



clerk CIS <clerk.cis@lacity.org>

Community Impact Statement - Submission Details

LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>
Reply-To: LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>
To: Clerk.CIS@lacity.org

Thu, Feb 8, 2024 at 12:10 AM

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 to 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 rResolution 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: North Westwood

Name: Jacob Wasserman

Email: jacobnwwnc@gmail.com

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(18) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 02/07/2024

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 02/08/2024

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 23-1114

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: Neighborhood Councils are the closest form of city government to the people in Los Angeles. Serving on each Neighborhood Council is a group of volunteers committed to serving their community. When the City reverted all Neighborhood Council meetings to be in-person only, there was a disproportionate effect on disadvantaged communities, where Board Members may not have had the luxury and privilege of time to dedicate hours upon hours to service of their communities in person and may not have as much access to cars and other reliable transportation options to reach meetings. Additionally, public participation was negatively impacted. Senator Portantino, seeking to re-enable robust participation in Neighborhood Councils, worked diligently to modify the Brown Act, via Senate Bill 411 (2023). The bill allowed Neighborhood Councils to resume meeting virtually, provided City Council voted to allow this; they did on

November 1, 2023 with the passage of Council File 23-1114. Part of this legislation is a requirement of a two-thirds vote in order to switch from in-person to hybrid or virtual meetings. There has been a question of whether this two-thirds vote is two thirds of all seated Board Members or two thirds of all seats. Since many Neighborhood Councils are experiencing participation issues and vacancies, since returning to in-person meetings, the opinion from the City Attorney's Office that the law refers to total seats is problematic. In the November 1, 2023 City Council meeting, Councilmember Lee specified that the City Council's interpretation of the language was that the threshold refers to seated Board Members. Senator Portantino's office has also specified that their intention was two-thirds of seated Board Members. We request that the City Attorney's Office revisit this matter, take into consideration the intention of the author of the bill, and revise its advice to allow 2/3 of seated Neighborhood Council Board Members to vote to go virtual.

Ref:MSG9771185

 **Request for Action_SB 411 Thresholds.pdf**
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- REQUEST FOR ACTION -

Re: Interpretation of Senate Bill 411 Thresholds

To:

City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto
Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky
Members of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

Neighborhood Councils are the closest form of city government to the people in Los Angeles. Serving on each Neighborhood Council is a group of volunteers committed to serving their community.

When the City, due to the Brown Act, reverted all Neighborhood Council meetings to be in-person only, there was a disproportionate effect on disadvantaged communities, where Board Members may not have had the luxury and privilege of time to dedicate hours upon hours to service of their communities in person and may not have as much access to cars and other reliable transportation options to reach meetings. Additionally, public participation was negatively impacted for the same reason, and our and other Neighborhood Councils began re-incurring significant expenses to host in-person meetings.

Senator Anthony Portantino, seeking to re-enable robust participation in Neighborhood Councils for our communities, worked diligently to modify the Brown Act, via Senate Bill-411 (2023). The bill, signed into law by Governor Newsom on October 8, 2023, allowed Neighborhood Councils to resume meeting virtually, provided City Council voted to allow this; they did on November 1, 2023 with the passage of Council File 23-1114.

Part of this legislation is a requirement of a two-thirds vote in order to switch from in-person to hybrid or virtual meetings. There has been a question of whether this two-thirds vote is two thirds of all *seated Board Members* or two thirds of all *seats*. Since many Neighborhood Councils are experiencing participation issues and vacancies, since returning to in-person meetings, the opinion from the City Attorney's Office that the law refers to *total seats* is problematic.

In the November 1, 2023 City Council meeting, Councilmember Lee specified that the City Council's interpretation of the language was that the threshold refers to

seated Board Members. Senator Portantino's office has also specified that their intention was two-thirds of *seated Board Members*:

"The City is ultimately responsible for implementing these regulations, but NCs from all over Los Angeles have asked our office what the idea was in Sacramento. The Senator's intent was to provide flexibility to Neighborhood Councils to meet in the way that best serves their neighborhood and allows for the most people to participate in the process—both on the board and in the community—and that would be to have the $\frac{2}{3}$ requirement relate to the number of existing board members."

We request that the City Attorney's Office revisit this matter, take into consideration the intention of the author of the bill, and revise its advice to allow $\frac{2}{3}$ of *seated Neighborhood Council Board Members* to vote to go virtual.

Council File: [23-1114](#)

Title: Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils / SB 411 / Teleconferencing / Remote Meetings / Brown Act Modification / California Government Code / COVID-19 Pandemic

Position: For