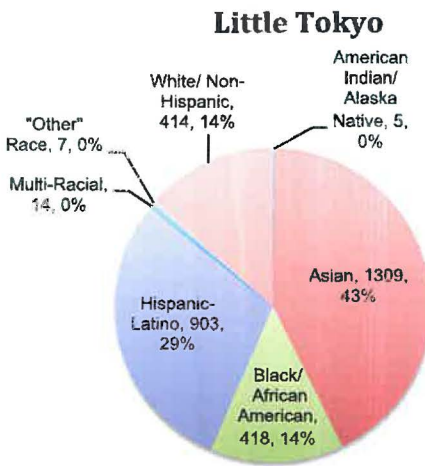
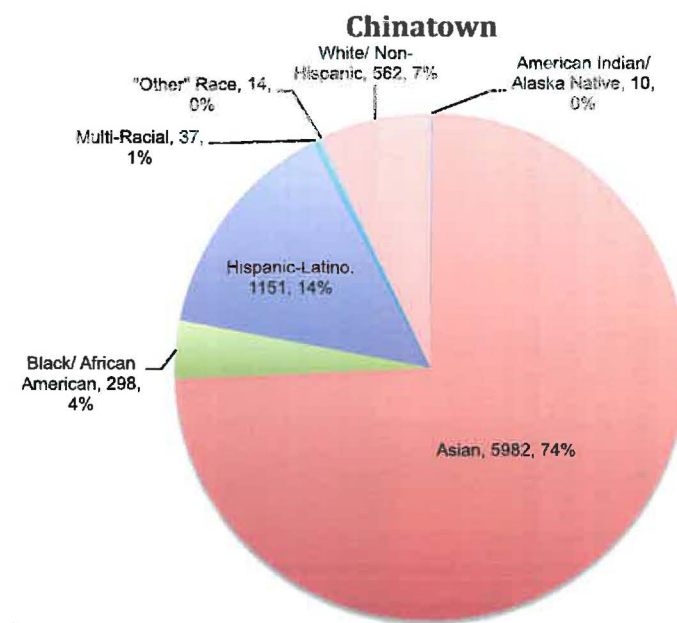
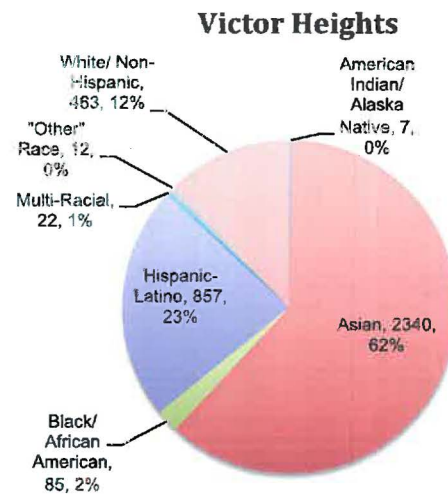
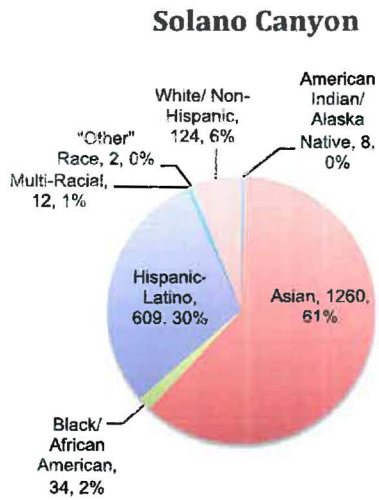


Figure 2. Racial Demographics in HCNC Caucus Areas – 2010 Census

## **The American Community Survey (ACS) Language Data**

The American Community Survey is administered by the U.S. Census Bureau, and contacts 3.5 million households across the country every year. The ACS is the “long form” of the census survey that was sent to one in six households every 10 years before initiation of the ACS. The ACS asks questions on a wider range of topics than the decennial census survey, and includes questions about language ability. Because the ACS is not sent to every household, it is not as location-specific as the decennial census. The ACS reports language data down to census tracts, which are typically made up of 2,500 to 8,000 residents, and have boundaries that follow visible features.

The data collected through the ACS are used by many federal, state, and local officials to make decisions. In particular, the English-ability question in the ACS is used for compliance with the Voting Rights Act, the No Child Left Behind Act, and Executive Order 13166.

The language data collected by the ACS are self-reported data. Respondents who identify a language other than English spoken at home are asked to rate the English-speaking ability of each member of the household as “very well,” “well,” “not very well,” or “not at all.” The accuracy of these survey responses has been compared to English literacy data, and suggests that the ACS question about English language ability may be a valid measure of English literacy (Vickstrom et al., 2015). Those speaking English “very well” most closely matched with the literacy scores of English-only speakers, and the literacy scores of those with English-speaking ability among the four categories from “very well” to “not at all” were statistically different from each other.

## **Trends in the Census Tract Language Data**

The ACS’s 5-year estimates were examined for census tracts in HCNC between 2007-2015 in order to view trends in language use and English-ability (Figure 3). Data are shown for English spoken ‘very well’ and for Cambodian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese spoken at home by those who speak English less than ‘very well’. Charts for additional census tracts that have smaller areas overlapping with HCNC are provided in the Appendix.

- Speak English 'Very Well'
- Speak Cambodian at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'
- Speak Chinese at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'
- Speak Japanese at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'
- Speak Korean at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'
- Speak Spanish at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'
- Speak Vietnamese at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'

