



September 24, 2021

Board of Neighborhood Commissioners  
City of Los Angeles

**OBJECTION BY BEL AIR BEVERLY CREST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL TO AN  
ADDITIONAL ‘CODE OF CONDUCT’ PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT**

The Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council hereby objects to the proposed DONE Code of Conduct because:

1. This proposed Code of Conduct invests disciplinary authority in an unelected City bureaucrat rather than in the authority of the Presidents of the respective Neighborhood Council Boards, duly elected by the citizens of the community. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment has no legal authority over the proceedings of Neighborhood Council except as in an advisory, educational, administrative, or training position.
2. This proposed scheme does not solve the problem it purports to solve. Stakeholders are citizens of the community. To require a Stakeholder to agree to any Code of Conduct as a condition of being allowed to express an opinion or make a comment flies in the face of any form of democracy. Accordingly, if a Stakeholder cannot be held to this proposed agreement, but the Board members can be, the proposed agreement does not have equal impact on both parties and will not resolve any conflicts between Stakeholders and a Board.
3. The proposed Code of Conduct is redundant. Board members have already pledged themselves to follow the City of Los Angeles Workplace Equity Policy. Any further Code of Conduct will require more of Neighborhood Councils than any other City agency, even though the purpose of

**OFFICERS**

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**Travis Longcore, Ph.D.**  
Vice President – Operations  
**Robin Greenberg**  
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**Nicole Miner**  
Treasurer  
**Vadim Levotman**

**COMMITTEES/CHAIRS**

Executive – **Travis Longcore, Ph.D.**  
Planning and Land Use – **R. Schlesinger & S. Savage**  
Bylaws, Rules and Elections – **Cathy Wayne**  
Emergency Preparedness –  
Outreach – **Robin Greenberg**  
Traffic Committee – **Irene Sandler**  
Public Works and Telecommunications –  
Budget and Finance – **Nicole Miner**  
Neighborhood Purpose Grant – **André Stojka**

**STAKEHOLDER GROUPS**

Bel Air Association  
Bel-Air Crest Master Association  
Bel Air Hills Association  
Bel Air Ridge Association  
Benedict Canyon Association  
Casiano Estates Association  
Doheny-Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Assn.  
Holmby Hills Homeowners Association  
Laurel Canyon Association  
Residents of Beverly Glen

**RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS**

Bel Air District  
Bel Air Glen District  
Franklin-Coldwater District  
North of Sunset District

**NON-RESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATION**

At-Large Members  
Commercial or Office Enterprise Districts  
Custodians of Open Space  
Faith-Based Institutions  
Public Schools & Private Schools

the Neighborhood Council is to be independent of the City so as to be able to independently advise their City Council Member.

4. By its own admission, DONE has evolved this proposed flawed policy without the input of independent Neighborhood Councils, relying only commissioners and committees. In short, DONE has eliminated from the development process the Neighborhood Councils who are on the frontlines and who can provide firsthand practical rather than theoretical advice.
5. If the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment wishes to place itself in a protective position at Neighborhood Council meetings, it must be at the invitation of each individual Neighborhood Council President and DONE should not be able to assert itself without invitation.
6. The proposed Code of Conduct may be easily construed by some persons as an attempt by DONE to control what takes place during Neighborhood Council meetings – an overreach by City officials that would damage the integrity of the Neighborhood Council System.
7. If DONE wishes to assist Neighborhood Councils from unruly stakeholders, protection should include Police Department support in case of violence and lessons in conflict resolution.

For these reasons, the Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council objects to this imposition and interference with its mandated independence.

This position was adopted at the regular meeting of the Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council on September 22, 2021 with a quorum of members present and voting unanimously in the affirmative.

Sincerely,



Travis Longcore, Ph.D., President  
Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council  
[tlongcore@babenc.org](mailto:tlongcore@babenc.org)