

# MOTION

## EDUCATION & NEIGHBORHOODS

After the adoption of the new City Charter established the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), it accomplished an almost unimaginable feat of administering the creation of over 80 Neighborhood Councils throughout Los Angeles.

On May 20, 2005, the City Council adopted a resolution amending the Plan For the Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils (Plan) to add provisions regarding neighborhood council election procedures and an ordinance to codify such procedures into the Los Angeles Administrative Code.

Unfortunately, since that time DONE, for a variety of reasons, has been unable to provide consistent, timely approval for individual neighborhood council election procedures in accordance with the Plan as adopted by the Council. DONE has taken actions to defer many elections for months. In the interim, neighborhood councils are forced to be out of compliance with their own charters. Further, neighborhood councils have taken on the effort and expense of widely publicizing the elections to encourage the broadest participation possible in the planned neighborhood council elections.

It was not the Council's intent that its May 20, 2005 action would cause the confusion and delay of neighborhood council elections that are largely the result of untimely implementation of the approved election procedures by DONE. Neighborhood Councils have been forced to keep current board members in place and has denied access to new candidates. This situation has the potential to create a chilling effect on the volunteer participation necessary to make Neighborhood Councils successful.

Questions remain regarding the number of available, properly trained, Independent Election Auditors and DONE staff to provide adequate, timely review and implementation of the new election procedures. Rather than impose limbo upon the existing Neighborhood Councils, it is in the best interest of all parties to issue a moratorium on the adopted citywide election procedures until which time as the Department can demonstrate to the Council that they are capable to fully implement them.


I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council suspend implementation of its May 20, 2005 action, relative to amending the Plan For the Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils to add provisions regarding neighborhood council election procedures to permit all certified neighborhood councils and those seeking certification to conduct regularly scheduled elections without delay.

I FURTHER MOVE that DONE be requested to take any actions necessary to implement the intent of this Motion and to assist neighborhood councils conduct their elections as provided in their bylaws until which time the Department can provide citywide implementation of the election procedures adopted by the City Council in May 2005.

PRESENTED BY

  
DENNIS P. ZINE

Councilmember, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

  
JUN 21 2006

SECONDED BY



04-1935