

Communication from Public

Name: Lionel Mares

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Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council Members: I support more participation in the Neighborhood Councils. As a Board Member of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council (SVANC), I strongly believe in civic discourse and public participation. Speaking as an individual, I got involved in Neighborhood Councils because I believe it is our duty to serve the community and to raise awareness of the local issues that affect us all. I believe that public service is a moral duty of all Americans alike. I would like to see more people involved in the Neighborhood Councils, especially in underrepresented communities. If we're serious of getting more people involved in the Neighborhood Councils, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) and General Manager Raquel Beltran and the Leadership should do more for the community by providing support and resources; including answering our e-mails and calls in a timely manner. Handling conflict and grivances in a timely manner. The Neighborhood Empowerment Advocates (NEA) should do a better job of answering our emails and phone calls. Recently, General Manager Raquel Beltran, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), presented the department's Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24, in the buget proposal, General Manager Beltran would like to see more positions filled in to assist the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), but I believe that the positions should be filled by current board members of the Neighborhood Councils and/or members of the public who have an interest in serving the community and should not be filled by other city department staff or council aides who have been transferring job to job within the City of Los Angeles. I have been doing Community Outreach and Awareness, in my own capacity, because I want to see more people involved in the Neighborhood Councils. I have been advocating for more public participation and I have been sharing resources online and in-person. I have spoken out during in committee meetings and council meetings; including the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, the Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Coalition (LANCC) and the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA). I have volunteered my time to serve my community. I believe that we can get more people involved in the Neighborhood Councils if the City of Los Angeles City Council and the Department of

Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) if they are willing to volunteer in community outreach and awareness. Many of the current staff and Project Coordinators and Neighborhood Empowerment Advocates are not performing their best and the department needs new people with new energy and a perspective. Thank You, LIONEL MARES Sent as an Individual