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LYNDEN J. AND ASSOCIATES, INC. (800) 972- 3376

Los Angeles, California, Tuesday, February 11, 2003

6:30 p. m.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, I want to welcome you this evening to the

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Board of Neighborhood Commissioners for Tuesday, February 11th, 2003. We're at the Chevy Chase Recreation Center in Northern Atwater Village, and I'm joined this evening by Commissioner Ron Stone, Commissioner Jimmie Woods Gray, Commissioner Pat Herrera-Duran, and I'm Commissioner Bill Christopher.

Now, as I said earlier in my previous announcement, we will lose our quorum at 9:30, so we have three hours, basically, to work on our agenda and hopefully act on both of our applications before us tonight. So I'm going to ask everybody to cooperate with us and limit your comments to the minimum necessary and help us move through.

So having completed Item Number 1, we'll move on to Item Number 2, which is public comment. I have one card from Dan Wright, who wishes to speak on public comment this evening.

Dan, if you would like to come forward and make a very brief public comment.

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DANIEL WRIGHT: Good evening, Commissioners. I am Daniel Wright, a member of the exploratory committee for an independent Mt. Washington neighborhood council. I'm here to report on some issues concerning the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council.

As you are aware, we represent over 300

stakeholders in Mt. Washington who revoked any prior support they may have given to the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council. Instead, these concerned stakeholders supported the formation of an independent council.

These stakeholders were disappointed with the certification of the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council on October 2nd last year when it was evident there was little support for their application.

This commission attempted to provide more proportional representation by suggesting that the ASNC amend its bylaws to give Mt. Washington and Cypress Park each four instead of two board representatives.

Our neighborhood was not the only community concerned about the lack of meaningful representation on the ASNC board of representatives. On November 19th, after a

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demonstration of strong community support for independence, the community of Cypress Park was removed from the certified boundaries of the ASNC and certified by the commission as an independent neighborhood council.

With these -- with the suggested changes of the ASNC board and the removal of Cypress Park, the current ASNC board structure is out of balance. In fact, because there are still seven at-large

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seats and each of the five remaining communities have two geographical representatives each, it is now possible for a well-organized community voting as a block to capture nine of the 17 board seats.

We think that the ASNC board structure as left by the commission's changes may violate the plan requirement that no (inaudible) group be able to control a majority of seats on a governing board.

With this concern in mind, in early December the exploratory committee that I represent conducted further outreach to our stakeholders from Mt. Washington with an interactive forum. In small groups we discussed in detail what structure would best serve our community needs.

The results were as follows: A bare majority still rejected the ASNC and demanded an

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independent neighborhood council. A bare minority supported trying to work within the ASNC to revise the board structure to one that empowers all the communities. One person supported removal of Mt. Washington from all neighborhood councils.

Listening to our stakeholders, we have continued to participate in ASNC committees. In this effort to work toward consensus we have proposed this week a board structure that involves local decision-making to small, local boards in our unique neighborhoods and also brings those local

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boards together as a general ASNC board for administration and regional issues.

The general board is the governing body, and no single community or interest group could capture the majority of seats under our proposal. A copy of our proposal is there for you.

We wanted to let the commission know that we on Mt. Washington are trying in good faith to reach out and work with the contact persons for the ASNC to reach a consensus on board structure. We hope that this matter can come back before you as a consensus item to approve bylaws changes that all stakeholders can support. Only time will tell.

If this fails, our community would be

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forced to seek independence from ASNC. We hope that won't be necessary.

Thank you for your attention, and we will keep you and your staff apprised of further developments. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Thank you very much.

We do have translation equipment here this evening for those of you who are interested. We'd like to have the translators come to the microphone and make these announcements in their languages, please.

(Interpreters comply)

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COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Thank you.

Now we'll move to Item Number 3 on our agenda this evening, which is the public hearing regarding the application for neighborhood council certification submitted by the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council.

Ms. Dunn.

CLAUDIA DUNN: Claudia Dunn, assistant general manager, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

You have before you this evening Item Number 3, which is the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council Application. The Department has received

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the application, and all components of the application are complete.

