

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: South Robertson Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(16) Nay(4) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 05/19/2022

Type of NC Board Action: Against unless Amended

Impact Information

Date: 07/13/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0990

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The South Robertson NC opposes the adoption of this file in its current form. We request that the City Council reconsider its final vote of May 13, 2022 and refer the matter back to committee with instructions to come back with alternatives that respect the volunteer nature of NC Board and/or Committee participation.



**south robertson
neighborhoods council**

City of Los Angeles Certified Neighborhood Council

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Honorable Paul Koretz
5th Council District
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 440
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Herb Wesson
10th Council District
City of Los Angeles
200 N Spring Street, Suite 420
Los Angeles, CA 90012

May 19, 2022

Re: Council file 20-0990

Dear Councilmembers:

On behalf of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORO NC), I am writing to request that you formally reconsider your vote on the final motion in Council File 20-0990 (May 13, 2022) and return the matter to the City Council, to then be referred back to committee.

City Council voted on May 13, 2022, to require additional mandatory training for all neighborhood council Board Members and for all neighborhood council Committee Members. This action was based on a joint report dated March 8, 2022, that was authored by Raquel Beltran, General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, and Capri Maddox, General Manager of Civil, Human Rights, and Equity Department, which recommended the implementation of mandatory training.

Following the legislative history of this council file, it is clear that this action is a massive overreach from what was originally proposed. Its original intent was to have DONE provide protocols for how neighborhood councils deal with gender identity and gender expression when a board member or stakeholder had transitioned or made known that they have changed their name or preferred pronouns. Candidly, this could have been handled by an instruction from DONE that such persons will be identified by their chosen name or preferred pronoun.

As a neighborhood council we agree with the desired outcome that all persons be treated with respect and identified as they prefer. However, we need to focus on the



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impact on the volunteer with respect to the number of mandatory trainings required and the amount of time that is involved in these trainings.

We need to look to the formation of the neighborhood council system and the reason that they exist. Approximately twenty years ago, several sections of the city felt that the city no longer represented community values and that they might be better off by their communities forming their own incorporated cities. This resulted in the City of Los Angeles taking a critical look at the problem and developing a system of neighborhood councils to provide greater communication by and between the City and the community. This was created by a change to the Los Angeles City Charter which created these neighborhood councils. Each neighborhood council was designed to cover all facets of the community with the diversity of the community and the individual character of each community being the focus.

Each neighborhood council is comprised of committees dealing with specific areas of concern to the city and to the community. These committees are comprised of volunteer community stakeholders and elected volunteer neighborhood council Board Members. Each neighborhood council has a governing board who votes on motions brought forward by the individual neighborhood council committees. All the activities of the committees are performed by VOLUNTEERS who are not compensated in any fashion for the time they devote in the service to their community and to the City of Los Angeles.

Although it is couched in terms of providing training to assist Board Members performing their tasks, it must be remembered that these Board Members and Committee members are volunteers who have outside lives, have jobs, attend school, or have other competing interests on their available time. A Board Member currently must undergo at least three sets of mandatory training prior to being able to function as a Board Member. We are overtraining volunteers with the result that many well-qualified people either do not volunteer, or prematurely leave their position, due to the time demands of these ever-increasing mandatory trainings.



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The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council strongly requests for you to formally reconsider your May 13th vote to send the matter back before the City Council, and to then be referred back to committee for further discussion and deliberation.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Lynn

President
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

President@soronc.org