

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

Arleta Neighborhood Council

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ARLETA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Attention: Arleta NC
9300 Laurel Cyn.Bl., 2nd Floor
Arleta, CA 91331
www.arletanc.org

ARLETA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Community Impact Statement

September 21, 2021

RE: *Council File 21-0407*

Dear Councilmembers:

We write to you to inform that the Arleta Neighborhood Council **opposes** the Motion (CF: 21-0407) and the Report of the Arts, Parks, Health, Education and Neighborhood Council Committee regarding Neighborhood Council election rules and systems.

The Charter of the City of Los Angeles¹ states in Section 904, subparagraph (f):

The Regulations **shall not restrict** the method by which the members of a neighborhood council are chosen, if the process otherwise satisfies the requirements of this Article.

Standardization of neighborhood council (NC) elections is of concern as each community within the City of Los Angeles is as diverse and unique as the opinions and speech that comes from each of the millions of Angelenos—thus requiring diverse sets of processes to ensure that stakeholders who live, work, or own real property within a given community are able to protect their property and community from outside influences and decisions whether they be from government bodies or private enterprises with interests that do not reflect those of the given community and its stakeholders.

Furthermore, the Desired Characteristics of Neighborhood Councils, in Article II, section 4, of the Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils (PLAN)² states that:

Certified Neighborhood Councils shall be as independent, self-governing, and self-directed as possible. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) shall assist Certified Neighborhood Councils to pursue options, including, but not limited to tax-exempt status and/or non-profit incorporation, to strengthen their independence.

¹ https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/los_angeles/latest/laac/0-0-0-3785#JD_Ch904.

² https://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Plan_Amended_12-18-131.pdf

APPROVED

September 21, 2021

10 Yea 0 No 1 Absent 2 Abstain

Should NC voter identification be eliminated it will allow for the imposition of fake-stakeholders to take over a community's neighborhood council—that in itself is voter suppression and unconstitutional. The Motion itself is cynical in nature as it pretends to preserve democracy and root out voter suppression when in fact it will allow for the complete opposite to take place. The State of California allows for a driver's license, last 4 numbers of a Social Security number, and the address where the applicant lives as requirements in order to be able to register to vote.³ Neighborhood Council elections must not be subjected to reduced identification requirements and particularly given that the Motion's content does not include reduced identification requirements when it comes to electing City Council members, Mayor, City Attorney, and the Controller in the 15 council districts.

Given the preponderance of the evidence, the Motion to standardize Neighborhood Council elections and rules grossly impacts Arleta and all communities in the City of Los Angeles. The Arleta Neighborhood Council opposes this Motion and violation attempt of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles.

³ <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/pdfs/quick-guide-vrc.pdf>