

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: PICO Neighborhood Council

Name: Brad Kane

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(19) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 08/10/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

Impact Information

Date: 09/14/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-0560

Agenda Date: 08/10/2022

Item Number: 12(c)

Summary: Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 To: Los Angeles City Council Re: Council File # 22-0560 Municipal Lobbying Ordinance Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council, The PICO Neighborhood Council ("NC") supports the changes to the municipal lobbying ordinance ("MLO") regarding neighborhood councils with minor changes to the draft MLO that will benefit transparency. Under section 48.08.8 of the current lobbying ordinance, a lobbyist disclosure is only required for written communications to NCs. Given the move to Zoom meetings, the ordinance's lobbyist disclosure requirement should also apply to an oral presentation and/or public comment to an NC. Under AB 361, NCs are prohibited from requiring "speaker cards," which is traditionally where lobbying disclosures are made. While the PICO NC can request lobbyist disclosures, the PICO NC has no enforcement mechanism. The lack of an enforceable oral lobbyist disclosure requirement leaves many NC board members at an information disadvantage and that it should be addressed for the following reasons: 1) Transparency. Every board member has the right to know if a speaker compensated for speaking on an item. 2) Diffusion of responsibility. Even if a lobbyist sends a correct written disclosure either via mail or email, these communications do not go to every board member of the board. Further, the responsibility to disclose should be on the paid lobbyist rather than put on the volunteer board members to find it themselves. 3) Lack of training. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment ("DONE") does not provide training on identifying or looking up lobbyist activities in the city through. The onus should be on the lobbyist to be as upfront and straightforward with the board and orally advise the board of their lobbyist status whenever they present or provide oral comment.



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Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2022

To: Los Angeles City Council

Re: Council File # 22-0560
Municipal Lobbying Ordinance

Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

The PICO Neighborhood Council ("NC") supports the changes to the municipal lobbying ordinance ("MLO") regarding neighborhood councils with minor changes to the draft MLO that will benefit transparency.

Under section 48.08.8 of the current lobbying ordinance, a lobbyist disclosure is only required for written communication to NCs. Given the move to Zoom meetings, *the ordinance's lobbyist disclosure requirement should also apply to an oral presentation and/or public comment to an NC.*

Under AB 361, NCs are prohibited from requiring "speaker cards," which is traditionally where lobbying disclosures are made. While the PICO NC can request lobbyist disclosures, the PICO NC has no enforcement mechanism. The lack of an enforceable oral lobbyist disclosure requirement leaves many NC board members at an information disadvantage and that it should be addressed for the following reasons:

- 1) Transparency. Every board member has the right to know if a speaker compensated for speaking on an item.
- 2) Diffusion of responsibility. Even if a lobbyist sends a correct written disclosure either via mail or email, these communications do not go to every board member of the board. Further, the responsibility to disclose should be on the paid lobbyist rather than put on the volunteer board members to find it themselves.
- 3) Lack of training. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment ("DONE") does not provide training on identifying or looking up lobbyist activities in the city through. The onus should be on the lobbyist to be as upfront and straightforward with the board and orally advise the board of their lobbyist status whenever they present or provide oral comment.

In addition, the PICO NC requests 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 paid lobbyist speakers. NC board members frequently listen to City Council Meetings or recordings of those meetings. This minor addition would bring greater transparency to City processes. The PICO NC urges the City Council to adopt this minor change.

Finally, the PICO NC 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 is critical given the proliferation of non-profits receiving City funds to provide services within the City. This change tracks the San Francisco ethics ordinance and aligns with the IRS tax filing system and would essentially allow any nonprofit that files a 990-N or 990-EZ to gain exemption. In sum, 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 that amount would have a grave effect on transparency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad S. Kane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brad S. Kane
President