



Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Council File Number: 23-1027

1 message

LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>

Tue, Nov 11, 2025 at 10:29 PM

Reply-To: LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>

To: reformlacherter@lacity.org, Clerk.CIS@lacity.org, commission@empowerla.org, H.Kline@whcouncil.org

A Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) has been successfully submitted to your Commission or City Council. We provided information below about CISs and attached a copy of the CIS.

We encourage you to reach out to the Community Impact Statement Filer to acknowledge receipt and if this Community Impact Statement will be scheduled at a future meeting. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers and it would be helpful if they received confirmation that you received their CIS.

The CIS process was enabled by the Los Angeles Administrative Code §Section 22.819. It provides that, "a Neighborhood Council may take a formal position on a matter by way of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or written resolution." NCs representatives also testify before City Boards and Commissions on the item related to their CIS. If the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so, the Neighborhood Council representative must provide the Commission with a copy of the CIS or Resolution sufficiently in advance for review, possible inclusion on the agenda, and posting on the Commission's website. Any information you can provide related to your agenda setting schedule is helpful to share with the NC.

If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *listed on the Commission's agenda*, during the time the matter is heard, the designated Neighborhood Council representative should be given an opportunity to present the Neighborhood Council's formal position. We encourage becoming familiar with the City Council's rules on the subject. At the Chair's discretion, the Neighborhood Council representative may be asked to have a seat at the table (or equivalent for a virtual meeting) typically reserved for City staff and may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more time than allotted to members of the general public. They are also permitted up to five (5) minutes of time to address the legislative body. If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *not listed on the agenda*, the designated Neighborhood Council representative may speak during General Public Comments.

We share this information to assist you with the docketing neighborhood council items before your board/commission. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at empowerla@lacity.org.

***** This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. *****

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Woodland Hills-Warner Center

Name: Heath Kline

Email: h.kline@whcouncil.org

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(13) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(2) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 10/08/2025

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

Impact Information

Date: 11/12/2025

Update to a Previous Input: Yes

Directed To: Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, Charter Reform Commission, City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 23-1027

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: Executive Summary: Protecting Neighborhood Council Advocacy Rights - CF-23-1027 The Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council urges the Charter Reform Commission to enshrine neighborhood councils' fundamental right to advocate at all levels of government including local, county, state, and federal agencies as policy within Article IX of the City Charter update to be placed before Los Angeles voters for approval. THE ISSUE: City officials are attempting to restrict neighborhood councils from speaking to non-City agencies based on an unsigned 2020 memorandum, directly contradicting Charter Article IX and First Amendment protections. Ten neighborhood councils have passed resolutions defending these advocacy rights. WHY THIS MATTERS: Los Angeles has 15 Council members, each representing approximately 250,000 residents. City-wide officials cannot address every highly local or technical issue. Neighborhood councils fill this gap as democratically elected community representatives with deep local knowledge. CURRENT PRACTICE: For nearly 25 years, WHWCNC has successfully advocated with LAUSD, LA Community College District, Metro Transportation Authority, SCAQMD, LA County Board of Supervisors, and state and federal agencies. Restricting this would cripple neighborhood councils' effectiveness on schools, transit, air quality, county services, and countless matters outside direct City jurisdiction but vital to communities. THE SOLUTION: Neighborhood councils speak FOR their stakeholders, not ON BEHALF OF the City, a crucial distinction other agencies recognize. Charter language must explicitly protect these advocacy rights, ensuring Los Angeles communities retain effective democratic voices on all issues affecting their quality of life. ACTION REQUESTED: Include Neighborhood Council Bill of Rights language in Article IX Charter reforms for voter approval, condemn current restrictions, and support Greater Toluca Lake NC's Declaration. Please see our attached CIS.

 CIS 23-1027 NC Bill of Rights 20251008.pdf
270K

Board

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Michelle Delgado Area 7 Alt.*

*Marc Shapiro, At-Large
Melanie Kirschbaum, At-Large Alt.*

*Board Authorized Contact & Submitter
Heath Kline H.Kline@whcouncil.org
for*

*Jon Mann, President
J.Mann@whcouncil.org*

Action Passed on 10/08//2024

Members Present: 15
Quorum: 13

Members voting Aye: 13
Members voting Nay: 0
Members Abstaining: 0

Members Ineligible: 2
Members Recused: 0

Community Impact Statement (CIS) CF-23-1027 Community Impact Statement on City Charter Reform & Motion in Support of Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council's Declaration of Commitment to Representative Government & to Enshrine these rights of community advocacy for all NCs with all levels of government in the Charter of the City of Los Angeles.