We have several recommendations before you that you need to consider. The first -- actually, in the packet that you received, there were several recommendations related to the bylaws and the boundaries, and since you received your application there have been revisions -- substantial revisions to the bylaws that I'll address and that we'll clarify some recommendations that are in the staff report.

First of all, there was a recommendation related to a boundary issue regarding including Taylor Yard as an overlapping boundary, and in fact the bylaws were amended to remove that area from the

certified -- from the recommended boundaries.

Secondly, there was the change in the bylaws which we will forward to you and which you will have to ask the applicant to consent to change, which they actually consented to change; they have given us revised bylaws wherein they have amended their east boundary and their south boundary to comport with the staff recommendations.

The east boundary should be changed to the railroad tracks, Los Angeles/Glendale boundary,

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south to Casitas Avenue and the Los Angeles River, and the south boundary should be changed to Casitas Avenue south of the 2 Freeway to the Los Angeles River so, in the recommendation of staff, the boundaries comport with the plan.

In addition, they are recommending that you approve an exemption of the 20,000 minimum population requirement. The applicant -- the population of the bounded area is 14,931 residents, which is lower than the minimum 20,000.

The applicant does -- and staff has reviewed and verified that the applicant has submitted proposed areas that comport with the three main areas in the plan that allow for a lower than 20,000 requirement, and therefore, staff recommends and finds that in fact these -- the lower -- the 14,000 exemption is appropriate.

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The Department has also verified there are shared boundaries requested, in addition. The Department-proposed boundaries include another area -- include shared overlapping boundaries with the previously certified Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council at Griffith Park. It's designed for public use and, therefore, justifies the inclusion of Griffith Park within the certified

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boundaries of Atwater Village Neighborhood Council.

Based on all of those items, staff now finds that the findings regarding the binder criteria are in fact appropriate and meet the requirements of the plan.

Secondly, regarding outreach, you will note in the staff report substantial information related to outreach of the neighborhood council, and staff finds that based on that information that the applicant has met the outreach criteria for the plan and the ordinance.

With respect to the bylaws themselves, the bylaws were amended related to several issues that are laid out in the report and is attached in your package, and all of those issues were amended.

Specific to Article 7, they have redone the lettering and numbering in Article 7. And in Article 8, they have redone the lettering and numbering. And that's been accomplished and

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verified in the new bylaws that you have.

Additionally, changes were made related to Article 7 on the issue on co-chairs. The recommended language was reinserted on the recommended bylaws, and on Article 7, Election of the Board of Governors, related to the removal of

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board members, that language revision was done as well.

For that reason staff finds that the bylaws now meet with the criteria of the plan and are -- therefore, we find that they are appropriate and meet with that criteria.

We also further find that the application -- the applicant has met the financial accountability criteria of the plan and ordinance. We find that the requirements of the plan and ordinance regarding applicable laws and ethical standards have been met, and we also find that they have complied with the requirements of the plan and ordinance regarding, again, the provision of the specific number of contact persons.

Based on all of the aforementioned, we would recommend that you certify the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council as a neighborhood council for the city of Los Angeles.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Are there any questions for staff?

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Only one question, Claudia. The boundaries that you described are now consistent with the map we have up here? That's correct?

CLAUDIA DUNN: Yeah.

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COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay.

CLAUDIA DUNN: I would also mention really quickly that we did receive a letter of support just this evening from Council Member Garcetti's office, which is added to the file. The council member may be present at some point during the meeting tonight.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: All right. Thank you.

Then I would like to invite the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council to come forward and make what will be a 10-minute presentation and no more.

MARK WOLTNER: Good evening, and welcome to Atwater Village, esteemed members of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, stakeholders of Atwater Village, and our neighbors and stakeholders from Silver Lake who have joined us here this evening.

My name is Mark Woltner. I am a resident stakeholder. On behalf of the formation committee for the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council, we welcome you all here tonight.

What we will be sharing with you tonight is the product of over two years of working with

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various stakeholders of the Atwater Village
community to put our neighborhood council together.

