

MOTION RULES & ELECTIONS

There are 86 Neighborhood Councils in the City of Los Angeles. These Neighborhood Councils have become a dynamic part of the City Family as they participate in many of the vital policy considerations made by the City Council, playing a dramatic roll in particular to issues that impact their immediate areas. Disseminating information between the City Council and the Neighborhood Councils is an important part of maintaining their impact on policy.

Some Neighborhood Councils have found it to be an additional challenge to maintain these avenues of communication by virtue of being divided between a number of Council Districts. Unintended confusion about boundaries, duplicating efforts, and other extra responsibilities are placed upon Neighborhood Councils that are divided between Council Districts.

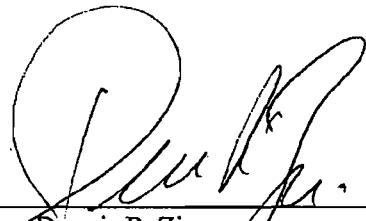
While 39 of the 86 Neighborhood Councils are fully included within a single Council District; 35 Neighborhood Councils are divided between two Council Districts; and 12 Neighborhood Councils are actually divided between three Council Districts.

At the time that the independent citizens redistricting commission convened after the 2000 Census, Neighborhood Councils were still in the formation process. The boundaries of the 86 Neighborhood Councils could not be considered as the commission worked to craft new City Council Districts.

The City Charter specifies that districts boundaries are to keep neighborhoods and communities intact, to follow natural boundaries, and to create districts that are geographically compact. Maintaining the integrity of complete Neighborhood Councils within a single Council District should be a priority to implement the intent of the Charter.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council DIRECT the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to conduct a survey of the Neighborhood Councils to determine if they believe they would benefit by being wholly included within a single Council District.

I FURTHER MOVE that the results of this survey be presented to the Council for the purpose of determining a policy recommendation to be made to the independent citizens redistricting commission that would significantly reduce the number of Neighborhood Councils that are divided between Council Districts after the next Census in 2010.

PRESENTED BY: 
Dennis P. Zine
Councilmember, Third District

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SECONDED BY: 