

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 24-0867
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached document.

August 16, 2024

L.A. City Council
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Neighborhood Council Bylaws / Youth Participation / Diversity Increase /
Leadership Growth (Council File No. 24-0867)

Hon. City Council Members:

I am writing in opposition to council file 24-0867, authored by Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, for the following reasons:

- 1) Neighborhood Councils should govern themselves independently... I believe they can, and they should. The last City Charter reform created the Neighborhood Council system because the citizenry of the City of Los Angeles felt that elected officials was not being responsive to the needs of the community,
- 2) I also believe that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (“DONE”) should empower Neighborhood Councils, not just Neighborhood Council ‘Presidents’ but for ALL board-members AND stakeholders.
- 3) The City Council should focus on empowering Neighborhood Councils by listening to their concerns, and by prioritizing the needs and concerns of each Neighborhood Council over special interests/lobbyists.
- 4) I strongly encourage Diversity and Inclusion in Neighborhood Councils. The role of Neighborhood Empowerment is to assist Neighborhood Councils in community outreach and encourage engagement with stakeholders.
- 5) Regarding Term Limits, it would be counterproductive because it would make it challenging for the Neighborhood Councils to retain ‘Intellectual Knowledge’ (those who are Educated and Experienced) to stay on the Board if Term Limits were to be imposed, and many Neighborhood Councils struggle to retain good board-members who are educated and knowledgeable.

Although not all Neighborhood Councils are equal (and or equipped) with knowledgeable board-members, some Neighborhoods suffer from the lack of knowledgeable board-members because of incompetence and the lack of experience in some Neighborhood Councils.

In conclusion,
I am opposed to the motion authored by Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez as
presented (as written).

Respectfully,

Lionel Mares