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Atwater is a diverse and active
community. We have many different types of groups.
What we lack is an umbrella to bring us all
together. Our formation committee is reflective of
our community.

I think our efforts and successes up to
this point will become more evident as you hear our
presentation and some speakers in our behalf this
evening. I hope that we will present you with every
confidence that we will get the job done and,
therefore, have your support for certification of
the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council.

Before I introduce our first speaker, I'd
like to take another minute and express a few points
why we feel Atwater Village would be best served by
its own neighborhood council.

Crime: All areas have crime, but we have
some of the most violent crimes among our
neighborhood communities. An example of this is
listed in the statistics before you. Please note
that out of the four divisions covered by Central
Bureau of LAPD, we have the highest rate of gang
activity and crime, and it's also interesting to
note that we are the smallest geographic area in
that same district.

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Politics: We're a small community. However, we're split. Our voice is split. We are covered by two city council districts as well as two state assembly districts, so we'd like one unified voice. The communication -- which is very important to us -- is something that we want to make sure that is disseminated amongst all of our stakeholder groups, both a two-way conversation, to receive and distribute and to gather.

These are just a few of the points that we'll be covering with you this evening. The details or the questions will be covered by our further speakers.

Our first speaker, then, will be Linora Saliz, and she'll be discussing the boundaries.

LINORA SALIZ: Good evening. I'm a business owner here in Atwater. My parents own a commercial building on Glendale Boulevard and have owned and operated an all-language interpreting agency there since 1972.

I'm here to discuss the dry but hopefully inspiring information regarding our boundaries. Would you like me to go through each boundary?

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: It doesn't really matter. We've heard the staff presentation on the

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boundaries.

LINORA SALIZ: Okay. We'll skip that.

And Ms. Dunn already presented the information regarding why our group has met the criteria for certification even though we are below the 20,000 minimum residential requirement. Would you like me to review that?

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Your choice, but remember we --

LINORA SALIZ: I will review for the benefit of the group.

There is a minimum requirement of 20,000 residents, and we are below that at almost 15,000. And the first criteria that we have met is that our community is geographically separated from the adjacent communities by the 134 Freeway on the north, the railroad tracks and the city of Glendale on the east, the Los Angeles River and the 5 Freeway on the west, and the Los Angeles River and the 2 Freeway on the south.

Second point: Our community includes the following facilities that service us: The Atwater Village Post Office, the Atwater Village Library, and the Los Angeles reclamation plant, together with two elementary schools also within our boundaries.

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Third, our community is specifically identified by name within the adopted Northeast community plan of the city planning department dated February 2, 1999.

There are no contested boundaries. We have agreed to remove Taylor Yards from our boundaries, as recommended by DONE, acknowledging that we may wish to add it later when it becomes a state park. We share Griffith Park, as mentioned by DONE, with the GGPNC, and we believe that based on the aforementioned criteria, we have met the basic criteria for certification.

Our next presenter on demographics and population will be Colin Thompson.

COLIN THOMPSON: Hello. My name is Colin Thompson, and I have lived in Atwater Village for almost three years.

I remember being at my first Atwater Village Neighborhood Council meeting and being impressed by the diversity of the people in attendance. It was a large group of people representing a wide range of ethnicities and interests, but we had all come together to try to make Atwater Village a better place.

Atwater Village consists of roughly 15,000

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people, and I think the diversity is clearly

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represented in the census information in the packet before you. But it is also readily apparent when walking through the neighborhoods or through the streets of Atwater Village and seeing the different people in their yards and walking through their neighborhoods.

It is also reflected in the different types of shopping and commercial retail available throughout the community, from the large stores to the small mom-and-pop shops that line Glendale Boulevard. It is this diversity that helps make Atwater Village a great place, and as everybody has said before, I think this diversity is solidly represented in our formation committee.

And I would now like to introduce Roberta Javier, who will be talking about community outreach.

