

Communication from Public

Name: Brad S Kane

Date Submitted: 02/27/2022 10:10 PM

Council File No: 20-0963

Comments for Public Posting: Date: February 27, 2022 Los Angeles City Council City Hall 200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, California 90012 Re: Council File Number 20-0963 Neighborhood Council Elections/Fiscal Year 2020-21/COVID-19 Pandemic Dear Council Members: The South Carthay Neighborhood Association (“SCNA”) board supports the concerns raised by Reseda Neighborhood Council CIS regarding the “spending patterns and failures of oversight by the Department Of Neighborhood Empowerment (“DONE”) on the 2021 neighborhood council election and their impact on candidate recruitment and voter engagement. “ The neighborhood council’s representation by DONE in its efforts to provide a fair and impartial election process for the 2021 Neighborhood Council Elections was flawed. The failure of the Department Of Neighborhood Empowerment’s leadership under General Manager, Raquel Beltran and Director of Innovation, Julien Antelin permeated this election cycle. Coincidentally and quite incredibly, the Department Of Neighborhood Empowerment is requesting an additional one million dollars (\$1,000,000) be added to the fiscal year 2022/2023 budget including the upcoming election cycle, due in part to Ms. Beltran’s assertion that the department provides, “excellent customer service” The SCNA agrees that a full and complete independent audit in conjunction with the Office of the City Clerk and the City Controller’s office should be conducted around DONE’s recent election spending and all financial oversight of DONE through its “proxy” authorization controls outside the standard and regular neighborhood council board approval process for financial expenses and as outlined in the NC Funding Guidelines. This requested independent audit of the previous election cycle and DONE’s spending oversight should include, (i.) review of all vendor contracts and approvals; (ii.) process for vendor contract approvals and authorizations; (iii.) all authorized detail spending following GAAP guidelines of the election expenses; (iv.) disclosure of public records and transparency to the neighborhood councils and community of DONE spending; (v.) immediate suspension of election budget funding managed by DONE to be reallocated to the Office of the City Clerk under the direction of Director, Holly Wolcott. DONE through its leadership, have proven themselves woefully incompetent in handling the financial

budget of the neighborhood council and should have all spending authority removed. In addition to the concerns raised by the Reseda Neighborhood Council's CIS report on the contracts with AltaMed Health Services for \$19,500 to "specifically target outreach at the following NC's that coincide with [the] AltaMed service area: 1) MacArthur Park Neighborhood Council 2) East Hollywood Neighborhood Council 3) Westlake North Neighborhood Council 4) Boyle Heights Boyle Heights NC 5) Watts Boyle Heights NC." The contract was signed on 04/09/2021, one month after the deadline to request ballots for the 2021 election. The South Carthay Neighborhood Association shares the sentiments of its neighborhood councils, Reseda NC, Mid-City NC, Rampart Village NC, Sunland-Tujunga NC, East Hollywood NC, Arroyo Seco NC, and requests a full accounting and public disclosure of DONE's election spending and vendor relationships and accounting of the remaining money from the Four-Hundred Fifty-Six thousand dollar (\$456,000) allocated to DONE for the 2021 election. We hope that this can be addressed at the upcoming February 28, 2022 Budget and Finance Committee meeting and we further request that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners ("BONC") address collectively the Community Impact provided by the neighborhood councils. Sincerely, Brad Kane President, South Carthay Neighborhood Association CC: Racquel Beltran, General Manager, DONE Council Member Paul Koretz – District 5 Email: joan.pelico@lacity.org Jill.kline@lacity.org Council District 10-VACANT Email: mayra.guevara@lacity.org Karly.katona@lacity.org Assembly Member Richard Bloom Email: guy.strahl@asm.ca.gov; andrew.aldama@asm.ca.gov Senator Ben Allen Email: James.Mendoza@sen.ca.gov Samuel.Liu@sen.ca.gov



2021-2022 TERM

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Brad Kane

VICE PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

Ron Sokoloff

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Kelly DeLaat

MEMBERSHIP

Ron Sokoloff

SAFETY & SECURITY

Interim Lisa Kaye/Vacant

URBAN AFFAIRS & HISTORIC REGISTRY CHAIR

Walter Dominguez

P.I.C.O. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL AREA REPRESENTATIVE

Lisa Kaye

Date: February 27, 2022

Los Angeles City Council
City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

**Re: Council File Number 20-0963
Neighborhood Council Elections/Fiscal Year 2020-21/COVID-19 Pandemic**

Dear Council Members:

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The neighborhood council’s representation by DONE in its efforts to provide a fair and impartial election process for the 2021 Neighborhood Council Elections was flawed. The failure of the Department Of Neighborhood Empowerment’s leadership under General Manager, Raquel Beltran and Director of Innovation, Julien Antelin permeated this election cycle. Coincidentally and quite incredulously, the Department Of Neighborhood Empowerment is requesting an additional one million dollars (\$1,000,000) be added to the fiscal year 2022/2023 budget including the upcoming election cycle, due in part to Ms. Beltran’s assertion that the department provides, “excellent customer service” The SCNA agrees that a full and complete *independent audit* in conjunction with the Office of the City Clerk and the City Controller’s office should be conducted around DONE’s recent election spending and *all* financial oversight of DONE through its “proxy” authorization controls outside the standard and regular neighborhood council board approval process for financial expenses and as outlined in the NC Funding Guidelines. This requested independent audit of the previous election cycle and DONE’s spending oversight should include, (i.) review of all vendor contracts and approvals; (ii.) process for vendor contract approvals and authorizations; (iii.) all authorized detail spending following GAAP guidelines of the election expenses; (iv.) disclosure of public records and transparency to the neighborhood councils and community of DONE spending; (v.) immediate suspension of election budget funding managed by DONE to be reallocated to the Office of the City Clerk under the direction of Director, Holly Wolcott. DONE through its leadership, have proven themselves woefully incompetent in handling the financial budget of the neighborhood council and should have all spending authority removed.

In addition to the concerns raised by the Reseda Neighborhood Council’s CIS report on the contracts with AltaMed Health Services for \$19,500 to “specifically target outreach at the following NC’s that coincide with [the] AltaMed service area: 1) MacArthur Park Neighborhood Council 2) East Hollywood Neighborhood Council 3) Westlake North Neighborhood Council

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Sincerely,



Brad Kane

President, South Carthay Neighborhood Association

CC: Racquel Beltran, General Manager, DONE

Council Member Paul Koretz – District 5

Email: joan.pelico@lacity.org

Jill.kline@lacity.org

Council District 10- VACANT

Email: mayra.guevara@lacity.org

Karly.katona@lacity.org

Assembly Member Richard Bloom

Email: guy.strahl@asm.ca.gov;

andrew.aldama@asm.ca.gov

Senator Ben Allen

Email: James.Mendoza@sen.ca.gov

Samuel.Liu@sen.ca.gov