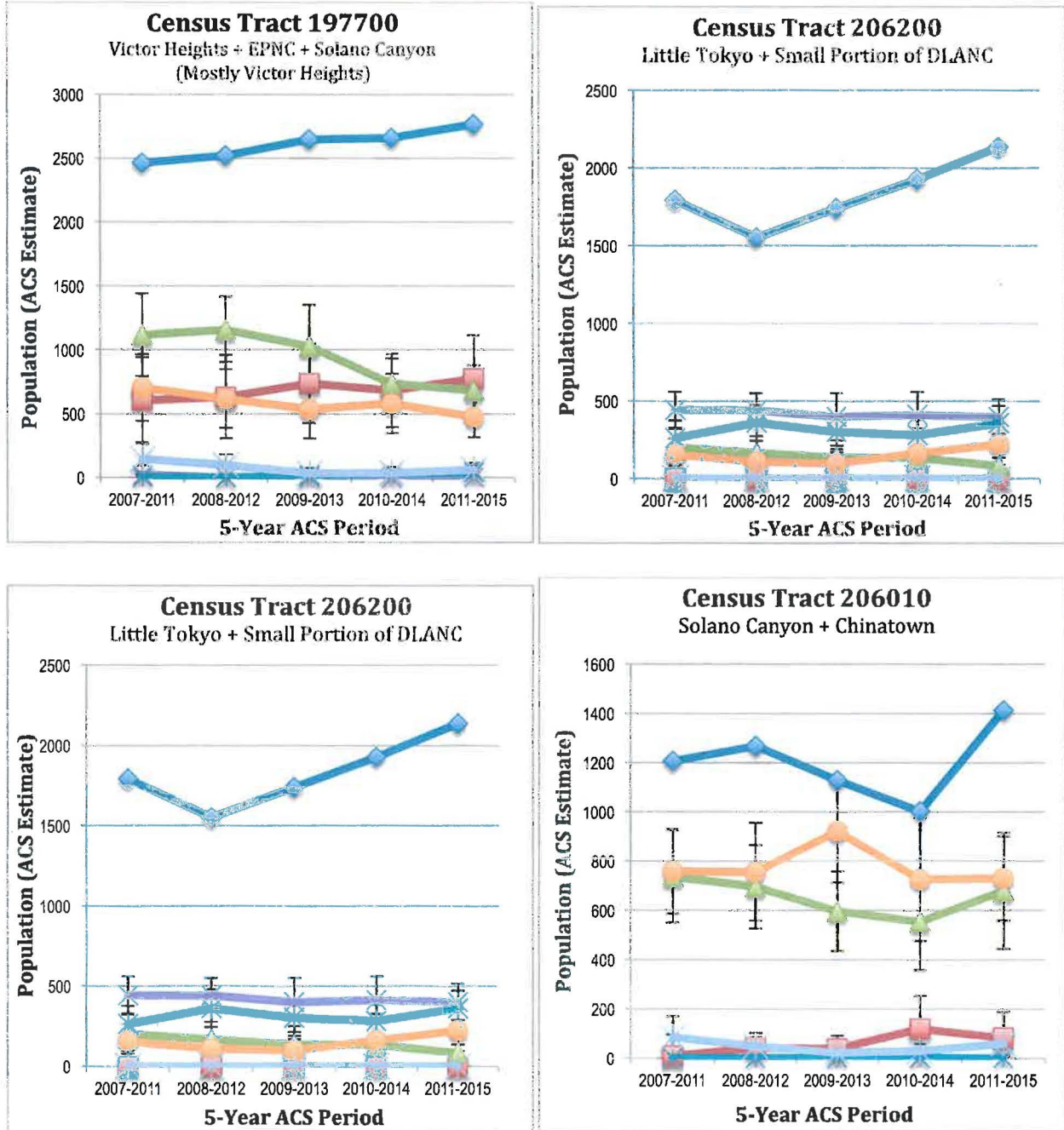
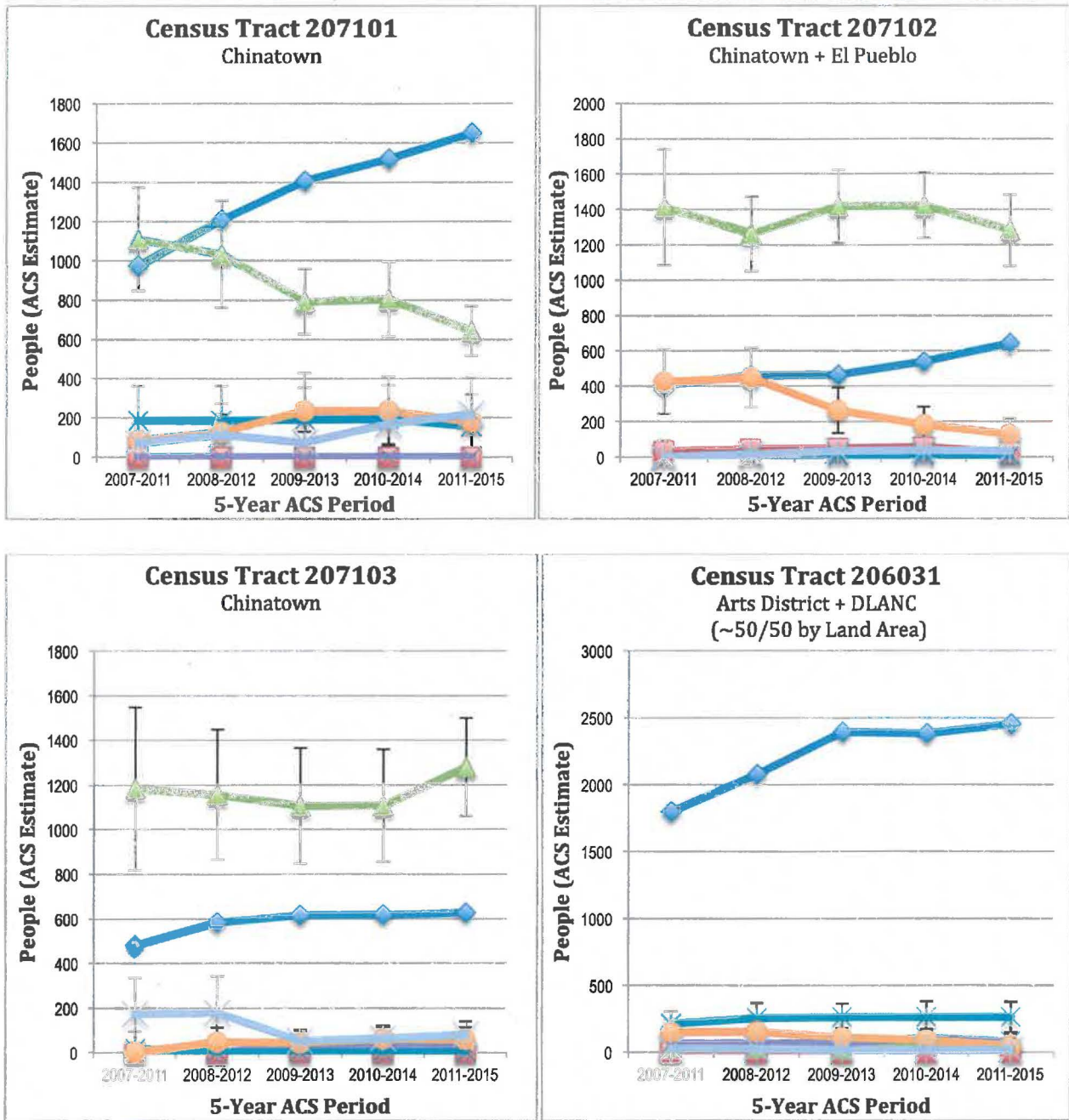


Figure 3. ACS Language Data By Census Tract

- ◆ Speak English 'Very Well'
- Speak Cambodian at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'
- ◆ Speak Chinese at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'
- ◆ Speak Korean at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'
- ◆ Speak Japanese at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'
- ◆ Speak Spanish at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'
- ◆ Speak Vietnamese at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'



**Figure 3. ACS Language Data By Census Tract (continued)**

## English Language-Ability in HCNC Caucus Areas

ACS reports language-ability data down to the tract-level. While census tracts are similar in size to HCNC caucus areas, their boundaries are not in alignment. In fact, some census tracts overlap three or more caucus areas, and some caucus areas include three or more census tracts.

