

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 07/27/2026 02:31 PM

Council File No: 26-0906-S4

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose this motion. I am a member of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council, but I am speaking on my behalf. When I first read the motion, I thought of supporting it as I strongly support volunteering and serving the community in any way that I can, but after reading it a second time I realized the burden the City will put on neighborhood council board members. We must remember that board members are volunteers. As a board member, I already put in many hours into the work I do for my neighborhood council. I already spend my personal time to take mandatory trainings, attend a monthly board meeting, attend committee meetings, spend time preparing agendas, minutes, letters and CISs, attend liaison/coalitions/alliances meetings, attend City Council meetings, pay visits to areas in the community people flag for nuisance issues, organize and participate in community events, answer emails, make 311 reports, organize and participate in community clean-ups. How can one more task be added to the list of things I MUST do in order to be part of a neighborhood council? I strongly oppose to this portion of the motion, "Neighborhood Councils serve as the City's most localized form of civic engagement and are often a trusted source of information for residents during emergencies. As representatives of their communities, Neighborhood Council board members are well-positioned to support emergency preparedness efforts, share critical information, connect residents to available resources, and assist in strengthening coordination between neighborhoods and City departments." Public Safety is the responsibility of the City not that of community volunteers. It is the responsibility of each individual to prepare for emergencies. Neighborhood Councils should support CERT classes in their communities, promote them, and create awareness in the community before disasters occur. But when disaster strikes, their main function is to support their loved ones and if they are in conditions to go out and help the community then they should do so. While the intentions of this motion are good, I don't believe it is well thought out and it must be reviewed and taken to the City Attorney to see what consequences could come out of a motion that is requiring neighborhood councils to perform a job they are not equipped to do.