ROBERTA JAVIER: Good evening. My name is Roberta Javier, and I have been a resident of Atwater Village for over 22 years. I'm here to talk to you tonight about the level of outreach that we have taken upon ourselves as a community and an organizing group and some of the processes by which we did outreach to our community.

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Standardly, of course we did door-to-door fliering. Posting of fliers, we had official posting sites, six, with three additional posting

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sites. We contacted news media.

I'd like to also impress upon the board the fact that all those contacts, all the outside fliering that was done and much of the actual person-to-person contact was done both in English and Spanish and in Tagalog, some of that with the help of DONE, and we really appreciate all of their efforts as well.

We also did some tabling. We made ourselves available by phone, through community calendar and web sites, also through newspapers and postings. We have also made ourselves available on a monthly basis, having meetings at local elementary schools on the third Thursday of each month.

I'd also like to point out that we did -- we have spoken at length with all of our internal groups. That would include the Atwater Village residents association, neighborhood watch, the Friends of Atwater Village, Atwater Church of United, Atwater chamber of commerce, the City of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Rec, Lions Club, Rotary Club, and of course our (inaudible) on an

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individual basis as well.

I should also point out that much of our contact was done through fliering through the schools themselves with the cooperation of the elementary schools. That would include Atwater

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Village Elementary School as well as Glen Feliz.

I think that's it, except that I would like to say that everyone here has done a lot of work and it's been very much appreciated.

And your next speaker is Casey.

CASEY SHANK: Hi. I'm Casey Shank, and I'm a new resident to Atwater Village. And about five months ago I came home. There was a yellow flier tied around my fence. You've probably seen a few of them. So I'm here to say outreach works and I'm an example of it.

Roberta has described a lot of what we've done up to this point. Some of our future outreach plans include increased participation, creating a diverse cultural and economic group, and creating group programs within Atwater Village that gather interest and bring us together and foster a better community.

Our future outreach plan is to increase participation, include the posters -- bilingual, as

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you've seen, fliers in three languages, tabling, door-to-door work, newsletters, inclusion in the Avenues letters, and contacting the news media. Also, we have a new web site which is wonderful. It's www.AtwaterVillage.org. So check it out, and thank you for our web site committee that put that together.

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To increase and maintain diversity, our main plan is to secure a key point person for each of the four areas that we would like to target, including the Latino community, the Filipino community, the elderly and homebound and the youth. And this point person is going to communicate to the groups, gather interest from the four groups.

And some examples of that would be speaking at the churches (inaudible), social studies teachers and principals at the schools, and then using their feedback to create specific programs that will gather further interest and draw people in.

Some of the proposed programs include the neighborhood cleanup, chili cook-off -- come if anyone is quite good at cooking -- and a tour of the equestrian police facility at Regala. So should anyone here like to include any further plans,

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please speak with one of us at the end of the meeting and we'd really welcome you.

Next is Lin Min Kong to discuss our structure and organization.

Thank you.

LIN MIN KONG: Hi. My name is Lin Min Kong. First of all, I'd like to apologize for my voice because I have a cold.

I have lived in Atwater Village for about

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six years now and I -- like everyone else here, we are here today because we love Atwater Village. We love the eclectic and diverse nature of the community and we are committed to making Atwater a better place to live. I'm here to talk about our governing board's structure and our bylaws.

We drafted our bylaws to ensure the broadest array of stakeholder diversity possible, that is, to include 17 community stakeholders, of which there are six residents -- two from north, two from central, and two from south -- two business representatives, two community groups and nonprofit representatives, of which we have several, two church and religious representatives, one school representative, one park, and three special interest representatives to ensure representation from any

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underrepresented group.

This structure allows for divergent or different interests so that no single stakeholder group will represent a majority of our board. Our elections will be held within 240 days after our certification hearing.

Everything is in your packet with regard to your bylaws. I do have an updated bylaws for your review. You probably don't have that with your packets that DONE forwarded you.

In addition, we have numerous letters of

support -- I think it's in the leather-bound binder Commissioner Christopher has right there -- which include Council Member Garcetti's, other political representatives, including Senator Jack Scott, as well as a number of different neighborhood groups in our community.

