

Communication from Public

Name: Jamie York

Date Submitted: 02/26/2023 06:21 PM

Council File No: 20-0990

Comments for Public Posting: I believe that Option B of the two presented ordinances would be a disaster for neighborhood councils. It allows far too much power for the Department over the independent business of neighborhood councils. Given what I have witnessed during my tenure as a neighborhood council member, I simply do not have the confidence that this power would not be abused and furthermore would not be upheld in an even handed manner. Allowing the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment the power to expel members is a disaster waiting to happen. Recently members of the Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council were threatened with expulsion for refusing to attend an event with a non profit affiliated with the Sheriffs association, which resulted in a mass resignation of the board. It is clear to me that DONE and it's management is in need of careful examination. I strongly believe that before the Department is granted more power, it must prove that it is capable of meeting its current responsibilities. Unfortunately, that is not currently the case. 60% of neighborhood councilmembers said they would not recommend the Department to a friend or family in a recent survey. My work often feels hindered rather than enhanced by my interactions with the Department. I do not believe an ordinance which allows no due process or appeal process is appropriate given my lack of faith in the Department's leadership. My NC is part of the reason for the training on gender identity and I support training on this topic given what I witnessed. I also support training on bias, although I am not sure if the current module does much to actually interrogate those biases. It seems to function more as a liability band aid than doing the needed deep intersectional work that leads to real change and growth. It is however a start and addresses the calls by multiple neighborhood councils for some training of this type. However, it is equally important to remember that there has been no similar call for expansions of DONE's powers. Using the need for these trainings to allow a department which routinely denies it's own wrongdoings and seeks to minimize its mistakes to have increased power would be a misstep. Neighborhood councils need a voice at the table that truly hears our concerns. I believe option B would be used to threaten and crush dissent just as we saw with Hollywood Studio District NC.

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Name: Linda Gravani, for information purposes only, President of Lake Balboa NC

Date Submitted: 02/26/2023 09:00 PM

Council File No: 20-0990

Comments for Public Posting: There is no way that a department that is to SUPPORT neighborhood councils should control and mandate training. NCs are not employees and do not need a reporting structure