

JAN 19 2007

EDUCATION & NEIGHBORHOODS

MOTION

It has been reported that the April, 2007 Congress of Neighborhoods could cost the City as much as \$80,000, a huge increase over the reported \$50,000 for last year's Congress as well as over any other Congress of Neighborhoods planned and presented by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

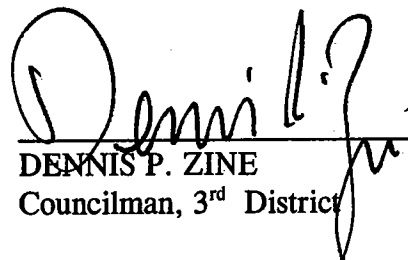
The costs for this year's Congress of Neighborhoods includes a contract with the Westin Bonaventure Hotel, where the April 21 event is to take place, in the amount of \$69,500 for food and two complimentary rooms. Additional costs are anticipated for parking, other rooms, costs related to the Mayor's participation and a number of ancillary expenses that could raise the total cost to over the \$80,000.

With the anticipated attendance of 350 to 500 Neighborhood Council representatives to this Congress, the cost would be over \$150 per Neighborhood Council participant.

The dramatic cost increase for this year's Congress of Neighborhoods, despite the City's prior efforts to keep costs down, raises legitimate questions as to the justification for such an exceptional increase and why the costs cannot be kept down through such means as using alternate, less costly facilities such as City-owned locations.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment be directed to report on the exceptional increase in costs for this year's Congress of Neighborhoods and to provide justification for the need to utilize commercial accommodations for the Congress instead of a city-owned facility.

PRESENTED BY:


DENNIS P. ZINE
Councilman, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:



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