We have a very active community; it is something we are all very proud of. What we needed here in Atwater was an umbrella group to tie all these communities -- community groups together so that we can act as one voice.

We are very lucky to all be stakeholders in this neighborhood. We all do love Atwater and we are very proud to be a part of Atwater, and we hope

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to be certified today. And we are welcome to take any questions.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Thank you.

Are there any questions for the applicants?

Okay. Commissioner Stone.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you, Mr. President.

I have a question on the bylaws, if you would come to the microphone.

During the staff's presentation, there were mentioned a couple of suggested changes to the bylaws. Has your group consented to make those changes?

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LIN MIN KONG: Yes. In fact, they have already been done and submitted to DONE.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. Thank you.

LIN MIN KONG: Sure.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Any other questions?

Seeing none, thank you.

We have this evening with us Councilman Garcetti, who has asked to make some brief remarks. So Council Member, please.

COUNCILMAN GARCETTI: Welcome to this district. It's great to have the board here. Excuse my back

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to everybody. And I love Atwater Village, too.

If you don't mind -- there we go. There's more of you; I'll do it this way.

I'm just here to break what was at first a cardinal rule of mine, which is I'm a very, very strong believer in neighborhood councils. Before I was elected I was part of some of the conversations around these and forums on them, but I also thought that the more that council members meddled in them early on, the less independent that they would be.

So I had made it a policy not to kind of officially come out in support until after they were established. But watching what's happened in Atwater Village and also Silver Lake, I'm here tonight to break that policy, to say very proudly

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and very strongly that I'm fully in support of their efforts for certification.

I've seen both Atwater Village and Silver Lake, which really are snapshots of the entire city when you look at this room. When you look at the diversity of those communities, when you look at the many cultures that are all based there, you see an outreach that I've participated in -- not only Atwater Village but also in Silver Lake -- that's multi-lingual, that goes door to door, block by

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block, and really sets the standard for how we can bring neighborhood councils together.

Northeast and kind of Central L. A. has already become a real hotbed of neighborhood council activism. And it's not just a -- as some critics have said, a hijacking by the usual few; it really is a representation of entire communities.

In an L. A. Times editorial I hope that you all saw on the burglar alarms it said, well, the L. A. Times felt differently about the burglar alarm policy than some of the neighborhood councils. It said nevertheless it was a moment in the history of Los Angeles to see that shift politically when neighborhood councils stood up, were counted.

And a neighborhood council that borders both of these after certification, the Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council, my own, where I

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live, had all sorts of good input on how citizens can become a part of the process when that debate happened. And I fully expect that Atwater Village and Silver Lake will continue that great progress.

I know that Tom LaBonge, who may be coming later but I know his representatives are here, is fully in support as well of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council and, as a former Atwater

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Village resident, no doubt is here to (inaudible) Atwater Village.

But I'm just here to say congratulations and give you my pledge here because I think that it's really a contract between all of us not only saying what your rights are today but what our responsibilities are to you and vice versa, that with land use decisions we will not go forward without always consulting neighborhood councils, that in future years we will continue to give formal power to neighborhood councils and the decisions of the budget-making process and the planning processes as well, as long as they stay as representative as these neighborhood councils are. And I fully know in Silver Lake and Atwater Village they will. And in future years those budgets will continue to come back.

In fact, in my own council office, right now we're looking at developing a neighborhood

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matching grant-type program that would specifically be for C. D. 13 out of some of the discretionary money we have, and I encourage you to try to come up with some of the civic projects that you have done here in Atwater Village, some of those that we have seen in Silver Lake, and we want to put our money

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where our mouths are. I'm not just saying we want to get more of your money in the budget, but we'll put some more of our money in the budget to help you with those efforts.

So congratulations, good luck, and I hope that you will approve them unanimously. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Thank you, Councilman.

Okay. The next part of -- yes, Commissioner Woods Gray.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I have a question.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: You have a question for the applicant.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I noticed that 23 percent of the community is under 18. Could someone tell me how they plan to include those members of your community in your neighborhood council?

