

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers, A great injustice was revealed with the LA Fed Tapes. Overshadowed by the racist words was the plot to gerrymander council district 2 to give power to an anointed successor, take away the voice of 138,000 registered voters, and to take power away from Council District 4. This harm undermines the very meaning of what it is to live in a democracy. And this wasn't even the first nor last scandal. Four Councilmembers indicted in four years is the shame that rests on City Hall. We need to serve the people of Los Angeles and hold our government accountable. The only acceptable way to not water down the charter reform: There are three major issues that need to be addressed in the current proposal: The minimum protected budget needs to be substantially increased. \$6.5 million represents a preservation of the status quo staffing levels for ethics. Give the Ethics Commission a guaranteed budget that goes up with inflation so its funding isn't in the hands of the same officials it oversees. Council's Failure to take any action on an ethics commission recommendation within the required window must result in the recommendation becoming law. The Ethics Commission needs clear authority to place measures on the ballot. The proposal limits this power to items disapproved by council, even if council substantially amended and watered down the ethics commission's original proposal. San Francisco's Ethics Commission has this power, and it has helped ensure the board of supervisors works collaboratively with them on these issues. Eliminate the council veto over ethics placing measures on the ballot. The Committee has had over a year and a half to consider the reforms recommended by the Ethics Commission. Ethics reform shouldn't have to wait another two and a half years to be heard by voters. When 9 in 10 voters say City ethics rules should be made stronger, and the Ethics Commission already has a detailed list of reform recommendations supported by experts like the LA Governance Reform, we don't need to wait for a Charter Reform Commission to tell City Council to put ethics reform before voters. The Charter Commission should not be made up of just political appointees, a majority should be chosen in a manner similar to how we will pick Independent Redistricting Commissioners. No single elected official should have the power to appoint more than two commissioners. The current plan

concentrates enormous power in the hands of just two elected officials, who would choose over 61% of the commissioners. The Charter Commission should have the power to put charter reform directly on the ballot. The fed tapes showed how the work of an advisory commission made up of nothing but political appointees can be undermined. Portland's charter commission is able to put measures directly on the ballot if they secure $\frac{3}{4}$ support of the commissioners.