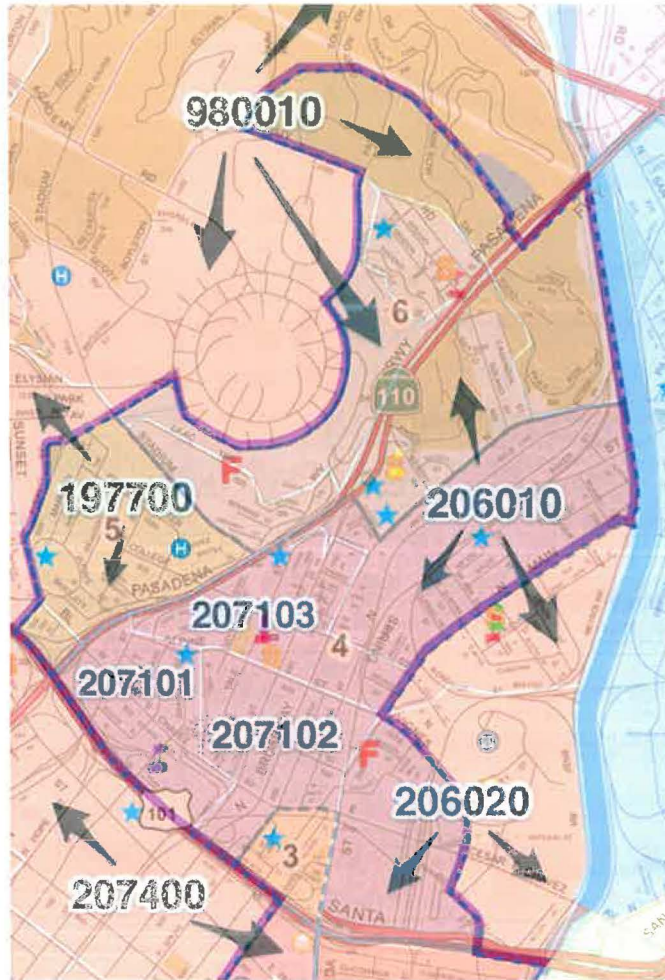
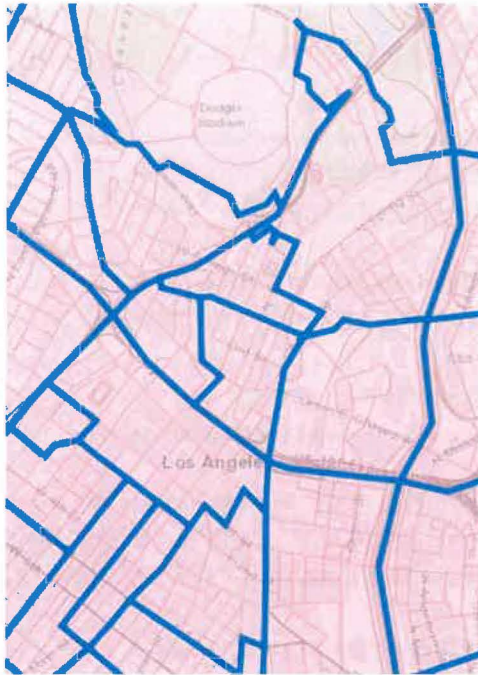


Figure 4. Census Tracts in HCNC

Census tract boundaries are indicated by faint white lines. HCNC external boundary indicated by purple line. HCNC caucus areas are shaded in different colors. Tract 206010 overlaps with Solano Canyon (6), Chinatown (4), and an area outside of HCNC. Chinatown is composed two entire census tracts (207101 and 207103) and portions of three other census tracts (207102, 206010, and 206020).

In order to compare the language needs between HCNC caucus areas, the language data from the ACS for census tracts were applied to each of the tract's census blocks, and then the totals for the HCNC caucus areas were calculated by adding together all of the census blocks within each caucus area.



**Figure 5. Census Tracts and Census Blocks**

Thick blue lines are census tract boundaries. Thin pink lines are census block boundaries.

To associate the tract-level language data with each census block, ratios were determined for the number of speakers of each language (who do not speak English 'very well') in that tract, out of the total population count for that tract.

$$ratio_{LanguageSpeakers\_in\_Tract} = \frac{population_{LanguageSpeakers\_in\_Tract}}{population_{Total\_in\_Tract}}$$

These ratios could then be applied to the populations of each census block in that tract, to estimate the language-ability of populations in each block.

$$population_{LanguageSpeakers\_in\_Block} = ratio_{LanguageSpeakers\_in\_Tract} * population_{Total\_in\_Block}$$

Once the numbers were determined for each census block, the blocks within each HCNC caucus area were summed to determine the total numbers of speakers of a particular language (who do not speak English 'very well') in each HCNC caucus area.

In order to try to account for differences in populations within census tracts that can be seen between different blocks, a modification to the formula was made for language use that could be reasonably associated with racial groups. The ratios for the Asian languages were determined using the Asian population as the reference total population. That is, the population speaking Asian languages (who speak English less than 'very well') was divided by the Asian population that was reported for that tract (in the 2010 census) to determine the Asian language ratios. Likewise, the Spanish-speaking population was divided by the "Hispanic-Latino" population in the tract, and the European-language population was divided by the "White/Non-Hispanic" population in order to determine ratios for European-languages.

$$ratio_{LanguageSpeakers\_in\_RacialGroup\_in\_Tract} = \frac{population_{LanguageSpeakers\_in\_Tract}}{population_{RacialGroup\_in\_Tract}}$$

Other languages, including “Other Native American” and “Other Pacific Island” languages were still divided by the total population in the tract due to no apparent correlation between those language-speakers and the racial groups reported in the 2010 census.

Once the ratios for each language were determined for each tract, they could be applied to the population for the associated racial group in each census block.

$$population_{LanguageSpeakers\_in\_Block} = ratio_{LanguageSpeakers\_in\_RacialGroup\_in\_Tract} * population_{RacialGroup\_in\_Block}$$

For example, to estimate the number of Chinese speakers who speak English less than ‘very well’ in the Solano Canyon area, this procedure was applied using the language data from the three census tracts that overlap with Solano Canyon: 197700, 206010, and 980100.

In tract 197700, the ratio of Chinese speakers who speak English less than ‘very well’ to the total Asian population is

$$ratio_{ChineseSpeakers\_in\_197700} = \frac{population_{ChineseSpeakers\_in\_197700}}{population_{Asians\_in\_197700}} = \frac{1026}{2880} = .356 .$$

Using this ratio, the population of Chinese speakers who speak English less than ‘very well’ in each census block in Tract 197700 can be estimated using the formula

$$population_{ChineseSpeakers\_in\_Block} = .356 * population_{Asians\_in\_Block}$$

For census block 3004 in Tract 197700, the 2010 census reported 159 Asians. Therefore, the estimate for Chinese speakers who speak English less than “very well” in census block 3004 is

$$population_{ChineseSpeakers\_in\_3004} = .356 * population_{Asians\_in\_3004} = .356 * 159 = 56.6 .$$

These calculations were performed for each census block in each caucus area for each language in order to calculate the totals shown in Figures 6 & 7.