CASEY SHANK: Sure. Absolutely. We have committed to getting a point person for the schools that will be working with the different elementary schools and high schools in the area to ensure that

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we capture the youth and create programs that are fun for them.

A couple of our committee members actually have children in the area, and we've spoken to them

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already to see if they would be interested in some of the programs like the police equestrian tour. One of them actually gave us the idea of the chili cook-off. In those kind of fun events, we draw them.

But also, by talking to the social studies teachers, we'd like to encourage future politicians to also become interested and active as well.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Commissioner Herrera-Duran.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: I'd like to ask another question related to the demographic.

I notice that 51 percent of the area is Latino. Could you tell me what response you had as you did your outreach and how that impacted your formation?

ROBERTA JAVIER: You know, we do have a very large Latino population, and many are monolingual. And it has been a bit of a problem in that we have such a huge percentage of gang activity, there's a bit of apprehension on people to really come out.

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We were putting signs up, those yellow signs there, and as quickly as I would put them up,

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I would go around the corner and they would be taken down.

Many of the people have expressed to me privately they are in support and, gee, what can we do and is this going to help their situation and this and that and will we be more secure, but openly they have not really come out, but privately expressed great interest. But there is a significant problem and concern regarding issues in our community.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: Thank you. Well, hopefully with the work of the neighborhood council you will be able to do something about that. Thanks.

ROBERTA JAVIER: We hope to. Thanks.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Now we get to move on to the public hearing portion of the application. I'm going to call three names in a row and I'm going to ask you to come to the microphone and limit your comments to a maximum of two minutes, if you would.

And we'll begin with Elizabeth Naftalin, Barbara Las, and Andrew Westall.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible).

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: I haven't called everybody yet. If you have a card, hand it to one

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of the staff members over by the door.

Elizabeth Naftalin, please come to the microphone, followed by Barbara Las and Andrew Westall.

ELIZABETH NAFTALIN: Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Elizabeth Naftalin. I'm a resident of Atwater Village, president of Atwater Village residents association.

I'm here tonight to tell you that AVRA strongly supports certification of the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council for the reasons that you have all heard tonight. Atwater is a very diverse area in every way that you can think of and Atwater needs an umbrella organization to speak with one voice, when one voice is appropriate, for Atwater.

I've seen the efforts that all of the organizers of the neighborhood council have put into their outreach over many months and I really support their plans for the future, which I think are excellent. So we would very much support your favorable decision in certifying this neighborhood council.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Thank you.

Barbara Las, Andrew Westall, and Maryann
Kuk.

BARBARA LAS: I'm Barbara Las, and I am a 33-year resident of Atwater Village. I'm president of the Friends of the Atwater Library, and that organization is about 22 years old. And in its 22 years of being in business, we never quite have the kind of clout that we would like to have on occasion. We do make a lot of noise, and we sometimes win and sometimes don't.

Having a neighborhood council where we can go and say, "Hey, look what's happening. We're not happy with that. We need some help," and knowing that we have the clout that we, as an individual organization, don't have is a tremendous asset to us and to the community.

I know most of these people well. They have given a lot of hours to putting this together, and I really hope that you see fit to see that they get certified so we can move forward with all the things we need to do in this community.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Thank you.

Andrew Westall, Maryann Kuk, and Amadar
Solis.

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ANDREW WESTALL: Hi. My name is Andrew Westall. I'm vice-president of administration for the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council. And we're here today to wholeheartedly support the application of Atwater Village as its own unique neighborhood council.

As you may know from the history of the early stages, Atwater Village was a portion of Greater Griffith Park and decided to break off and form its own neighborhood council, basically for the reasons that it's a very unique geographic and very unique neighborhood in its own little portion of the city of Los Angeles.

It has very unique geographic boundaries that cover the northern and southern portions of the neighborhood and really shows that there are unique impacts and different population statistics and demographic statistics which show how Atwater Village can be kept together.

So once again, we're here to support their application and thank you for this process.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Thank you.

Maryann Kuk, Amadar Solis, and Jeff Gardner.

