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Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Council File Number: 25-0853-s1

1 message

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

Sun, Jan 25, 2026 at 11:29 PM

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

To: Clerk.CIS@lacity.org, ethics.policy@lacity.org, jamiey@resedacouncil.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 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: Reseda

Name: Jamie York

Email: jamiey@resedacouncil.org

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(9) Nay(0) Abstain(1) Ineligible(0) Recusal(1)

Date of NC Board Action: 01/20/2026

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 01/26/2026

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees, City Ethics Commission

Council File Number: 25-0853-s1

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: Please see the attached pdf for our full statement. RE: City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto's Ethical Violations in Paper Brothers Settlement (Case 24VECV03899)



COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Council File [25-0853-S1](#) (Paper, Stephen, and Richard V. City of Los Angeles / Paper Brothers Lawsuit / Ethics Breach Violation / Closed Session)

Position: Support

Council File [25-0853](#) (Stephen Paper, et al. v. City of Los Angeles, et al.)

Position: Support if amended

RE: City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto's Ethical Violations in Paper Brothers Settlement (Case 24VECV03899)

Related to: September 17, 2025 Closed Session Settlement Vote; Forthcoming motion by Councilmember Ysabel Jurado regarding ethics breach; and any future Council Files addressing this matter

I. WHY THIS MATTERS TO RESEDA (AND ALL LOS ANGELES COMMUNITIES)

The City Attorney works for us—the residents of Los Angeles. When she breaches ethical rules and hides information from the City Council, she breaches her duty to every Neighborhood Council and every taxpayer.

The Reseda Neighborhood Council operates under strict ethical requirements. We expect no less from our City Attorney. Her conduct in the Paper brothers case demonstrates a troubling pattern of lack of attention to ethical duties:

- **Ex parte contact with opposing expert witness** while owing him \$5,000-\$6,000 in unpaid deposition fees,¹ followed by soliciting campaign donations²
- **Objecting to including an apology** in an \$18 million settlement for catastrophic injuries caused by LAPD³
- **Failing to fully disclose** the settlement's terms before Council's vote⁴

When the City Attorney operates in bad faith, every community pays—literally. Liability costs have skyrocketed from \$87 million (2022) to a projected \$320 million (2025), contributing directly to LA's budget crisis.⁵ This affects Reseda's services, public safety, and infrastructure funding. The Reseda Neighborhood Council is out here begging for street lights to be serviced in a timely manner but facing funding obstacles even to such basic infrastructure upkeep. We literally can't afford to be patient with bad faith representation for the city.

II. THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP

The City Attorney represents the City of Los Angeles—meaning the City Council and, ultimately, the people. Basic legal ethics require:

1. **Candor with the client** about case strengths, weaknesses, and settlement terms⁶
2. **No ex parte communication** with opposing parties or their witnesses
3. **Loyalty to the client's interests**, not the attorney's political ambitions

By allegedly calling Dr. Andrew Fox (plaintiffs' expert neurosurgeon) on August 16, 2025 to solicit campaign contributions⁷ while owing him money and mere weeks before trial, Feldstein Soto violated California Rules of Professional Conduct. This isn't a minor procedural error—it's a fundamental breach of trust.

The City Council approved an \$18 million settlement. But the City Council cannot evaluate whether an \$18 million settlement is reasonable when the City Attorney has compromised the integrity of the process through ex parte contact with opposing witnesses. Ethical breaches don't just violate rules - they make it impossible to trust the outcome. Did they know about the Fox call? **Our elected representatives cannot make informed decisions without complete information from their attorney.**

III. WHAT WE REQUEST

The Reseda Neighborhood Council urges the City Council to:

4. **Support Councilmember Jurado's motion** requesting a closed-session report on ethics violations within 45 days⁸
5. **Request a full accounting** from the City Attorney regarding:
 - o The August 16, 2025 phone call to Dr. Fox
 - o Why the City objected to apologizing to the Paper brothers
 - o What information was provided to Council before the settlement vote
 - o Whether similar ex parte contacts occurred in other cases
6. **Refer the matter** to the City Ethics Commission for independent investigation
7. **Demand transparency going forward:** Settlement recommendations to Council should include full disclosure of any ethical issues, conflicts, or unusual circumstances
8. **Direct the City Attorney** to file a responsive report within 30 days

The people of Los Angeles deserve a City Attorney who operates with integrity and transparency. Accountability isn't optional—it's required.

This community impact statement was passed in a meeting held in accordance with the Brown Act on January 20, 2026 with a vote of 9 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain, 0 ineligible, 1 recused.

CITATIONS

- ¹ Robert Glassman Declaration, September 5, 2025 (Case 24VECV03899). LAist, [LA city attorney accused of ethics breach](#), December 15, 2025. *"At the time of her Aug. 16 call, the expert witness — a neurosurgeon named Andrew Fox — was on the official witness list for the upcoming trial and while the city owed Fox \$5,000 to \$6,000 in overdue deposition fees for the time the city spent questioning him before trial."*
- ² Robert Glassman Declaration filed 9/5/2025, quoted in LAist (same source as note 1): *"On Aug. 16, 2025, city attorney and counsel of record Ms. Feldstein Soto made a telephone call to Dr. Andrew Fox, plaintiffs' retained neurosurgeon, attempted to ingratiate herself with him and asked him to make a contribution to her political campaign."*
- ³ NBC Los Angeles, [LA to pay \\$18 million in Encino LAPD car crash](#), September 17, 2025: *"Chief Deputy City Attorney Denise C. Mills...objected to a request from the brothers that an apology from the City be included in the settlement agreement. LA Superior Court Judge Valerie Salkin...pressed the City Attorney's Office on its rationale for objecting to an apology. 'As a human, I don't think it's unreasonable for the apology to occur,' Judge Salkin said."*
- ⁴ California Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.4.1 requires attorneys to *"promptly communicate all amounts, terms and conditions of any written offer of settlement"* to the client. See [SDCBA Ethics Article](#). Rule 1.2(a) further requires attorneys to *"abide by a client's decision whether to settle a matter."*
- ⁵ LAist, [LA is on the hook for more than half a billion in liability payouts](#), March 19, 2025: *"The city of Los Angeles is on track to pay out at least \$320 million this fiscal year to settle liability claims and lawsuits. That's after more than \$277 million in such payouts last fiscal year — both well over the \$87 million city officials budgeted each year for such risks."*
- ⁶ California Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.4 requires lawyers to *"keep the client reasonably informed about significant developments relating to the representation"* and to *"reasonably consult with the client about the means by which to accomplish the client's objectives."* Rule 1.4.1 specifically mandates communication of settlement offers. See [State Bar Rules](#)
- ⁷ Robert Glassman Declaration, 9/5/2025 (same as note 2). The declaration states this contact *"forbids interfering with any party's orderly access to a witness' testimony"* and *"placed Dr. Fox in an untenable bind, where any given response to her overtures invites pressure and a sense of obligation."*
- ⁸ LAist, December 12, 2025 (same source as note 1): *"This Friday, Jurado introduced a motion that calls for the City Attorney to 'report to council in closed session within 45 days regarding the ethics breach violation.' The motion needs to go through a few committees before reaching the full City Council."*