## Discussion

This procedure basically applies the tract averages to each census block, so that the totals can be determined according to HCNC’s internal boundaries. While it would be inappropriate to apply this calculation to report language-ability numbers in each census block and then draw comparisons between census blocks, we believe that this is a reasonable way to estimate language-ability for HCNC caucus areas, which are similar in size to census tracts.

**Population Speaking English 'Very Well' and Population Speaking Other Language at Home for Those Speaking English Less Than 'Very Well'**  
 Estimates for Caucus Areas Based on 2010 Census Block-Level Population Data and 2009-2013 ACS Tract-Level Language Data

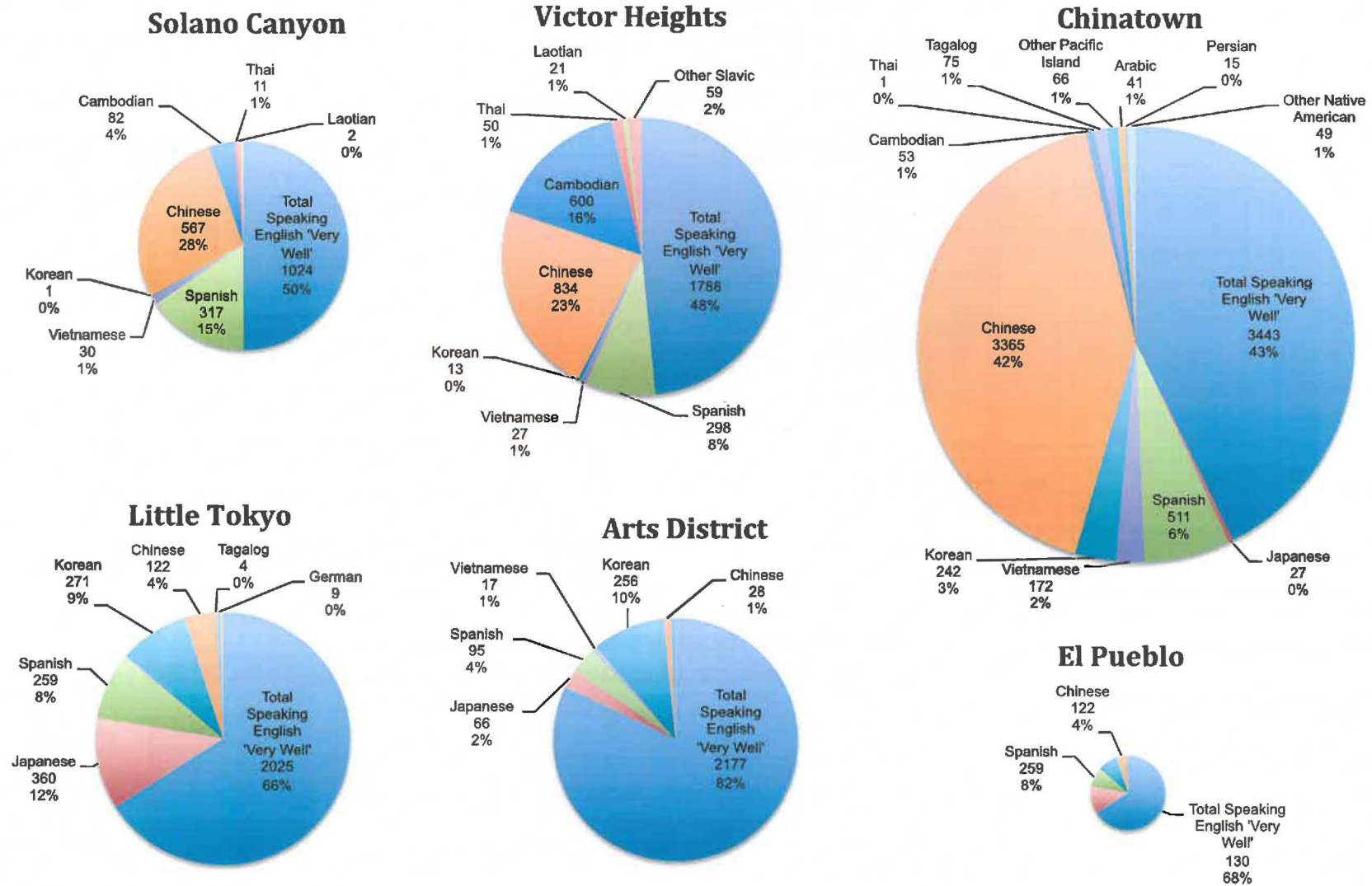


Figure 6. Tract-Level ACS Language Data Applied to HCNC Caucus Area Populations

	Total Population	Total Speaking English 'Very Well'	Speaking English Less Than 'Very Well': Languages Spoken at Home																	Total Speaking English Less Than 'Very Well'	% Speaking English Less Than 'Very Well'	
			Cambodian	Chinese	Japanese	Korean	Laotian	Tagalog	Thai	Vietnamese	Spanish	Arabic	Armenian	German	Italian	Russian	Persian	Other Slavic	Other Native American			Other Pacific Island
Solano Canyon	2049	1024	82	567	0	1	2	0	11	30	317	0	0	0	7	0	0	8	0	0	1025	50%
Victor Heights	3690	1788	600	834	0	13	21	0	50	27	298	0	0	0	0	0	59	0	0	1902	52%	
Chinatown	9060	3443	53	3365	27	242	0	75	1	172	511	41	0	0	0	15	0	49	66	4617	57%	
Arts District	3653	3177	0	28	66	256	0	0	0	17	95	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	476	13%	
Little Tokyo	3072	2025	0	122	360	271	0	4	0	7	259	0	5	9	0	10	0	0	0	1047	34%	
El Pueblo	192	130	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	32%	
All of HCNC	20716	11587	735	4922	453	783	23	79	62	254	1536	41	5	9	7	10	15	67	49	9129	44%	

### HCNC Population Speaking English 'Very Well' & Population Speaking Other Language at Home for Those Speaking English Less Than 'Very Well'

Estimates Based on 2010 Census Block-Level Population Data & 2009-2013 ACS Tract-Level Language Data

