

## Communication from Public

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**Council File No:** 24-0867  
**Comments for Public Posting:** PUBLIC COMMENT: Please see attached.

February 24, 2025

## **Public Comment**

### **RE: Neighborhood Council Bylaws / Youth Participation / Diversity Increase / Leadership Growth / Council File No. 24-0867**

As a former Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council board-member, I oppose this motion as written. The Neighborhood Council system was created in the early 2000's because the San Fernando Valley threaten to secede from the City of Los Angeles because of the lack of representation at the local level.

Many neighbors feel that the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor aren't paying attention to the people. Many of them join their local Neighborhood Councils to advocate on behalf of their community and to engage with their community and neighbors. The current system as it stands is broken. Many Neighborhood Councils continue to struggle with meeting quorum because of a lack of active participation. Which leaves many Neighborhood Councils with open vacancies.

#### **Main Points:**

- This issue should be referred to the City Charter Reform Commission.
- The item should be held in committee for further discussion, when the committee has enough data and research. More information is needed to collect and analyze the data.

#### **Term Limits:**

- Neighborhood Councils struggle to meet a quorum, and term-limits aren't necessary.
- It is difficult to recruit qualified candidates because many believe it is not worth their time.
- Neighborhood Councils are volunteers who are donating their time to serve their community. Term limits would only discourage active community members from participating in the Neighborhood Councils.
- We need a comprehensive review of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council system by the Charter Reform Commission.

#### **Youth Participation:**

- Each Neighborhood Council is different. Some are very active, and others are not as much. Getting youth to participate and stay on the board is challenging for many N.C.'s.
- We should reevaluate youth representation, and to consider allowing college students to join as youth members.
- The Olivia Mitchell Youth Council offers a small stipend for youth who participate in civic engagement and participation.

**Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.**

Respectfully,

**Lionel Mares, MPA**  
Community Advocate