

To: Joel
From: Greg
Re: Neighborhood Councils Plan - Amended

9-21-98

Despite the fact that the Weinberger task force approved our plan 4-0, both Glushon and Weinberger expressed confusion over the two-tier concept, and the difference between neighborhood and community councils.

Based upon comments from a couple of elected commissioners, the appointed commission, the Mayor's office, and Chick's, we should try and repackage this.

It might be simpler to start with the communities that everybody already knows (Encino, North Hollywood, Van Nuys, etc.) and then let them sub-divide into neighborhoods after we get started. This was the way our plan was originally, but then we realized that there were three problems. One, we couldn't figure out how to provide the community leaders with an incentive to organize the neighborhoods. Two, remembering the golden rule that size counts, we couldn't figure out a way to involve all the stakeholder in an area that large with an ability to select their leaders, know what's going on, and participate in meetings. Three, the individual neighborhoods wouldn't have a direct role in selected the community council leaders, and you need a direct link to the grassroots if you're going to have a grassroots system.

So I rewrote the plan without changing its substance.

I eliminated any reference to community councils. That seemed to be the root of the confusion. The plan calls for the creation of neighborhood councils. The Dept of Neighborhoods will help them organize. When we're ready to go, the DON will help them cluster themselves so they can petition the city for funding, and so they can have a shared place to maintain an office, house their staff and equipment, and have meetings.

When the funding petitions are sent to the City Council, each could then explain what they want their community cluster leaders to do, and they would then form the community councils that referred to originally.

We do need to determine whether or not we want to include in our Charter language, the guarantee that any stakeholder attending an NC meeting gets to vote on the issues on the agenda.

The appointed commission meets on Wednesday, and we should give them the attached proposal which is what the Weinberger task force recommended, plus our repackaging language.