

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Hi, my name is Dean Nakanishi, I live in council district 10, and I'm writing alongside AAPI Equity Alliance, in solidarity with our coalition partners at OUR LA calling for racial equity as we re-envision aspects of our city's charter. We can't have racial equity without considering the AAPI community. APIs make up 12% of the city population, and we are rapidly growing as a community. But remaining at 15 seats, there are no districts in which APIs make up more than 25% of the voters, thus making it very difficult to elect candidates who come from our community. We have worked with OUR LA and Fair Rep LA to study modeling that shows that expanding the council to a range of 23-31 would begin to achieve this goal. As an active member of the vibrant AAPI community here in the City of Los Angeles, I find myself resonating deeply with the call for change articulated by the group of community leaders and organizations advocating for crucial reforms to the City Charter. It's not just about policy adjustments; it's about rebuilding the very foundation of trust and representation that our diverse communities deserve. Our neighborhoods are more than just geographical areas on a map; they are the vibrant tapestry of cultures, stories, and dreams woven together by families who have made Los Angeles their home. However, the recent challenges and controversies that have enveloped the City Council have left many of us questioning whether our voices truly matter in the corridors of power. The scandals that have come to light, the investigations into personal gains, and the unsettling evidence of racism during the redistricting process have cast a shadow of doubt over the integrity of our local government. As a proud member of the AAPI community, these issues hit particularly close to home. We've weathered the storms of COVID-19 and faced the distressing surge in anti-AAPI sentiment that has shaken our sense of safety and belonging. Throughout these trials, our city government's response has felt insufficient, leaving us grappling with the stark reality that our needs, concerns, and aspirations are not being adequately heard. Let us embrace this opportunity to rebuild trust, to amplify our voices, and to pave the way for a city government that truly reflects the mosaic of cultures that call Los Angeles home. I stand with this initiative, not just as a concerned community member, but as an individual who believes in the

transformative power of collective action and the resilience of our communities. Again, please pass independent redistricting and increase council size to between 23-31 seats to create a more equitable and representative LA.