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Honorable Nury Martinez
President, Los Angeles City Council
Chair, Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Re: SUPPORT for Council File 22-0560 (Municipal Lobbying Ordinance)

Dear President Martinez,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners ("Board"), which held a regular meeting and approved this letter on July 5th, 2022. We had heard from several stakeholders and neighborhood councils requesting stronger lobbying disclosure and notice, and this is why we discussed and voted to approve this letter.

We write to the Council as you consider various amendments to the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance, Council File 22-0560. One section pertains to Neighborhood Councils and would add verbal communications to the existing disclosure requirements. The Board supports these amendments to the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance with our Board's additions, suggested changes in red, as we believe transparency and disclosure is a necessity for the work of Neighborhood Councils.

The proposed amendment wording is as follows:

Proposed Section 48.11. Lobbying Disclosure – Communications to Neighborhood Councils

A. When a lobbying entity communicates, either personally or through an agent, with a Neighborhood Council, **Neighborhood Council Committee**, or a Neighborhood Council member on behalf of a client **or clients**, the lobbying entity shall disclose or ensure the disclosure of its status as a lobbying entity and the identity of its client **or clients**.

B. For verbal communications, the disclosure shall be spoken at the beginning of the communication. For written communications, the disclosure shall be printed clearly, legibly and conspicuously.

The City Council should also consider a similar disclosure requirement for lobbyists' communications to the City Council and City Council Committees, as the public also has a right to know if someone calling in to a City Council or City Council Committee meeting (or offering written public comment) is a lobbyist and for whom they represent.

We look forward to working with the City Council on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. Lipman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

President
Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC)
commissionerlipmen@gmail.com