

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 24-0867
Comments for Public Posting: PLEASE SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT!

August 25, 2024

L.A. City Council
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Neighborhood Council Bylaws / Youth Participation / Diversity Increase /
Leadership Growth (Council File No. 24-0867)

Hon. City Council Members:

UPDATE: This is an update to my previous comment. After careful thought, I must agree with **Brandon Morino** and the **Reseda Neighborhood Council**.

Brandon Morino stated perfectly “a number of NC Board members who have remaining seated over several elections (at times) inhibit progress and/or flexibility as to how the NC approaches certain issues. Yet, NCs are independent governing bodies, and should not be micro-managed by the City via BONC. **TERM LIMITS SHOULD BE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED**, not mandated. Ultimately, it would be up to the stakeholders of the neighborhood, exerting will upon their local governing body, to determine any term limit regulations.”

I agree with the fact that some Neighborhood Council board-members who have been seated for a long time may inhibit progress on certain issues. I believe in **DEMOCRACY**, and I am concerned that some board members only care about power and their agenda. Some board members want to impose their views onto others, which is a cause of concern. Many Neighborhood Council struggle to gain new membership and some current long-term members don't do enough to recruit new members to join the Neighborhood Council. There are some who have been in the Neighborhood Council for a long time may make it difficult for new board members to accomplish things and some have insecurities. There are some board-members who are vindictive and micro-manage the board.

Neighborhood Councils should be Democratic and must adhere to the principals of the U.S. Constitution, the City Charter, including Ethics and Accountability.

During a 60 Minutes Interview, General Mark Milley stated, "We swear an oath to an idea the idea that is American and it's embodied in that document the Constitution which sets up our form of government."

Neighborhood Councils should be apolitical and should be non-partisan.

Neighborhood Council board-members, particularly the 'Presidents' and 'Vice-Presidents' should be democratic and not engage in authoritarianism. Board-members are elected representatives of their neighborhoods, and they must represent the views of the stakeholders, not themselves and or by special interests.

I agree with the Community Impact Statement submitted by the RESEDA Neighborhood Council. The Reseda Neighborhood Council lays out valid reasons for improving the Neighborhood Council system.

In conclusion,

I believe that Term Limits should be encouraged but not mandated. I also believe that improvements should be made as suggested by the Reseda Neighborhood Council. There is room for improvement in our broken Neighborhood Council system. I believe that we need to ensure that educated stakeholders join the board and to lessen the power of NC 'Presidents' and 'Vice-Presidents'. Afterall, this is a Democracy.

"Democracy Needs to be Heard."

Respectfully,
Lionel M.