

# MEMORANDUM

Office of Councilman Joel Wachs

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To: Jeff Druyan  
From: Greg Nelson (213/847-3643)

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I'm still trying to gather information before the Governmental Efficiency Committee meets for the first time on the neighborhood councils motion.

One of the foremost issues is from where we can get funding to support a City Hall-based "Office of Neighborhoods" to initially help the neighborhoods organize themselves into neighborhood councils and secure official city recognition and support. And then eventually it is very likely that we'll need to continue this office at some level in order to provide the councils with continuing support.

Michael O'Malley from Councilman Ridley-Thomas' office was reviewing the Housing and Community Development's newest citizen participation plan, and wondered if funding for that effort could be diverted into the neighborhood councils effort. The reasoning makes sense. Our neighborhood councils plan is being patterned after successful plans in other cities. And those cities started their systems during the mid-'70s when the federal government was required citizen participation in the spending of block grant money. Cities like Los Angeles did the minimum. But other cities developed neighborhood councils and a first-class participation system. So what we are trying to develop is much more meaningful citizen participation system -- one which will serve as a national model for large cities.

Could we get some help from the CLA in identifying possible funding sources from this Housing and Community Development program, and determine if there are other similar sources?

Additionally, it is interesting to note that 50% of the funding that the city of Portland provides to its neighborhood councils comes from funds that their police department had been using for crime prevention. Now each district council (a middle layer between the city and the neighborhood councils) has a crime prevention specialist. Could you also help determine whether or not this might be a possibility here? The contact person is Ms. Shawn McCormick in Portland's Office of Neighborhood Associations at (503) 823-4519.