

The FAA doesn't take sides," she said. "The FAA is going to provide information to the

parking will be available through an entrance on Kittridge Street, just west of Lindley Avenue.

# City delays vote on local councils

By Rick Orlov  
Staff Writer

Complaining they were being rushed, members of the Los Angeles City Council on Friday delayed action until at least next week on what many consider the major reform of the new City Charter — creating neighborhood councils.

The council members agreed, on a 9-5 vote, to consider a measure Tuesday that would create a Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

The move would begin the council's yearlong project of developing a program to create neighborhood councils to influence city policy.

"This is a historic first step toward opening city government to the people of this city and the first legal step in implementing the public's mandate in charter reform," said Councilman Joel Wachs.

Under the new charter approved by voters in June, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is the first action the city will take to pave the way for neighborhood councils. The City Council had been studying the matter even before the charter election.

"The charter gives us 120 days, but we are prepared to move ahead now," Wachs said. "We are proposing a system as open as possible and not to keep the status quo. If what we had was enough, people wouldn't want more."

The council's Government Efficiency Committee recommended on June 29 that the Neighborhood Empowerment department be

created immediately to speed the formation of the neighborhood councils.

Wachs warned about any effort to delay the plan beyond next week.

"If we are people of good will who want to open up this system, we will approve this," Wachs said. "If we want to stonewall this, we will be sending it to committee over and over again."

The request to delay action came on behalf of Councilman Hal Bernson, who was not at the council meeting because he was serving as the city's representative at a meeting of the Air Quality Management District board.

Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg took note of the time the city was given in the charter and was reluctant to rush.

"Any time someone tells me we have to act today, the hairs on the back of my neck go up," she said, adding she wanted to see more details in the measure on the qualifications of the new director and commissioners.

She suggested that a five-person panel of experts on community organization screen potential department heads for Mayor Richard Riordan. She also wanted to ensure that the neighborhood councils represent a cross-section of the community.

Council members also were concerned about the fate of existing organizations, such as block clubs, Neighborhood Watch groups and others after the neighborhood councils are formed.

Wachs said those issues would be resolved by the new agency and its seven-member commission.

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