



March 30, 2018

Los Angeles Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC)  
City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

*Subject: Westwood NC pending Subdivision – request to stay*

Dear Board of Neighborhood Commissioners,

At its March meeting, the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) voted unanimously (with one abstention) to oppose the subdivision of the Westwood Neighborhood Council.

As time is of the essence regarding this matter, and the issue represents an exigent circumstance with insufficient time for member Councils to present the matter to their respective councils, the WRAC board resolved to recommend an immediate halt in the process of certifying a new Neighborhood Council for the Westwood community. We ask for this stay to remain in place until the BONC has completed its pending review of the process for subdividing a Neighborhood Council.

We understand the BONC review of the NC subdivision process was triggered by two recent NC subdivisions, one successful and one unsuccessful. The information gleaned from both subdivisions validates the need for a new and better ordinance. Accordingly, we urge a stay in this particularly controversial subdivision, until a new ordinance is in place. This will avoid the risk of the subdivision later being challenged or annulled because of the perception it resulted from a flawed or rushed process.

WRAC has an interest in the outcome of this subdivision because, if ratified, the proposed new NC would become a WRAC member. A tainted process may harm the relationship between the new NC and current WRAC member Councils, and this would negatively impact the efficacy of WRAC. It would also undermine faith in both BONC and DONE. It is critical that WRAC

Member Councils: Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, Brentwood Community Council, Del Rey Neighborhood Council, Mar Vista Community Council, Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa, Pacific Palisades Community Council, Palms Neighborhood Council, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council, Venice Neighborhood Council, West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council, Westside Neighborhood Council, Westwood Community Council, Westwood Neighborhood Council

members work collaboratively together without being hampered by a bitter battle rooted in misgivings over the subdivision process, and we believe the process - as it has unfolded thus far - threatens to do just that.

Similarly, we believe it to be critically important that each WRAC member council have effective leadership. We are concerned that a Neighborhood Council anchored in the student community would not provide the stable leadership the Westwood community deserves and needs. Given the cyclical nature of student life and the high turnover rate of the student population, a student dominated NC is problematic, especially when many major policy initiatives at the City level span multiple years.

In addition, we are distressed that the proposed subdivision map eliminates an entire residential community from the existing Westwood NC by assigning it to the new NC without any reasonable due process. Standards for outreach that govern the formation of any new NC have also been compromised by the addition of business voices who are new to the process and may be motivated to couple their interests with that of the students in order to create a new NC which they can dominate.

Given the foregoing, we ask that you please stay this subdivision until your review of the current subdivision ordinance is complete and a revised ordinance is adopted following a process that includes community input and public comment. This will enable BONC to develop a better ordinance. It is our position that it would be a grave mistake to push this controversial subdivision through before a revised ordinance can be adopted.

Best,

Maryam Zar, J.D.

WRAC Vice-Chair

*(Presiding Officer acting in the absence of the Chair)*