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EDUCATION & NEIGHBORHOODS
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & GENERAL SERVICES

MOTION

BUDGET & FINANCE


SEP 13 2005

Neighborhood Councils have become an integral part of the process for development of City policies and budgetary priorities. To date, nearly 100 Neighborhood Councils throughout the City meet regularly to discuss and debate proposals, and develop ideas for consideration by the City Council and Mayor. Their recommendations for addressing neighborhood concerns and improving public services offer a clear picture of the unique priorities in each of our neighborhoods. Unfortunately, there are often time- or travel-constraints that prevent participation in those debates by a greater number of neighborhood residents. The City of Los Angeles should make every effort to improve this situation, where possible.

Cost-effective technology exists to improve communication between Neighborhood Councils and neighborhood residents, which could help more residents to participate in this process. Neighborhood Council meetings could be 'webcast' over the Internet so that others may view the proceedings, discuss the issues, and become more involved in their respective communities. The Information Technology Agency already implements this technology for City Council and Committee meetings, webcasting those meetings live from City Hall. Neighborhood Councils should be given the option to use a portion of their annual allocation to purchase equipment that will allow them to webcast meetings on a recorded basis through the City's Internet connection. The ITA should develop the technical specifications and pricing for this equipment, the protocols for establishing links to these meetings through the appropriate City web pages, and any other requirements for accomplishing this important task.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Information Technology Agency, with the assistance of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, to report to the City Council within 30 days with specific recommendations that will allow Neighborhood Councils to purchase the appropriate equipment to record their meetings and 'webcast' over the City's Internet connection in an effort to move towards the City's goal of involving the greatest number of residents in the development of City policies and budgetary priorities.

PRESENTED BY: 
Janice Hahn
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY: 

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