



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

July 13, 2015

Honorable Members, Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations Committee; Education & Neighborhoods Committee: Councilmembers Wesson, Huizar, LaBonge, Krekorian, Martinez, O'Farrell (via email)

Re: Council File 15-0389 – pending in the above Committees

Dear Councilmembers:

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) urges you to include PPCC on the same basis as neighborhood councils and neighborhood council alliances in being afforded additional time or other preferential treatment to speak before the City Council and City agencies, as proposed in the above-referenced Council File.

As you know, the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) supports affording PPCC, along with Brentwood Community Council (BCC) and Westwood Community Council (WWCC), additional time to speak before City agencies. http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2015/15-0389_misc_6-17-2015.pdf. WRAC's position was noted in the June 25, 2015 report from the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment. http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2015/15-0389_rpt_DONE_06-25-2015.pdf.

As stated in Councilmember Bonin's motion in CF 13-1625 -- unanimously approved by the City Council on March 19, 2014:

“[PPCC and BCC] provide a vital service to the City and they should be provided with the same level of notification offered to certified neighborhood councils on issues impacting the City . . . **[T]heir role as advisory bodies to local government on issues specific to their communities is identical to that of a certified neighborhood council . . . They provide the same crucial function in vetting community issues and providing a respected and open forum for evaluating development proposals and land use matters.**” [Emphasis added.]

PPCC has elected not to receive funding from the City (taxpayer money) for its operations and for this reason is ineligible to be listed as a “certified neighborhood council.” In all other respects, PPCC serves the same function as neighborhood councils and compares favorably with – and in some cases even surpasses -- other councils and council alliances in terms of longevity, openness, inclusiveness, leadership and advocacy. More specifically:

- PPCC was formed in 1973 and to the best of our knowledge is the oldest continuously operating council of its type in Los Angeles.
- PPCC supported the Charter movement and formation of neighborhood councils in the late 1990s/early 2000s; PPCC was the model for many neighborhood councils in Los Angeles and language from its bylaws is included in several other councils' bylaws.
- PPCC holds open, public board meetings twice a month for 8 months each year and once a month for the remaining 4 months, with the agenda distributed 3 days in advance of each meeting – more than any other council in Los Angeles; in contrast, some neighborhood councils meet only every

other month and some council alliances (unlike WRAC) do not have bylaws, regular open meetings or even neighborhood council representation or membership.

- PPCC holds open elections for 9 board seats – area and at-large representatives who represent all residential areas of Pacific Palisades; in contrast, there are neighborhood councils with *fewer than 3 elected seats* and some council alliances appear to have no elected positions.
- PPCC maintains a close working relationship with our Council office (Council District 11 – Mike Bonin) and serves as liaison for Pacific Palisades with the City Council as well as with other City agencies (including the Mayor’s office, the City Attorney, LAPD, LAFD, and the Planning, Building & Safety and Recreation & Parks Depts.) on significant issues of community concern.
- PPCC also maintains strong relationships with our federal, state and county representatives, including U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu, State Senator Ben Allen, State Assemblymember Richard Bloom and County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl.
- PPCC is a valued and equal member of WRAC and participates on the same basis as the other 12 member councils.
- PPCC board members and officers have been leaders Citywide on several important legislative matters, including cell tower regulation (most recently the AGF Ordinance revision and Assembly Bill 57); the Community Care Facilities Ordinance (regulation of group homes in residential zones); the Murals Ordinance; the Sign Ordinance; and other significant planning legislation, including the Core Findings Ordinance.
- PPCC board members and officers have served on neighborhood council alliances as well as other important coalitions and committees (municipal as well as regional), including PlanCheckNCLA (where until recently I served on the Steering Committee), the NC Budget Advocates, the PCH Task Force (which includes representatives of various city, county and state agencies), the Proposition K (Parks for Kids) Regional Volunteer Oversight Committee and the Los Angeles Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Working Group (coalition of community leaders Citywide formed in 2010 at the request of the City Attorney).

For all of these reasons, PPCC respectfully requests that you include PPCC on the same basis as neighborhood councils and neighborhood council alliances in connection with the proposal in CF 15-0389 to afford additional time or other preferential treatment to speak before the City Council or City agencies.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christina Spitz
President, Pacific Palisades Community Council

cc (via email):

Councilmembers Mike Bonin and Paul Koretz
Grayce Liu, General Manager, Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment
Board of Neighborhood Council Commissioners
Mike Newhouse, Chair, WRAC
Larry Watts, Chair, Brentwood Community Council
Steve Sann, Chair, Westwood Community Council
Legislative Assistants Erika Pulst and Eric Villanueva (with request for filing in CF 15-0389)