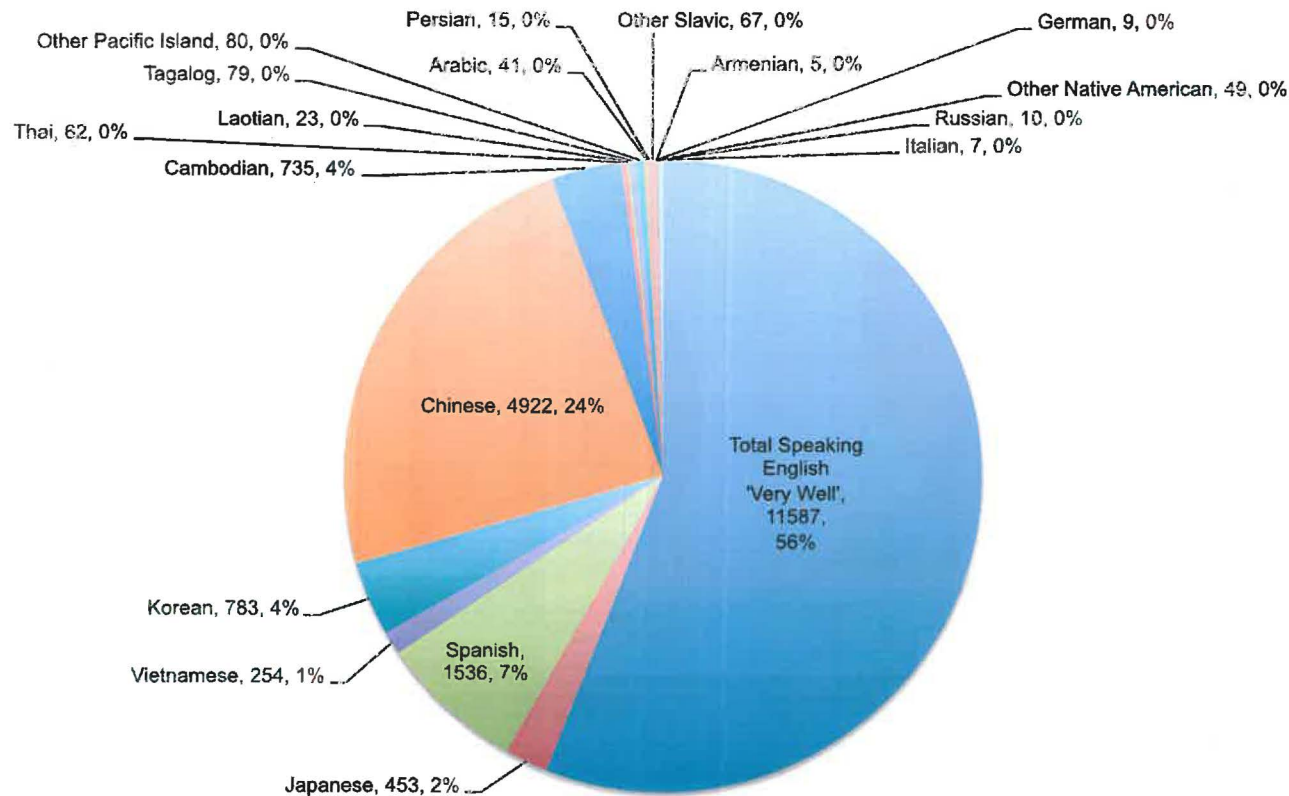


Figure 7. Tract-Level ACS Language Data Applied to HCNC Total Population

## Translation Costs

### Interpreters at Meetings

Interpretation equipment, i.e. transmitter and headsets, are important for enabling real-time participation for low-English proficiency individuals at meetings, without disrupting the flow and orderly conduct of the proceedings.

Equipment rental costs: \$85 per transmitter, \$4.25 per headset with a 20 headset minimum, for a total minimum cost of \$170. (Headset minimum may be waived if the interpreter is hired through the same company.)

Interpreter Costs: \$250 per meeting per language/dialect.

Equipment Purchase Costs: starting at \$700 (5 headsets + 1 transmitter).

Total Spent Thus Far, 2017-2018 Fiscal Year: \$1740  
(7 meetings, July charge was \$240)

### Written Translations

Written translations are charged per word, and therefore depend on the length of the documents. The cost also depends on the speed of the service requested, i.e., the number of days in advance that the service is requested.

**Total Spent Thus Far, 2017-2018 Fiscal Year:** \$3936.50 (Table 2).

Table 2. Written Translation Costs

Documents Translated to Traditional Chinese	# of Pages	Cost	Average Cost Per Page
July Minutes, September Minutes and Agenda, October Agenda, CIS, Removal Notices	25.25	\$1,724.50	\$68.30
October Minutes, November Agenda	13.5	\$1,129.25	\$83.65
November Minutes	9.5	\$880.25	\$92.66
January Agenda	3	\$202.50	\$67.50
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51.25</b>	<b>\$3,936.50</b>	<b>\$76.81</b>

With the average regular board meeting minutes and agenda 11 pages and 3 pages long respectively, the average monthly meeting minutes and agenda costs approximately \$1075 to translate to traditional Chinese.

Funding sources for translations this year have come from the following sources:

- \$1000 from Translation line item in the budget
- ~\$800 total from all caucus's NPG funds
- the remainder from Chinatown Caucus NPG funds.

## Options to Reduce Translation Costs

### Machine Translations (Google Translate)

Machine translations that are done automatically through software, such Google Translate (which is free), should be considered as a tool for improving outreach in other languages. However, due to concerns regarding accuracy, machine translations should only be provided as a convenience. A disclaimer, such as the one provided by the City of LA on its websites, should be provided:

*Translation of pages on City of Los Angeles websites may be performed by Google™ Translate, a free third party service that the City does not control. This translation service is only provided as a convenience to assist web visitors in understanding information on this website in a language other than English. The translations are made through automated computer translation software that may not give you an accurate or precise translation all the time. Some applications or services may not work as expected when translated. In addition, some files and other items may not translate or cannot be translated including but not limited to graphics, photos and documents. Anyone relying on information obtained from Google™ Translate does so at his or her own risk. The City of Los Angeles does not warrant or make any promises, assurances, or guarantees as to the accuracy of the translations provided by Google™ Translate. As such, the City of Los Angeles shall not and will not be liable for damages or losses of any kind arising out of, or in connection with, the use or performance of such information, including but not limited to, damages or losses caused by reliance upon the accuracy, reliability or timeliness of any such information, or damages incurred from the viewing, distributing, or copying of such materials. If you are concerned about the accuracy of the translation, please refer to the English edition of the website, which is the official version. Please click the following link if you have any questions or for more information about Google™ Translate: <http://translate.google.com/support>*

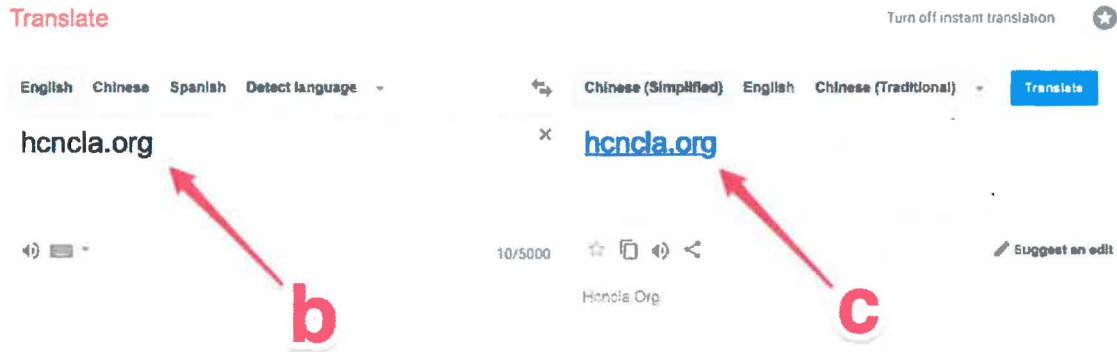
The board may consider developing guidelines for writing minutes and documents that make for better machine translations. For example, words that are known to not translate well, such as "At Large" should always be in quotation marks. Idioms and slang should also be avoided.