MARYANN KUK: Hi. My name is Maryann Kuk. I'm

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president of the Silver Lake residents association. I'm also a real estate agent from Housing Solutions. I frequently sell houses in Atwater Village, so I'm very familiar with the community. It's also the closest public library. Silver Lake doesn't have its own branch, hint, hint, hint.

It's coming.

Anyway, I participated with Atwater and the Greater Griffith Park area at the very beginning and was impressed with how dedicated all the folks were and have watched intermittently as Atwater Village has put together their neighborhood council. We wholeheartedly support their effort.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Thank you.

Amadar Solis, Jeff Gardner, and James Omahen.

AMADAR SOLIS: How you doing? My name is Amadar Solis. I'm 17 years old. And my family has owned a business and a building in Atwater for about 30 years, and so I've spent a pretty large amount of my life there.

I'm very involved in (inaudible), was first president of the Glen Eagle council, and I'm a board member of the Glen Eagle human relations coalition, and I hope that the neighborhood council

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will be open to -- (inaudible) 23 percent, and I hope to be one of those 23 percent that helps to get

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other youth and to come in and give an opinion. Because usually the youth opinion doesn't really matter in the city. I mean, that's the way I've seen it most of my life.

So hopefully with the neighborhood council the youth will have more of an opinion in city issues. And I think they'll do a great job at bringing youth -- you know, more youth opportunities, youth programs. As she said, the chili cook-off, I think the youth would love to go to those things. And I'm sure they are going to get into the high schools, and I'll be there to help them and I'm sure other youth will come forward and be ready to help, too.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Thank you.

Jeff Gardner, James Omahen, and Stephen May.

JEFF GARDNER: Hi. I'm Jeff Gardner. I'm president of the Atwater Village chamber of commerce.

First I'd like to convey the wishes of Dario Fromer. I spoke to Paul Brewer, his deputy,

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today. He was in Sacramento and was unable to get us a letter, but he indicated that I should voice his support for our neighborhood council.

I'd also like to voice the support of the

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chamber of commerce and the Lions Club. And I think the outreach has already been covered, but we did quite a few mailings to all the licensed business holders in the geographic region of the neighborhood councils.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Thank you.

James Omahen, Stephen May, and Debra Portillo.

JAMES OMAHEN: Good evening, Commissioners. My name is James Omahen. I am a resident of Atwater Village. I also am the field deputy for Council Member Eric Garcetti in the 13th District.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: We won't hold that against you.

JAMES OMAHEN: I hope not.

And I'm a stakeholder in Silver Lake because I have my office in the council district office at 3525 Sunset Boulevard, so please bear with me to support both the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council with my time and the Atwater Neighborhood

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Council.

And they've both done a superb job. I had participated in the early days, nearly two years ago I started with them, and then of course having to leave that volunteer work for professional work with the council member, but I urge you to, again,

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unanimously approve their application this evening.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Thank you.

Stephen May and Debra Portillo.

STEPHEN MAY: I'm Stephen May. I'm an Atwater resident, an Atwater business owner since 1991. I've always thought of Atwater as having very, very defined borders -- I think most of us do -- and I was surprised and delighted to hear that there's some discussion about Griffith Park being considered a part of Atwater. When people ask me where's Atwater, I say it's on the other side of the river from Griffith Park.

I'm very curious if I could cede -- I would like to cede one minute of my time to someone who's knowledgeable on the subject who could explain how this idea came about that Griffith Park be considered a part of Atwater Village and how that would affect Atwater and how it would affect

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Griffith Park.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Thank you.

And Cesar Portillo.

CESAR PORTILLO: My name is Cesar Portillo. I'm president of Friends of Atwater Village. I'm here to speak in strong support of certification.

Friends of Atwater Village is a group of neighborhood volunteers. We organize neighborhood

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cleanups and, in fact, we have one coming up on March 8th if anyone is available to join us. We have sponsored a number of murals in the community and we advocate for Atwater Village, as most of the groups do.

