

Communication from Public

Name: LM McCarthay

Date Submitted: 03/20/2023 09:52 AM

Council File No: 22-0560

Comments for Public Posting: Strongly oppose any increase to the 501c3 exemption approved by the Gov Reform Committee. We can't afford to close loopholes while creating new ones. The committee's recommendation is narrowly tailored and provides a reasonable accommodation for genuinely small nonprofits. The ethics commission proposal is an open invitation for special interests to create nonprofit front groups where they can avoid regulation. It would allow hundreds of thousands of dollars in lobbying to go completely unreported. Many businesses, charter schools, chambers of commerce, and 501c4s already have affiliated or fiscally sponsored 501c3s. 42 Neighborhood Councils have submitted community impact statements to the council file on this item, and 32 of them specifically expressed opposition to the ethics commission's \$2mil exemption. Exempting the vast majority of all 501c3s leaves the ordinance vulnerable to legal challenge. The first amendment does not allow you to pick and choose which voices to elevate at city hall. Enforceability. A larger threshold allows greater flexibility to intentionally distribute lobbying activity amongst employees and amongst fiscally sponsored organizations or affiliated C4s to evade the thresholds. Strongly oppose creating a new exemption for 501c5. The LA Fed is one of (if not the) most powerful interest at LA City hall, it was at the heart of our most recent scandals, we cannot cave to their demands to be exempted from the MLO. The LA Fed secretly conspired to launder a secret map in front of the commission, rig our council districts, and to install a representative in district 10. Unions are already exempted to speak on collective bargaining matters w/ the CAO, the Civil Service Commission, and the Employee Relations board. "Management decisions as to the working conditions of represented employees that clearly relate to the terms of such collective bargaining agreement or memorandum of understanding" are also exempt.

Communication from Public

Name: Lance Huang

Date Submitted: 03/20/2023 10:07 AM

Council File No: 22-0560

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose any changes to the lobbying ordinance to exempt 501(c)(3)s and 501(c)(5)s organizations. The good people of Los Angeles are suffering from a crisis of confidence in its leaders and government because of endless scandals, ethics violations and corruption. Now, the LA City Council is proposing to water down its lobbying ordinance? Many 501(c)(3)s and 501(c)(5)s organizations actively influence politics directly or indirectly. Exempting these organizations from the lobbying ordinance will lead to less transparency and less accountability, not more. Good thing we have neighborhood councils with volunteers who are willing to stand up and speak out on behalf of their communities. Our LA communities deserve better. If our elected officials keep insisting on watering down existing guardrails for accountability (barely adequate to begin with) in order to appease special interests and donors instead of doing what is best for the communities they supposedly represent, they should simply be voted out of office. Period.

Communication from Public

Name: Ethics matter

Date Submitted: 03/18/2023 09:30 PM

Council File No: 22-0560

Comments for Public Posting: As a ethics watchdog, I am appalled at Paul Krekorian's attempt to significantly weaken our ethics rules. Creating a second non profit filer track for 501c3s and unions in light of the recent events in this city is laughable. AIDS health care is a non profit. USC is a non profit. Two non profits embroiled in controversy right now for how they used elected officials to advocate for their causes with both instances causing public outrage and in the case of USC, an indictment. According to the anti defamation league hate groups are creating non profits to launder both their image and their advocacy in order to spread their ideology. Do you have any idea the door you are opening? Truly it is shocking how the city council can even be considering this terrible proposal.