Here are three options for using Google Translate on the HCNC website:

1. Use this link:

[https://translate.google.com/translate?sl=en&tl=zh-CN&js=y&prev=\\_t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&u=http%3Awww.hcncla.org&edit-text=&act=url&act=url](https://translate.google.com/translate?sl=en&tl=zh-CN&js=y&prev=_t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&u=http%3Awww.hcncla.org&edit-text=&act=url&act=url)

2. a. In a web browser, go to <http://translate.google.com>.
- b. Type hcncla.org in the box on the left.
- c. Click on the hcncla.org link in the box on the right.



3. A free Google Translate plug-in could also be installed on the HCNC website by the site administrator that would allow any person browsing the website to instantly translate it, and any materials on the website, into almost any language.

### Examples of Problem Words for Google Translate in Traditional Chinese

**“accommodation”** translated to “hotel room”

Context: making an **accommodation** for someone with a disability, under the Americans with Disabilities Act

**“President”** translated to “school principal” sometimes, translated to “President of the United States” other times.

Context: **“President Kumamoto”**

**“Call to Order”** translated to “Telephone Call to Order”

Context: **“Call to Order & Roll Call”**

**“removal”** translated into “demolition” or “tear down of building”

Context: “President Kumamoto also read the City of Los Angeles **removal** warning notice.

**“assembly bills”** translated to “put together invoice”

Context: ...**assembly bills** that Wendy Carillo is working on (HR69, AB2358, ...)

**“NC”** translated to “North Carolina”

Context: “NC” as an abbreviation for “neighborhood council”

**“Motion”** translated to the physical movement type of motion.

Context: **“Motion Passed.”**

**“business owner”** is sometimes translated to “store owner” or “merchant”.

**Context:** “Business Owner Representative Seat”

### **“Volunteer Translations”**

Volunteers, especially native speakers of languages other than English, can be a valuable resource for providing written translations. Volunteers, however, must be familiar with the business transacted by neighborhood councils, or else they must work closely with a person who is familiar with neighborhood councils when making the translations, so that neighborhood council terminology is interpreted accurately. For example, it is important to accurately reflect what is meant by a “business owner” or what is meant by “At Large” when referencing seats on the board of directors.

Certain types of documents, however, should probably not be translated by volunteers to be released as official documents, such as meeting minutes. Minutes are documents that can be used in a court of law, and they tend to be fairly lengthy. While a team of volunteers may be able to translate the minutes in one language for the convenience of stakeholders and to improve outreach, these volunteer translations should still be marked as unofficial translations due to important and subtle technicalities in language.

# HCNC Budget Allocations

**HISTORIC CULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018**  
 Approved 6/13/2017

Funds			
Total Annual Allocation		\$ 42,000.00	
Code	Category		
<b>100 Operations</b>		%	Total Budget
FAC	Facilities Related and Space Rental	5.24%	2,200
MIS	Miscellaneous Expense	0.24%	100
OFF	Office Equipment and Supplies	1.43%	600
TAC	Temporary Staff	7.62%	3,200
TRL	Translation and Transcription	2.38%	1,000
<b>Sub Total Operations</b>		<b>16.90%</b>	<b>\$ 7,100</b>
<b>200 Outreach</b>			
ADV	Advertising/Outreach	8.81%	3,700
EVE	Event Expense / Food & Refreshments	0.95%	400
MEE	Meeting Expense		200
NEW	Newsletter Expense	0.00%	0
WEB	Website Maintenance/Enhancement/Creation	3.57%	1,500
<b>Sub Total Outreach</b>		<b>13.81%</b>	<b>\$ 5,800</b>
<b>300 Community Improvement</b>			
CIP	Community Improvement Projects		0
<b>Sub Total C.I.</b>		<b>0.00%</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>400 Neighborhood Purpose Grants</b>			
GRT	Neighborhood Purpose Grants (4,500 per community)		27,000
<b>Sub Total NPGs</b>		<b>64.29%</b>	<b>\$ 27,000</b>
<b>500 Elections</b>			
ELE	Election Outreach Expense		2,100
<b>Sub Total Elections</b>		<b>5.00%</b>	<b>\$ 2,100</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>\$ 42,000</b>

\$5438.14 has been spent on Advertising/Outreach this year:

- \$3000 for LA Comotion
- \$2000 for The Shakespeare Center
- \$438.14 Townhall for AD51 Candidates (Outreach Event).

