



clerk CIS <clerk.cis@lacity.org>

Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Council File Number: 16-1104-S3

1 message

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

Tue, Jun 24, 2025 at 4:24 PM

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

To: Clerk.CIS@lacity.org, kathy.schreiner@vnnc.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 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 resolution 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: Van Nuys

Name: Kathy Schreiner

Email: kathy.schreiner@vnnc.org

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(8) Nay(2) Abstain(1) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 04/09/2025

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 06/24/2025

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 16-1104-S3

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Van Nuys Neighborhood Council supports Council File 16-1104-S3 to prohibit the use of N-word and C-word epithets during City Council and Committee Meetings and asks the City Council to extend the rule to apply to meetings of Boards of Neighborhood Councils and their committees. For years, the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council (VNNC) has unfortunately had public commenters who liberally use the N-word and C-word epithets. The VNNC has an unusually small attendance from the public at our meetings, and we know that one major reason is how difficult it is to sit through meetings where so many vulgar and nasty public comments are made. See attached letter for more information.



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June 20, 2025

TO: All Members of the Los Angeles City Council

RE: Support for Council File 2016-1104-S3 regarding the use of epithets

I want to let you know that at its General Board Meeting on April 9th, the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council voted to approve a Community Impact Statement (CIS) supporting the City Council motion in Council File 16-1104-S3 that would revise the Rules of the City Council to prohibit the use of N-word and C-word epithets during City Council and Committee Meetings. The VNNC also wants **to ask the City Council to extend the rule to apply to meetings of Boards of Neighborhood Councils and their committees.**

For years, the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council (VNNC) has unfortunately had public commenters who liberally use the N-word and C-word epithets. In particular, when Michael Browning was President of the VNNC from December 2020 through November 2022, he was frequently called the N-word during VNNC Board and Committee meetings. Since I became President in December 2022, I have frequently been called the C-word. It is personally offensive and disheartening to be subjected to this hateful and disrespectful language. But even worse is the impact on the public who have to listen to this name-calling. The VNNC has an unusually small attendance from the public at our meetings, and we know that one major reason is how difficult it is to sit through meetings where so many vulgar and nasty public comments are made (not only using epithets, but also including many negative and untruthful comments about the Board and individual Board members).

Almost every time a new person joins the VNNC Board, they personally express their revulsion at the nature of the comments that are made in the meetings and ask if there is something we can do about it. I have to regretfully inform them that we have repeatedly asked both DONE and the City Attorney's office for help and that they end up telling us that there is no way to remove public commenters who make these types of remarks. I recently had occasion to read back over a few years of emails and was reminded of the number of people with years of experience in meetings of many different government agencies who told me that they had never heard the types of language that was used at our meetings and thought that there must be some way to curtail it.

I read many of the letters in this Council File from a number of community-based organizations who wrote about what a negative experience it is for residents of the City of Los Angeles to attend meetings where the N-word and C-word epithets are used so frequently and that many people feel wounded and/or unsafe on the basis of the unfettered use of such language. I can attest that I personally cringe whenever I listen to City Council meetings and hear those demeaning words used. They are only used for the purpose of disrespecting City Council Members.

I recognize that it might be unrealistic for the VNNC to request that the City Council take an action that could help apply a similar rule to the meetings of Neighborhood Councils – especially since this Council motion applies to rules that only govern the City Council. However, I respectfully request that you explore whether there is some way you could help prohibit the use of these epithets at all Neighborhood Council Board and Committee meetings.

Sincerely,

Kathy

Kathy Schreiner
President
Van Nuys Neighborhood Council