



Northridge West Neighborhood Council

September 9, 2024

Los Angeles City Council and its Committees

No to CF 24-0867: Neighborhood Council Bylaws / Youth Participation / Diversity Increase / Leadership Growth

Position: For – **CF 24-0867: Neighborhood Council Bylaws / Youth Participation / Diversity Increase / Leadership Growth**

To City Council,

The **Northridge West Neighborhood Council** wishes to formally express our opposition to the proposed motion to amend NC bylaws to enforce term limits on neighborhood council members and mandate the inclusion of a designated youth board member seat as written in Council File CF 24-0867.

While we recognize the intentions behind these proposed changes—such as promoting new perspectives and ensuring youth representation—we firmly believe that these amendments could have unintended negative consequences for our community and the effective functioning of our council. The Los Angeles City Charter (Article IX, Sec. 906) guarantees neighborhood councils the ability to select a board that represents the diverse interests within their area. Additionally, Article III, Section 2(b)(ii) of the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils establishes that neighborhood councils have the authority to determine their own term lengths and to implement term limits at their discretion.

Our opposition is based on the following key concerns:

1. **Impact on Continuity and Experience:** Imposing term limits could undermine the continuity and depth of experience that our council members bring to the board. Neighborhood councils, made up of volunteers, often tackle complex issues that require a nuanced understanding of longstanding community concerns and institutional knowledge. Term limits might lead to a loss of valuable expertise, harm retention efforts, and hinder our neighborhood council's ability to address long-term projects and build on past successes. Effective governance often depends on the stability and accumulated experience of its members, and imposed term limits can



lead to frequent turnover, and create gaps in leadership that can diminish the effectiveness of our neighborhood council.

2. **Challenges in Youth Representation:** While we wholeheartedly support the involvement of youth in our community and make board member seats available to youth candidates, mandating a specific youth seat on the board will present challenges in finding a suitable candidate who is both willing and able to meet the responsibilities of the position. The added impact of not being able to fill a mandated youth board member seat can present challenges to the board when attempting to meet quorum.

We strongly urge the City Council to reconsider the motion as presented in Council File CF 24-0867.

Respectfully,

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President
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