

Communication from Public

Name: Burton Hunter

Date Submitted: 03/19/2025 10:28 AM

Council File No: 24-0867

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Burton Hunter. I serve on Arleta Neighborhood Council; though for this matter I am speaking on my own behalf (not as a NC board member). The City Charter was set up with Neighborhood Councils serving as "feet-on-the-ground" entities who will have direct access to speak about issues to their Los Angeles City Council. I believe that CF 24-0867 creates a problem for Neighborhood Councils to be effective in their ability to be effective as voices that efficiently represent thier stakeholder communities. This file, as promoted by CD-7's City Council Representative Monica Rodrigues in July of 2024, is highly opposed by most of the Neighborhood Councils who responded to the introduction of this motion. Many of the Neighborhood Councils, including ours, have historically had difficulty maintaining a filled Youth Seat on our NC Board. I have spoken to some Neighborhood Councils recently who are having problems achieving Quorum, due to the fact that they have so many unfilled Board Seats. The YOUTH Seat is one of the hardest ones to maintain. Due to their own busy scheduels, parents are often unwilling to transport their youth to an NC Board Meeting or to other NC funcitions. other Youth are not old enough to be driving themselves, or do not have their own transportation. Plus, youth have the peer-pressure of many other activities that their friends beg for them to do, instead of attending an NC meeting. This seat was removed from our NC Bylaws for just this reason: we have only a few times in our history been able to maintain a filled Youth Seat. The other issue is "term limits" for NC Board Members. Some of the best-functioning board members are those who have had an on-going involvement in neighborhood politicial action (those who have the skills to understand how community service works and how to best address issues to the entities within the City who can help our neighborhoods effectively address issues. To set "term limits" on NC Board members is an irresponsible act of deliberately taking experience away from Neighborhood Councils - - removing those who have the heart for the welfare of their community and for our City; removing those who have the knowledge base and skill set to pass-on to newer Board Members, the wisdom and procedures that work to effectively act within the framework of City government. To institute term limits on NC Board participation

would be unwise and irresponsible. I personally think this proposal is a move by a City Council Member who would prefer to keep Neighborhood Councils without experienced voices; rendering them "voice-less" when it comes to matters that come before the City Council. For the sake of better communities, please oppose the concepts being set-forth in CF 24-0867. Thank you, Burton Hunter - stakeholder in the San Fernando Valley city of Arleta

Communication from Public

Name: Barbara Broide

Date Submitted: 03/19/2025 10:37 AM

Council File No: 24-0867

Comments for Public Posting: The effort to impose term limits on neighborhood council members is a bad idea. The City is a very complicated, often dysfunctional entity and it takes years to understand how it works (and does not work). It is likely that by the time a person learns their volunteer job and becomes effective, they would be removed from office due to term limits. There is, no doubt, great benefit to the City Council and those who seek to have weak neighborhood councils to have a constant churning of members brought forth under the guise of providing "leadership" opportunities. Member of the community elect those whom they wish to see serve on their behalf and have the power to bring in new members at each election period. They also see the value in having those with some institutional memory represent them. That knowledge renders the NCs more effective. Since there are no fundraising campaigns by incumbent NC members, it is fairly easy to run for an NC seat (unlike running for City Council where incumbents have a huge advantage) and, if the people wish to change representatives, new members can be and are elected to a NC. Many NCs have the opposite problem in that new people do not come forward to serve not because there is a barrier to participation, but rather because they see that NCs have little power or authority and that even when a large number of NCs provide input on an issue, it is ignored by the Council. Give the NCs the ability to band together to introduce Council Files (when there is a clear majority that wish to see such a motion go forward) and/or to request departments to provide needed information and you will then see more people interested in serving. Provide NCs the opportunity to be heard and have input on issues (beyond a 2 or 3 minute comment that is heard usually after the decisions have been made) does not demonstrate that NCs and their efforts are important to the Council. In fact, there are Council meetings where I have attended to speak for our NC and have not been called to the podium to speak. Sitting and waiting to speak after traveling to City Hall in order to represent the NC's constituents is an example of the City's failure to recognize the importance of NCs. Our job is to advise the Council and yet we are treated with little respect. The City's culture needs to change such that NCs are treated with the respect that they, their members and the communities deserve. When that happens,

you will see many more Angelenos interested in serving and there will be more robust competition for seats.