

Communication from Public

Name: Jennifer Goodie

Date Submitted: 02/27/2023 12:23 PM

Council File No: 20-0990

Comments for Public Posting: The Neighborhood Councils are not at a point where we trust the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to provide services to support us and to act in our best interests. The recent mass resignation of the Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council (HSDNC) exemplifies this. The Department cannot be trusted with the authority to remove elected members of the NC system. We saw them, with an assist from BONC, remove almost the entirety of the Central Alameda NC last summer for speaking out against LAPD over the 27th St. explosion and this month we saw them threaten to expel HSDNC members for not supporting an LASD event. We also do not trust DONE with blanket power to determine and implement our training needs. I feel that gender identity and anti-bias training are needed, but the current implementations are sorely lacking and problematic, much like the majority of our trainings. They have failed to adequately implement and maintain the current trainings and I am certain that giving them more power will not fix the issue, only compound it. I have had to send multiple emails to correct the assertion that our board members didn't complete trainings when they had. We recently had a board member removed because of issues using Cornerstone (the training portal that DONE uses). It is not only Cornerstone that is a problem though. While needed translations for our compulsory trainings are missing, the Department has opted to spend money on supplemental trainings that are hard to utilize like the Roberts Rules Made Easy series while failing to provide usage data when asked to justify the expense. We have also had boards receive EE workplans that included trainings that did not exist. I also do not feel that the department has any genuine interest around equity and inclusion or the training thereof, except to weaponize it when it is beneficial to them to paint board members as bigoted or anti-diversity for deigning to speak out against DONE initiatives and actions. As an example please see the email from Raquel Beltran to the entire NC system implying the HSDNC is not interested in outreach to low-income families because they didn't want to support an LASD event. Do not get me wrong, there are bad actors in the NC system and something needs to be done, but I do not think the current trainings are an effective tool to solve the problem and I do not have faith in the Department leading the charge. Time and time

again we've seen the Dept turning a blind eye to actual bad actors and failing to step in to prevent damage, take a look at the West Hills lawsuit or the bullying of a non-binary youth board member in Reseda, while at the same time abusing their power to to squash activism they do not agree with. We are dealing with a department that cares more about being embarrassed than good policy. As someone that is a frequent vocal critic of DONE and other entities within City Hall, I am genuinely worried about retaliatory action through the leveraging of expanded powers should motions like this one be enacted.

Communication from Public

Name: Liz Amsden

Date Submitted: 02/27/2023 11:17 AM

Council File No: 20-0990

Comments for Public Posting: While I understand the importance of anti-bias training, I have serious concerns about the wording of either options of this ordinance in that both would give DONE unprecedented powers to revise NC bylaws, which under the City Charter is the purview of the NC, and provides overbroad language on application and enforcement. Option B goes outrageously beyond the pale by, in addition to giving a department that was created to empower NCs the absolute power to decide on and enforce any and all NC trainings, also grants the bureaucrats at DONE the power to undemocratically and arbitrarily suspend/remove elected board members without due process. Prior to any discussion on this matter, I would ask that the committee request access to the lengthy objections to a similar provision allowing unconstitutional removal of board members by the department's General Manager which DONE attempted to insert in the NC Code of Conduct last year. Please reject this ordinance as currently written and ensure the next draft is more democratic and respects the wishes of those who elected NC board members to represent their interests.