

Declaration of Neighborhood Council Rights

Whereas, the people of the City of Los Angeles enacted, in the charter of 1999, a system of Neighborhood Councils, whose missions are “to promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs” and,

Whereas, in order to fulfill these missions, Neighborhood Councils must be empowered to operate as independently as possible of the City’s officials, departments, and agencies and not subject to undue influence or control by those officials, departments, and agencies,

Therefore, the Neighborhood Councils of the City of Los Angeles declare:

Neighborhood Councils’ Boardmembers are elected officials of the City of Los Angeles.

The method by which Boardmembers are chosen shall be determined solely by the Bylaws of each Neighborhood Council.

The sole authority to censure, suspend, remove, or otherwise discipline a Boardmember is vested in the Neighborhood Council of which that individual is a Boardmember.

Each Board shall determine the composition of its Bylaws and no other agency or commission of the City, with the exception of Board composition and boundaries of the Neighborhood Council, may alter or amend those Bylaws following initial Council certification and approval by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

No official or agency of the City of Los Angeles may delay or otherwise impede the action of a Neighborhood Council to amend its Bylaws or rules.

Neighborhood Councils shall be meaningfully consulted prior to the appointment of individuals to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners and the appointment of any individual as the general manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

June 3, 2023