

MOTION

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The City of Los Angeles is committed to creating and maintaining safe and welcoming spaces for all Angelenos. Neighborhood Councils, as the grassroots level of government, often hold meetings in locations where youth and families are present, including schools, community centers, and libraries. Ensuring that these meetings remain safe and transparent is critical to preserving the public's trust and engagement.

Neighborhood Councils also serve as an important entry point for civic engagement, where young people often participate, volunteer, or observe local decision-making. Because these meetings provide opportunities for leadership development and community involvement, it is especially important that participants and their families feel confident that these spaces are free from potential risks. Strengthening safeguards will help preserve the integrity of the Neighborhood Council system and encourage broader participation from residents of all ages.

Given that some individuals who seek election, appointment, or selection to serve on Neighborhood Councils may have prior criminal histories requiring them to register as sex offenders, it is important that the City explore ways to promote transparency and accountability. In particular, the disclosure of whether a candidate or appointee is a registered sex offender is necessary to safeguard the wellbeing of youth who may participate in or be present at Neighborhood Council meetings. Establishing such a safeguard reflects the City's commitment to protecting our young people and ensuring that our neighborhood governance spaces are safe, inclusive, and transparent.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council REQUEST the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, with assistance of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, the City Clerk, and the City Attorney, to report back on the feasibility of requiring Neighborhood Council applicants to disclose their status as registered sex offenders, and to evaluate the feasibility of prohibiting individuals on the registry from serving on Neighborhood Councils through election, appointment, or selection.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council REQUEST the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, with the assistance of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the City Attorney, to work with the Los Angeles City Charter Commission to explore and report back on the feasibility of incorporating a disclosure requirement, as well as any related prohibitions, into the City Charter, with the goal of strengthening safeguards for youth and ensuring that Neighborhood Council spaces remain safe and secure.

PRESENTED BY:



MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

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