## Recommendations

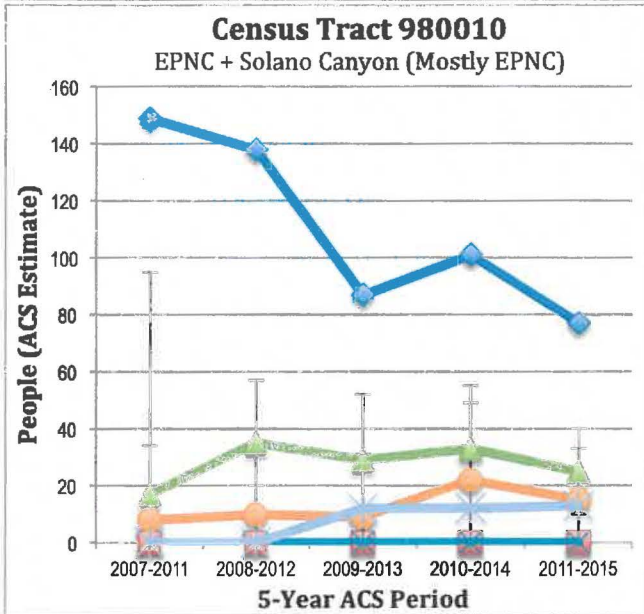
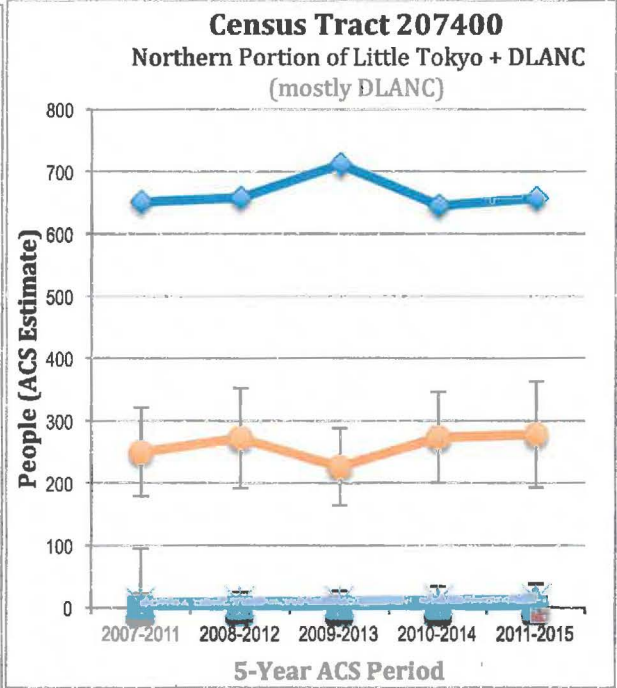
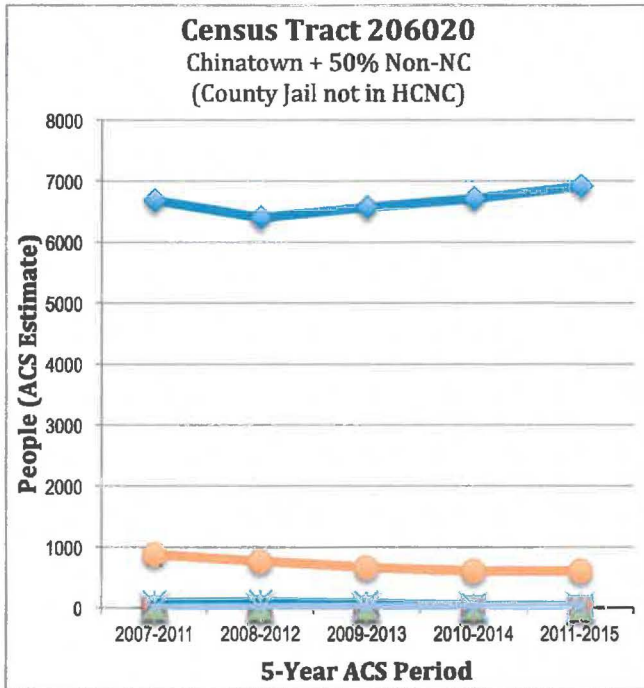
1. Continue advocacy for funding of translation services, including, but not limited to, a Community Impact Statement to support funding of translations through DONE.
2. Install a Google Translate plug-in on the HCNC website and include a disclaimer about the use of machine translations. Or if for some reason the Google Translate plug-in is problematic, provide links and guides on the HCNC website to help direct stakeholders to Google Translated versions of the website.
3. Conduct outreach to let stakeholders know that machine translations of documents can be made available to those without internet access. Develop policies and procedures to fulfill these requests.
4. Allocate a larger portion of the yearly Office/Outreach budget to translations, with corresponding reduction in funding to Outreach events. In essence, prioritize direct outreach to non-English speaking stakeholders about the essential business of the neighborhood council, over additional outreach to English-speaking stakeholders through sponsorship of events. The very minimum recommendation would be to increase the translation line item budget by the amount required to provide a single interpreter at every regular board meeting (approximately \$2500).
5. Studies and surveys to identify language gaps that may exist among other stakeholder groups including members of religious institutions, non-profits, business owners, and employees.
6. Develop a policy specifying how translation funds will be allocated among the various languages in HCNC, such as a standing rule that apportions funds based on the percentages reflected in the current census data.
7. Schedule written translations of agendas for board meetings at least 5 to 7 days in advance (depending on the City-approved vendor) in order comply with the 72-hour posting deadlines not only in English, but also in the other language(s).

## References

Vickstrom ER, Shin HB, Collazo SG, and Bauman KJ (2015). "How Well—Still Good?: Assessing the Validity of the American Community Survey English-Ability Question." Education and Social Stratification Branch, Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division, U.S. Census Bureau. SEHSD Working Paper Number 2015-18

# Appendix

- ◆ Speak English 'Very Well'
- Speak Cambodian at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'
- Speak Chinese at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'
- Speak Japanese at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'
- ◆ Speak Korean at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'
- Speak Spanish at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'
- Speak Vietnamese at Home/Speak English Less Than 'Very Well'



**Population Speaking English Less Than 'Very Well' for a Given Language Spoken at Home**

Census Tract		ACS Survey Years	Speak English 'Very Well' ACS Estimate	Cambodian		Chinese		Japanese		Korean		Spanish		Vietnamese	
Tract Number	Description			ACS Estimate	Margin of Error (+/-)	ACS Estimate	Margin of Error (+/-)	ACS Estimate	Margin of Error (+/-)	ACS Estimate	Margin of Error (+/-)	ACS Estimate	Margin of Error (+/-)	ACS Estimate	Margin of Error (+/-)
197700	Victor Heights + EPNC + Solano Canyon (Mostly Victor Heights)	2007-2011	2461	603	339	1116	323	21	23	0	95	702	262	147	128
		2008-2012	2519	631	326	1159	256	0	18	0	18	619	229	97	84
		2009-2013	2647	738	311	1026	322	0	17	16	26	535	230	33	41
		2010-2014	2660	682	289	735	199	0	17	35	45	581	234	36	37
		2011-2015	2765	771	342	683	198	0	17	40	53	476	162	61	54
206010	Solano Canyon + Chinatown	2007-2011	1207	9	13	737	188	0	95	0	95	758	172	85	84
		2008-2012	1266	42	59	697	170	0	13	0	13	757	198	48	37
		2009-2013	1127	38	53	596	162	0	12	0	12	921	209	22	18
		2010-2014	1002	110	135	554	198	0	12	2	4	726	251	30	26
		2011-2015	1412	64	103	679	236	0	12	1	2	730	171	59	47
206020	Chinatown + 50% Non-NC (County Jail not in HCNC)	2007-2011	6678	0	95	8	14	0	95	93	71	872	168	0	95
		2008-2012	6402	0	18	0	18	0	18	96	66	765	156	0	16
		2009-2013	6575	0	17	0	17	0	17	84	72	666	127	12	15
		2010-2014	6712	0	17	0	17	0	17	41	36	600	127	10	14
		2011-2015	6911	0	17	0	17	0	17	17	18	806	140	14	17
206031	Arts District + DIANC (~50/50 by Land Area)	2007-2011	1798	0	95	31	28	61	37	211	93	151	94	25	42
		2008-2012	2077	0	13	32	28	64	45	255	112	152	88	23	39
		2009-2013	2394	0	12	29	27	68	38	263	102	109	77	18	29
		2010-2014	2381	0	12	78	61	105	56	264	115	91	82	18	28
		2011-2015	2451	0	12	79	61	81	51	262	115	49	54	19	28
206200	Mostly Little Tokyo	2007-2011	1790	0	95	199	121	443	116	262	114	155	107	0	95
		2008-2012	1551	0	13	167	198	443	107	360	116	110	60	0	13
		2009-2013	1739	0	12	135	79	398	150	300	112	98	71	0	12
		2010-2014	1926	0	12	135	74	413	146	281	101	162	163	0	12
		2011-2015	2135	0	12	83	52	400	112	359	111	225	133	0	12
207101	Chinatown	2007-2011	974	0	95	1111	263	0	95	186	178	87	113	72	100
		2008-2012	1209	0	13	1033	272	0	13	185	177	128	144	114	103

