

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Rampart Village

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(5) Nay(1) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 02/15/2022

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 03/07/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0963

Agenda Date: 02/15/2022

Item Number: VII. P.

Summary: Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils (NCs) faced the 2020-2021 NC virtual election campaigns with trepidation in the face of a pandemic. Actions and omissions by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) have borne out our concerns as valid. Retrospectively, we can confirm that DONE's use of inexperienced and unprofessional election vendors wasted an enormous amount of funding and that those vendors missed crucial election timeline deadlines. A review of the Reseda Neighborhood Council's investigation into the 2020-2021 NC elections reveals that at least seven organizations or vendors contracted by DONE expended large sums of money to promote NC elections without accountability. These include the Dangerman Education Foundation, the Los Angeles County African American Employees Association (LACAAEA), All People's Community Center, Koreatown Youth and Community Center, Evitarus (a survey and public policy polling firm), AltaMed Health Services, and Central City Neighborhood Partners. For DONE to hire local civic organizations and non-profits to assist it to conduct a professional election promotion campaign was not productive. If DONE didn't have the expertise to conduct such a campaign, we are surprised that DONE would not engage professional organizations with the expertise to do that. By not doing so, DONE gives the impression that it did not regard NC elections as important enough to merit using professional expertise. We expect the Los Angeles City Council to exercise oversight over DONE's management of NC elections and to improve effectiveness of DONE funding.



**Community Impact Statement
Council File 20-0963
Rampart Village Neighborhood Council**



Philip Armstrong, President | Ronee Reece, Vice President
Lara Morrison, Treasurer | Rachel Day, Secretary
Raquel Valencia, At-Large Rep | Quazi Huda, Community Interest Rep
Vacant, Community Based Org Rep | Rick Shumacher, Business Rep
Vacant, Resident Tenants Rep | Charlie Cea, Student Youth Rep

Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers,

Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils (NCs) faced the 2020-2021 NC virtual election campaigns with trepidation in the face of a pandemic. Actions and omissions by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) have borne out our concerns as valid. Retrospectively, we can confirm that DONE's use of inexperienced and unprofessional election vendors wasted an enormous amount of funding and that those vendors missed crucial election timeline deadlines.

A review of the Reseda Neighborhood Council's investigation into the 2020-2021 NC elections reveals that at least seven organizations or vendors contracted by DONE expended large sums of money to promote NC elections without accountability. These include the Dangerman Education Foundation, the Los Angeles County African American Employees Association (LACAAEA), All People's Community Center, Koreatown Youth and Community Center, Evitarus (a survey and public policy polling firm), AltaMed Health Services, and Central City Neighborhood Partners.

For DONE to hire local civic organizations and non-profits to assist it to conduct a professional election promotion campaign was not productive. If DONE didn't have the expertise to conduct such a campaign, we are surprised that DONE would not engage professional organizations with the expertise to do that. By not doing so, DONE gives the impression that it did not regard NC elections as important enough to merit using professional expertise. We expect the Los Angeles City Council to exercise oversight over DONE's management of NC elections and to improve effectiveness for the funding DONE receives for this purpose.

We at Rampart Village Neighborhood Council were concerned when DONE ignored our request to DONE to place ads on local NPR radio stations KCRW and KPCC as well as on public radio station KPFK. We heard a radio reference only once on KPCC and that one instance only mentioned that NC elections were happening and it came with no instructions on how to participate.

Rampart Village Neighborhood Council agrees with those other NCs that have submitted Community Impact Statements on Council File 20-0963 that DONE's performance indicate a lack of accountability for the \$456,000 in funding for the 2020-2021 NC elections. Consequently, we request that the Los Angeles City Council require DONE to consider pass through of the funding that is allocated for the 2022-2023 NC elections directly to the NCs that hold elections.

In service,

Rampart Village Neighborhood Council

PRESENTED BY:

SECONDED BY:

YES: 0 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 0 INELIGIBLE: 0

ON THIS DATE: February 15, 2022