

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: As a formed SVANC Board member, I believe CERT training should be optional, not a mandatory requirement for Neighborhood Council board members. Neighborhood Council members are unpaid community volunteers whose function is advisory. They are not emergency responders and should not be expected to assume the risks associated with disaster response. Emergency situations may expose individuals to hazardous conditions that require specialized training, equipment, and medical oversight. Those responsibilities are appropriately handled by trained and compensated first responders and emergency personnel. Board members already dedicate substantial unpaid time to required training, meetings, community outreach, and other responsibilities. Adding a lengthy mandatory CERT program could make it more difficult to recruit and retain qualified volunteers, particularly those balancing work, family, caregiving, or other commitments.