		2009-2013	1406	0	12	792	166	0	12	190	164	237	190	75	54
		2010-2014	1519	0	12	805	190	0	12	192	173	235	175	170	103
		2011-2015	1648	0	12	643	126	0	12	157	160	179	140	220	183
207102	Chinatown + El Pueblo	2007-2011	406	33	52	1412	328	0	95	0	95	425	181	0	95
		2008-2012	459	44	53	1261	211	0	13	18	23	449	168	14	22
		2009-2013	464	50	50	1418	208	0	12	12	19	264	129	36	29
		2010-2014	540	56	55	1422	184	0	12	13	15	183	99	37	31
		2011-2015	643	25	29	1282	202	0	12	12	13	130	88	36	29
207103	Chinatown	2007-2011	479	0	95	1183	366	0	95	17	27	0	95	175	160
		2008-2012	583	0	13	1156	291	0	13	0	13	48	64	178	165
		2009-2013	615	0	12	1106	259	27	32	0	12	43	53	53	49
		2010-2014	618	0	12	1107	251	27	33	0	12	61	55	64	57
		2011-2015	627	0	12	1279	219	26	32	0	12	57	57	80	58
207400	Northern Portion of Little Tokyo + DLANC (mostly DLANC)	2007-2011	651	0	95	0	95	0	95	0	95	250	71	8	15
		2008-2012	658	0	13	0	13	0	13	0	13	272	80	9	16
		2009-2013	711	0	12	0	12	0	12	0	12	226	62	10	17
		2010-2014	645	0	12	0	12	0	12	0	12	273	73	12	22
		2011-2015	657	0	12	16	24	0	12	0	12	278	85	13	24
980010	EPNC + Solano Canyon (Mostly EPNC)	2007-2011	149	0	95	17	17	0	95	0	95	8	8	0	95
		2008-2012	138	0	13	35	22	0	13	0	13	10	10	0	13
		2009-2013	87	0	12	29	23	0	12	0	12	9	18	12	19
		2010-2014	101	0	12	33	22	0	12	0	12	22	27	12	19
		2011-2015	77	0	12	25	15	0	12	0	12	15	25	13	20

(Attachment A)

## Historic Cultural North Neighborhood Council (HCNNC) Formation Committee Report

### Introduction

The existing Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council (HCNC), founded more than fifteen years ago, no longer has the capacity to focus on priority needs for all areas within its existing boundaries. The six districts of the HCNC include Arts District, Chinatown, Solano Canyon, Victor Heights, Little Tokyo, and El Pueblo.

The impetus for submitting a subdivision application has consistently been to serve and empower as many stakeholders as possible. The increased density of businesses and residents throughout the Arts District and other areas, and the overwhelming onslaught of issues exacerbated or brought on by too rapid changes have become a substantial burden to a single neighborhood council. It has been too difficult to give proper attention and apply different approaches to very unique needs. It has become increasingly clear that a smaller, more focused neighborhood council would have greater capacity to be more effective, collaborative and inclusive.

### Initial Application

**Formation committee:** The committee is made up of three HCNC board members and two additional HCNNC stakeholders. The formation committee members represent different areas/districts and stakeholder types of HCNNC: Victor Heights residents and employees, El Pueblo businesses, Solano Canyon non-profit community organizations, Chinatown non-profit community organizations, and the Castelar school community (with families residing throughout Solano Canyon, Victor Heights, and Chinatown)

**Petition:** Our strategy for the subdivision petition was to reflect support from different stakeholders in each area/district served. With very limited time, from December 2017 through mid-January 2018, we started with the minimum number of signatures required and focused efforts to collect percentages of signatures that reflect the makeup stakeholders in each district. For example, at least 15% of all signatures were those of El Pueblo businesses. We continued in this way for percentages of signatures from Solano Canyon residents and so on.

**DONE Application:** The Formation Committee drew from available census data online and published reports, as well as from consultations with community members throughout the districts, to complete the residential and business profiles required for the application.

(Attachment A)

Outreach

**Initial outreach:** Throughout the one-month period leading up to the submission of the subdivision application, the formation committee, along with supporters, delivered agendized presentations to community groups, posted at locations in each of the six HCNC districts, disseminated information electronically, telephoned, presented at meetings and town halls, posted on social media platforms, set up tables and similar at locations and during times when high foot traffic expected, visited business-to-business throughout and in residential areas with specific focus on Solano Canyon door-to-door.

**Continued outreach:** After submission of the application, the formation committee continued with all outreach strategies, adding door-to-door canvassing throughout Victor Heights and increasing the same in Solano Canyon.

The official subdivision election campaign efforts led to further support gained, including official endorsement and additional support letters.

Election

**418 ( 90.67%) YES, 43 (9.33%) NO**

**Vote-by-mail ballots cast: 246**

**Ballots cast at the polls: 237 (including 21 provisional ballots)**

**Highlights: 9 people voted in-person at the Arts District location (Lot 613), 228 at Castelar Elementary School**

Support Letters

The letters in support of HCNNC formation come from all HCNNC districts--Chinatown, Victor Heights, Solano Canyon, and El Pueblo--and include all stakeholder types. Support letters were submitted by 140 community members and community groups.

Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

**March 2018 meeting:** Well over one hundred individuals attended the BONC meeting and 38 speaker cards were submitted. Commissioners heard DONE presentation, Formation Committee presentation, and public comments. The meeting was lengthy due to serial, rather than simultaneous interpretation in both Chinese and Spanish. Many attendees left after two or more hours. The Formation Committee took note of every single public comment, and in the days that followed, corresponded with all speakers who were AGAINST, who could be contacted. Of all of the individuals emailed, only one did not respond. All others, including multiple HCNC board members who were against the subdivision proposal, engaged in email correspondence. The Formation Committee submitted all of the correspondence and other relevant documents to DONE to demonstrate efforts to work collaboratively and arrive at compromises with those in opposition, while further developing the proposed HCNNC bylaws.

(Attachment A)

A document summarizing all public comments in opposition, along with Formation Committee responses and supporting documentation, was submitted to DONE for consideration.

**October 2018 certification of bylaws:**

Commissioners heard DONE presentation, Formation Committee presentation, and public comments, and considered proposed HCNNC board structure and boundaries. Several hours of deliberations ensued with emphasis on the rich cultural heritage and complex histories of the diverse communities. Commissioners also focused on the need to advance representation for non-English speaking residents who have limited language skills as well as two previously unrepresented or “orphaned” communities--i.e., Ann Street Elementary School and William Mead homes--with more than 1500 additional stakeholders. Commissioners voted to make the new HCNNC official with conditions to amend the proposed HCNNC bylaws as stated by the Commission.