



an insider look at city hall

CITYWATCH EXTRA

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Just Out: Padilla's Draft Plan for 912 Commission Gives Neighborhood Councils Role in Appointments

Plan to be finalized on Tuesday but draft gives NCs seven recommendations

By Ken Draper

The just-released Draft Plan for the so-called 912 Commission fulfills the visions of Alex Padilla ... and most Neighborhood Councils ... by giving NCs representation on the Charter-mandated review panel.

See complete Discussion Draft beginning on Page 2.

The Education and Neighborhoods Committee will meet tomorrow (April 11) to deliberate and finalize the proposal. It must then be approved by the City Council with that hearing scheduled for April 21.

Proposal Highlights

- In addition to allowing Neighborhood Councils to provide seven "recommendations," that would then be appointed by the Mayor, the proposal calls for five appointees by the Mayor, four by the City Council President and three by the City Council President Pro Tem, creating a commission of 19 members.
- The panel will be called "The Neighborhood Council Review Commission."
- The Commission's term would be one year, with the possibility of a 90 day extension.
- The Scope of Review is wide-ranging and not overly specific, but does include examination of stakeholder definition, NC outreach, funding and the effectiveness of the city as it relates to Neighborhood Councils.

See Page 2 for complete Draft Plan

CityWatch Today—The Charter, as Neighborhood Councils across the City know by now, requires the Mayor and the City Council to appoint a Commission this year to review the LA NC system. Neighborhood Councils have been urging the Education and Neighborhoods Committee to include them in the process. Under the leadership of E & N Chair, Alex Padilla, it would appear that those NC appeals have been heard.

This special CityWatch report brings you the Draft Plan for the Review Commission.

--Editor

E & N meets tomorrow, Tuesday at 9 a.m. at City Hall (Rm 1060)

NEXT CITYWATCH

- **NC Review Commission-Final Proposal**
- **NC Leader Proposes Boycott of June Congress of Neighborhoods**
- **DWP Water Rate Increases-Where and How NCs can weigh in**
- **Is the Mayor Trying to Shutdown Neighborhood Councils?**
- **NC Council File Number Proposal Looks Like It's Headed to City Council –finally.**

**CityWatch
Wednesday, April 12**

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Discussion Draft

as submitted by Councilmember Alex Padilla
April 10, 2006

The Los Angeles City Charter Section 912 provides that the Mayor and Council appoint a commission to evaluate the Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils no later than seven (7) years after the adoption of the Charter on July 1, 2000.

To date, a total of 88 neighborhood councils have been organized and certified citywide. This Chartermandated review provides the opportunity to take a step back, admire our accomplishments and to learn from them as well as develop ways in which to move forward.

The City of Los Angeles hereby will establish the Charter-mandated commission and give it the title of "The Neighborhood Council Review Commission."

This Commission will serve to evaluate the Citywide system of neighborhood councils.

Below is a listing of details such as the Commission's scope of work, meeting requirements, composition and funding descriptions.

1) Title: The established commission shall be titled the Neighborhood Council Review Commission

2) Meeting Requirements:

A) The Commission shall meet for a total of 12 months. If it is deemed that additional time is necessary, the commission shall seek an extension, up to 3 months, from the City Council.

B) The Commission an initial report, with recommendations, to the City Council, after the Commission's first 6 months of meetings, with a final report and recommendations to be submitted at the end of the 12 month period.

C) The Commission shall, during this one year time-frame, report at least twice to the City Council, with an initial report after the first 6 months, and a final report following 12 months of work.

D) The Commission shall set its meeting schedule in the best interest of the public, in order to gain maximum public input

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a) The Commission is encouraged to hold its meetings on a consistent day to allow members of the public to plan ahead in order to attend those meetings. It is encouraged to hold its meetings (i.e. 4:00 p.m. to 7:00p.m.) as to allow members of the general public to attend.

b) The Commission shall make every effort to hold as many special meetings as possible (e.g., on weekends) in order to maximize public attendance and comments from the public.

E) The Commission meetings shall be public and comply with all aspects and requirements of the Brown Act.

F) The Commission meetings shall be filmed and televised on Ch. 35/36 whenever possible.

