

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: I serve on the Board of the Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council and have for over 17 years, but am commenting as an individual. I do not support this proposal for either mandating a youth seat on Neighborhood Council Boards or for requiring term limits for Board members. Our Board has had a Youth Representative seat for more than six years now, with three different Youth Representatives elected or appointed. However, it has been difficult to identify youth 14-16 years of age who are willing to serve and even when elected/appointed, they have had difficulty attending Board meetings and assisting with NC projects due to their need to do homework and participate in after school sports and other activities. Plus they often also have a part-time job. In regards to term limits, only two of our current 17 Board members have served on the Board for many years. The decision on whether to have a youth seat or to have term limits should be left to each Neighborhood Council as is currently the case. It would be helpful if the Youth Development Department could more closely work with Neighborhood Councils to assist us in engaging our youth. For example, our Neighborhood Council never receives any communication from the Youth Development Department and only learned about that Department's formation some years ago when a former Councilmember's staff transferred to work for the new Department. If there are issues with certain Neighborhood Councils not having new and younger Board members on their Boards, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment could assist those Councils through their assigned Neighborhood Empowerment Advocates and help them develop appropriate outreach to achieve this goal.