

To: Joel
From: Greg
Re: Neighborhood Councils - Elected Commission

9/28/98

The full elected commission met tonight.

Erwin announced that the full commission will take up the issues of neighborhood councils and city council size at its meeting of October 19 (Monday) at 3:30 p.m. Location has not be determned, but the best guess is DWP.

At tonight=s meeting, Gloria Romero announced that she is quitting the commission in order to devote full time to her campaign. This means that the mayor gets to appoint her replacement. MALDEF is worried that they might lose a vote on the Council size issue.

It remains to be seen what Margarite Archie-Hudson decides to do.

The Weinberger task force meets this Thursday, Oct 1 at 6 p.m. Nobody has any hopes that the task force will reach consensus on any decision-making proposal. Weinberger expects that he=ll just have to send forward whatever proposals he has to the full commission when his time runs out.

Staff realizes that none of the d-m proposals have been developed far enough to survive scrutiny by those trying to write a charter. A task force senior analyst thinks that the commission should just give up trying to develop a d-m proposal. Since the whole idea is new, he says, the proponents haven=t even realized what all the unanswered questions are.

If we=re going to present a total package that includes a decision-making system, we=re going to have to develop some plan with the detail that others have not done. We=re going to have to anticipate all the problems and answer them. If you thought it was hard to write enabling language, think of how hard it would be to write the whole plan.

After thinking about your plan to enable the Congress of Neighborhoods to place a Charter amendment on the ballot, I realized that it might come lots of serious legal questions. I saw Tony Alperin at the commission meeting, but I wasn=t able to finish asking him the questions. Basically, I=m trying to see what he thinks about the ability of the Charter to give the Congress of N=s, and non-elected, unspecified group at this point, the power to place a Charter amendment on the ballot without the City Council=s approval. This may put them in a decision-making capacity, and kick in the Voting Rights Act.