

## **Communication from Public**

**Name:** Lionel Mares  
**Date Submitted:** 01/28/2024 08:43 PM  
**Council File No:** 23-1027  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please see attached.

**January 28, 2024**

Ad-Hoc Committee on City Governance  
200 North Spring Street  
City Hall, Room 340  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Charter Reform**

Dear Council President and Councilmembers:

I am writing in response to CF #23-1027 (Charter Reform), speaking as an individual, the City Council should strongly consider creating an independent Charter Reform Commission, as well as implement Ethics Reform. The last major City Charter Reform took place in the late 1990's at a time when the **San Fernando Valley Succession Movement** was taking place. I am in **SUPPORT** of **Charter Reform**. We haven't had Charter Reform for over a decade, and now is the time to act!

As a Neighborhood Council Board Member, I feel strongly that Neighborhood Councils should be a part of the process of Charter Reform because it was the last major Charter Reform that helped to establish the Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils system. We should be thankful to the San Fernando Valley succession movement for pushing the Mayor and City Council to implement Charter Reform in the late 1990's.

Regarding City Council expansion, I am unsure how big city council expansion should be, but I do agree that 15 council members isn't enough to represent the population of Los Angeles. With the latest report out by the City Controller regarding the City's Vacancy Rate, 1 in 6 positions in city departments are vacant, which is shocking! The city should invest in more funding for departments that need to fill in those vacancies.

In addition to city council expansion, I would like to see this Committee and the City Council consider putting Ethics Commission charter reform in the ballot. The City Ethics Commission should be empowered to be independent, and they should get the resources they need to perform their duties. The Ethics Commission should be given the resources they need to perform effectively and without interference from the City Council. The Ethics Commission should be given the authority to put forth finance and ethics-related ordinances on the ballot should the City Council fail to do so.

I look forward to engaging with the City Council on these matters.

Sincerely,  
Lionel Mares, MPA  
Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council Board Member