

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: South Robertson Neighborhood Council

Name: Jon Liberman

Phone Number: (310) 839-0254

Email: jonliberman@soronc.org

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(13) Nay(1) Abstain(1) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 07/21/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

Impact Information

Date: 07/26/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-0560

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The South Robertson NC moved to support CF 22-0560 with proposed changes as outlined in the attached letter submitted to all councilmembers.



**South Robertson
neighborhoods council**

City of Los Angeles Certified Neighborhood Council

PO Box 35836
Los Angeles, CA 90035
(310) 295-9920
info@soronc.org
www.soronc.org



Councilmember Gil Cedillo
Council District # 1

Councilmember Paul
Krekorian
Council District # 2

Councilmember Bob
Blumenfield
Council District # 3

Councilmember Nithya
Raman
Council District # 4

Councilmember Paul Koretz
Council District # 5

Council President Nury
Martinez
Council District # 6

Councilmember Monica
Rodriguez
Council District # 7

Councilmember Marqueece
Harris-Dawson
Council District # 8

Councilmember Curren D.
Price, Jr.
Council District # 9

Chief of Staff
Heather Hutt
Council District # 10

Councilmember Mike Bonin
Council District # 11

Councilmember John Lee
Council District # 12

Councilmember Mitch
O'Farrell
Council District # 13

Councilmember Kevin de
Leon
Council District # 14

Councilmember Joe
Buscaino
Council District # 15

July 21, 2022

Re: Support of LAANC Motion for Council File 22-0560

Dear Councilmembers:

I am writing on behalf of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORO NC) to express our support of proposed changes to the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance.

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports the changes to the municipal lobbying ordinance (MLO) regarding neighborhood councils. We also request the consideration of changes to a few minor areas of the draft MLO that we believe will benefit transparency in the city.

Under section 48.08.8 of the current lobbying ordinance, a lobbyist disclosure is only required for written communications to neighborhood councils. We believe the ordinance should be updated to include the same disclosure when a lobbyist makes an oral presentation or public comment to a neighborhood council that is related to their lobbying efforts. Therefore, we deeply agree with section 48.11 of the draft municipal lobbying ordinance under consideration.

As you may be aware, neighborhood councils continue to meet telephonically due to COVID and it is widely expected that this will continue in at least some form even when/if the



pandemic passes. Additionally, under AB 361, we are prohibited from requiring "speaker cards," which is where traditionally lobbying disclosures had happened on our council. While Reseda can require a disclosure for its own meetings, that disclosure has no teeth for enforcement as it is not an ordinance and it also does not address the other 98 neighborhood councils which similarly serve as elected advisory bodies to the city.

We believe the lack of oral lobbyist disclosure requirement leaves many neighborhood council Boardmembers at an information disadvantage and that it should be addressed for the following reasons:

- 1) **Transparency.** We believe every voting member at a board meeting has the right to the knowledge if a lobbyist is speaking on an item for which they are compensated to lobby.
- 2) **Diffusion of responsibility.** A lobbyist may send a correct written disclosure either via mail or email, but often these communications do not go to every member of the board. Unless the Boardmember is diligent in passing along these communications, then it is possible there would be other members of the board who do not know of the lobbyist status of the individual speaking.
- 3) **Lack of training.** We do not receive training on identifying or looking up lobbyist activities in the city through the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. We believe the legal onus should be on the lobbyist to be as upfront and straightforward with the board as possible. Additionally, the responsibility is then on the paid lobbyist rather than the volunteer Boardmember when it comes to the pursuit of this information.

In addition, the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council would like to request a similar lobbying disclosure for city council and committee meetings. This announcement could either be done by the lobbyist or by the presiding officer of the meeting in order to ensure that the public is fully aware of the associations of all speakers who are paid lobbyists. Neighborhood Council Boardmembers frequently listen to city council meetings or recordings of the meetings and we strongly feel that this minor addition would bring greater transparency to the City processes. We urge the City Council to adopt this minor change.

Lastly, the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council urges the City Council to adopt a nonprofit exemption of \$200,000 in revenue or \$500,000 in assets instead of the proposed \$2,000,000. This change aligns with the IRS tax filing system and would essentially allow any nonprofit that files a 990-N or 990-EZ to gain exemption. This change also reflects the current San Francisco ethics ordinance. The current recommendation of \$2 million in revenue is far too high and would exempt the vast majority of nonprofits in Southern California. Only 16% of Southern California nonprofits have revenues above \$1 million, so an exemption set at twice



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that amount would have a grave effect on transparency.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Lynn

President
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

President@oronc.org