



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **ALARCÓN INTRODUCES MOTION TO DEFER UP TO \$4 MILLION BY DELAYING NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND TO GIVE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS “CREDIT” TO USE FOR CITY SERVICES**

**Los Angeles, CA** – In response to proposals to dramatically cut the budget for Neighborhood Councils, today, Los Angeles City Councilmember Richard Alarcón introduced a motion instructing the City Administrative Office (CAO) and Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to report on the feasibility having the Neighborhood Council budgets include both a cash allocation as well as discretionary “credit” for city services, to not exceed \$50,000 per Neighborhood Council. These services could include sidewalk repair, tree trimming, street cleaning or other services that are provided by the city, but which are not currently scheduled to occur in the area targeted by the Neighborhood Council. This would allow Neighborhood Council to use their “city credit” to have these services provided at their specific request, but would also reduce the allocation of funds to Neighborhood Councils from the City’s General Fund.

Additionally, the motion that Councilmember Alarcón introduced today instructs the City Clerk to delay the FY 2009-2010 Neighborhood Council election process from March 2010 to after July 1, 2010, thereby deferring up to \$4 million in the FY 2009-2010 budget.

“Even during these tough budget times, we need to continue to support the Neighborhood Council system and ensure they have the resources to continue to improve their communities and bring concrete services to their area,” said Councilmember Alarcón. “My motion allows for us to save General Fund dollars by providing “service credit” rather than only cash allocations, calls on us to find new ways to reduce the cost the Neighborhood Council elections and will save the City several million dollars in our next budget by delaying elections by just a few months.”

In the motion, Councilmember Alarcón instructs the CAO and CLA to present a report to on the feasibility of Neighborhood Councils receiving city credit in addition to cash allocations to the Education and Neighborhoods Committee during a special meeting that he has scheduled for this coming Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 9:00 AM in Room 1010.

Councilmember Alarcón has been a long-time supporter of the Neighborhood Council system, beginning in the 1990s when, as a City Councilmember, he supported the creation of Neighborhood Councils through the proposed charter change. As Chair of the City Council’s Education and Neighborhoods Committee, Councilmember Alarcón pushed to expedite the charter-mandated Neighborhood Council review, and push to implement many of the 73 recommendations, including having the City Clerk coordinate Neighborhood Council elections, refining the definition of stakeholder, pushing for the creation a Neighborhood Council File system and other policies that reduce the bureaucracy of the Neighborhood Council system to streamline the opportunity for Neighborhood Councils to create positive change in their communities.