G) The Commission is encouraged to hold at least one meeting within each of the City's seven Area Planning Commission (APC) boundary areas.

3) Scope of Review:

A) The Commission shall have a scope of review that includes an evaluation of the provisions of Article IX of the City Charter, the regulations adopted pursuant to Article IX of the Charter and the efficacy of the system of neighborhood councils.

B) The Commission should further review and comment on the original goals and objectives laid out in the original plan for a Citywide system of neighborhood

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councils, thereby reviewing any meeting minutes and documents from both the elected and appointed charter commissions.

C) The Commission may discuss, evaluate and make recommendations regarding the following issues, including but not limited to:

- a) The definition of “stakeholder”; and
- b) Outreach conducted in and around the neighborhood council community in order to make sure all people who want to participate in a neighborhood council can participate and that the neighborhood council is truly reflective of the demographic composition in the area; the Commission should address what efforts are being made to reach out to all segments of the community including the involvement of non-profit organizations and renters; and
- c) The effectiveness and enhancement of the Early Notification System; and
- d) The orientation and training process for the neighborhood council members and officers; and
- e) The current funding structure and amount of funding for each of the certified neighborhood councils; and
- f) The possibility of establishing a bonus system for the neighborhood councils if their officers successfully complete a training course; and
- g) The manner in which neighborhood council’s can, do and should work together; and
- h) The manner in which neighborhood council’s can, do and should work with their respective City Council members and their staff; and
- i) Neighborhood council funding program and budgetary issues; and
- j) The performance, success and accomplishments of neighborhood councils; and
- k) The roles and challenges of neighborhood councils; and
- l) Accountability of the neighborhood councils and governmental officials and offices; and
- m) The role, relationships and effectiveness, as relating to neighborhood councils, of the following: Department Neighborhood Empowerment (D.O.N.E.); the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (B.O.N.C); City Council offices; Office of the Mayor; all City Boards and Commissions; and
- n) The role and effectiveness of establishing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with specific or all departments; and
- o) Research and fact-finding – the Commission should use this opportunity to have presentations by other outside groups such as, USC Neighborhood Participation Project; USC Civic and Community Relations; 8th District Empowerment Congress; and City of Pasadena’s Neighborhood Connections; Neighborhoods USA; and

4) Appointment Process:

A) Composition – the Commission shall have a total of 19 members:

- a) Seven (7) members “recommended” by the Neighborhood Council Presidents serving the seven Area Planning Commission boundary areas. These names shall be “recommended” to the Mayor and Mayor will officially “appoint” them to the Commission.
- b) Five (5) members appointed by the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles.
- c) Four (4) members appointed by the President of the Los Angeles City Council.
- d) Three (3) members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Los Angeles City Council.

B) Regulations –

- a) Appointments can be accepted and made after the official posting of the ordinance.
- b) Appointments as recommended by the neighborhood councils representing the APC boundary area will be accepted and made official following the June 17, 2006 Congress of Neighborhoods convention; these names must be received on Monday, June 19, 2006 in order to be considered.
- c) If one or more of the APC boundary area neighborhood councils fails to make a recommendation to the Mayor, that appointment will default to the Mayor, but must represent that same APC boundary area.
- d) Appointing authorities are strongly encouraged, but not limited to, appoint people representing the following areas: current and past neighborhood council leaders; experts in the fields of neighborhood organizing, community organization, academia, public administration, public policy, homeowners associations, business community, non-profit sector, renters, consultants.

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- e) All appointments shall be directed to the Office of the City Clerk of Los Angeles, attention Frank Martinez.
- f) Should a vacancy occur on this Commission, that vacant position shall be filled by the same appointing authority as the initial appointing authority.
- g) The Commission members appointed by the Mayor are not subject to City Council approval process.
- h) The Commission members need not be registered voters in nor residents of the City of Los Angeles.

e) Funding:

- a) The commission may require City of L.A. City Clerk and Chief Legislative Analyst staff support services and resources for various related costs in FY 2006-07.
- b) The commission will have for its exclusive use a \$500,000 General Fund appropriation for FY 2006-07 from the Unappropriated Balance.
- c) Any future year General Fund costs would be incurred if the Commission takes more than one year to complete its review.

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