

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 22-1146
Comments for Public Posting: At the same time as you address the posting issue in this CF, could you please address other issues with the CIS system. Specifically: the problem with the way the portal is set up so that Neighborhood Councils can't find an appropriate way to communicate any nuanced opinion. Yes or no, support or oppose, are NOT the only answers. Furthermore, the fact that the committee and/or the City sometimes amends the language of the Council File so what was filing in opposition is changed without the Neighborhood Council's knowledge to support which is then used to ram through motions that are diametrically opposed to what the neighborhoods want. An example of this was CF 11-1705 where multiple Neighborhood Councils opposed any expansion of billboards, specifically supporting that option which was then removed and those Neighborhood Councils support for no proliferation was egregiously used by the City Council to support expansion. Even when language is not changed, due to the constraints of the filing system, the intent of a CIS as filed is at times misinterpreted by the City Clerk and City Council. Often a Neighborhood Council drafts a letter of opposition and votes to support this opposition and the City Clerk and City Council choose to read it as support for the motion the Neighborhood Council so strongly opposed. This must be changed and a better system for grassroots input be developed to ensure these issues do not happen again and the views of each and every Neighborhood Council is communicated clearly to the relevant committees and the full City Council. Don't blame the Neighborhood Council board members, the onus must be on the City to provide a better system.