This motion supports the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council and other neighborhood councils that are being restricted by City officials from speaking out on community issues. We want to protect all neighborhood councils' right to advocate for their communities at any level of local, county, state, or federal government and their departments and agencies.

Whereas, the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council (GTLNC) and other Neighborhood Councils have adopted or supported a Declaration of Commitment to Representative Government (https://bit.ly/GTLNC_Declaration);

Whereas, this Declaration affirms these Neighborhood Councils' role as democratically elected bodies representing their communities with full authority to advocate on their behalf;

Whereas, at the time of filing this CIS nine other Neighborhood Councils have unanimously or near unanimously passed motions in support of GTLNC's Declaration of Commitment to Representative Government;

Whereas, City of Los Angeles officials and attorneys are trying to limit GTLNC's and other NCs' free speech and advocacy rights based on an unsigned, memorandum from August 2020;

Whereas, the Los Angeles City Charter Article IX establishes that Neighborhood Councils "shall have an advisory role on issues of concern to the neighborhood" but nowhere prohibits Neighborhood Councils from advocating to local, county, state, or federal government and their departments and agencies on behalf of their stakeholders;

Whereas, these attempted restrictions violate both the spirit of Article IX and the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution;

Whereas, the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council has actively engaged with multiple levels of government for nearly 25 years;

Whereas, WHWCNC regularly works with city government including the City Council, Mayor's Office, city departments, boards and commissions;

Whereas, WHWCNC has advocated with local, county, state, and federal agencies including:

- Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)
- LA Community College District (LACCD)
- LA County Board of Supervisors
- Metro Transportation Authority
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- South Coast Air Quality Management District
- State and federal elected officials and their agencies;

Whereas, the LA City Council has 15 members, each representing about 250,000 residents;

Whereas, City Council members and the Mayor have limited time and ability to address highly local or technical issues that affect specific communities;

Whereas, Neighborhood Councils are made up of local engaged stakeholders who are elected or appointed by their communities;

Whereas, Neighborhood Councils are unique in that they represent entire communities rather than segmented special interest groups;

Whereas, Neighborhood Council board members take an oath of office, receive training, and follow procedures to ensure their positions respect and understand diverse community interests and needs;

Whereas, these volunteers bring local knowledge and can focus on community-specific problems that city-wide officials cannot address in detail;

Whereas, Neighborhood Councils speak for their own stakeholders, not on behalf of the City of Los Angeles, and use clear disclaimers to prevent any confusion;

Whereas, Neighborhood Councils are advisory only to the City on City matters, but nothing in the Charter prohibits them from advocating directly to local, county, state, or federal government and their departments and agencies on issues affecting their communities;

Whereas, other levels of government recognize Neighborhood Councils as legitimate and trusted community voices;

Whereas, restricting Neighborhood Councils from advocating to other levels of government would make them ineffective on issues outside City jurisdiction, including schools (LAUSD), transit (Metro), air quality (SCAQMD), county services, state and federal legislation, and other matters that directly impact local communities;

Whereas, WHWCNC supports preserving Neighborhood Councils' full right to advocate on any community issue before local, county, state, or federal government and their departments and agencies without interference;

Whereas, Neighborhood Council board members volunteer their time without pay, benefits, or job protections, and deserve respect for their service;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council:

1. **Supports** the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council's Declaration of Commitment to Representative Government and all Neighborhood Councils facing similar restrictions (https://bit.ly/GTLNC_Declaration);
2. **Condemns** any efforts by City officials to illegally restrict Neighborhood Councils' free speech and advocacy rights;
3. **Commits** to continue advocating with local, county, state, and federal government and their departments and agencies on behalf of Woodland Hills residents and encourages all Neighborhood Councils to defend their advocacy rights;
4. **Supports** creating a Neighborhood Council Bill of Rights in the City Charter that protects these advocacy rights, to be voted on by Los Angeles residents;
5. **Directs** the Board CIS filer to send this statement and the GTLNC Declaration to:
 - Mayor of Los Angeles
 - All LA City Council members
 - LA City Attorney
 - Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
 - Board of Neighborhood Commissioners
 - City Charter Review Commission
 - The GTLNC, VANC and LANCC

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Jon Mann, President
Woodland Hills – Warner Center Neighborhood Council
October 8, 2025