We really want to acknowledge the hard work of the folks who have brought us to this point with regards to the neighborhood council. In particular I'd like to mention Alisa Avilera and Roberta Javier, who have kept Friends of Atwater Village very informed in terms of what's going on with the neighborhood council, and we feel that we have been part of the process in putting it together, and so we strongly support that.

We here in Atwater Village are a cohesive community with a diversity of opinions, but one thing we all share is a united effort to improve our

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community, and we feel strongly that the neighborhood council will create an opportunity for our voices to be heard and to be acknowledged, and I speak in strong support.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Thank you.

That's all the cards I have on the public hearing this evening for Atwater Village. Do the applicants have any rebuttal points they would like to make?

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Please come forward.

ELAINE BROCK: Good evening. My name is Elaine Brock, and I've been a resident of Atwater since 1967, which is approximately 40 years.

I'm here today to represent the equestrians in the area. We have approximately 580 horses, which you multiply it by two people, which is considerably a lot. We would like to see the certification of Atwater Village because we feel we would have more representation with our concerns by doing this.

We also enjoy Griffith Park, but we find that the community has been very vested in our interests. And if there's any questions, I'd be happy to answer them. Okay?

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COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Could I ask just one question of them?

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Yes.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I noticed in the staff report that there are categories that were identified that are not participating in your neighborhood council. And the number, if it's correct, are considerable. And some groups that -- or maybe they are participating in your council and the report says that they are not, like the homeless and the day laborers.

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This is listed on page 6 of 16.

LIN MIN KONG: Hi. This is Lin Min Kong.

I think that when we filled out the composition and outreach workshop, we were referencing the formation committee members, so that we did not have any homeless or day laborers or drug, alcohol, et cetera, on our formation committee, is my recollection.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Then I guess that is not clear. But they are stakeholders and they have --

LIN MIN KONG: Yes, that is correct.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: -- they can

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participate?

LIN MIN KONG: They are in fact stakeholders and they can participate, and we have done outreach to try to include these groups.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: It appears there are a lot of them, medium businesses, large businesses, workers.

LIN MIN KONG: Yes, that's correct.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: They were not a part of your organizing committee; is that --

LIN MIN KONG: That may be the case.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: The way I read it, it says they are not identified as participating in our council.

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LIN MIN KONG: That's correct. It may be that these groups were not participating on our formation committee. However, we have done extensive outreach for most of these groups, if not all of them.

MARK WOLTNER: We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Costco for donating all the pizza and the rolls in the back, and they have been invited to participate but they're kind of busy this time of year.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Thank you.

Okay. With that, I'm going to close the

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public hearing this evening and move to the commissioner discussion. Who would like to start this evening?

Commissioner Woods Gray.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Well, first of all, it's very evident that you have a strong group, many strong groups in your neighborhood already, and I'm really pleased to see that you have decided to use the neighborhood council as another vehicle for empowering your neighborhood and the other associations and groups within your neighborhood council.

You are also very fortunate to live in an area where you have wonderful elected officials and that Dario Fromer, Jackie Goldberg, all sent letters, Senator Jack Scott. So you have great

elected people, and so that's very good and to your benefit.

And we saw all the different stakeholder groups in many instances that we would like to see, but I would also encourage you to continue to work on the list of people who are presently, according to your report, not there. Because those people are also valuable stakeholders, if they indeed exist in your neighborhood, and should have a voice in the

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neighborhood council.

And I'm pleased to see that the young man came up to encourage -- to show some evidence of youth participation, because he is the kind of a person that I'm looking for when I look at youth, because they are our future leaders and we can develop them and give them an opportunity and a platform to practice and to get ready for the future leaders that we really need.

And he seems to be on the right track, and I commend him and hope that you will support him and look out for many, many more like him who must be there in your neighborhood. That's the next Eric Garcetti.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Commissioner Stone.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you, Mr. President.

I, as well, support this application. You've done a fantastic job, as evidenced tonight.

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Three things that stick out in my mind, most of which were already touched upon by Commissioner Woods Gray, first of all would be the diversity that you would bring, not just in your ethnic makeup or demographic makeup, but the fact that you all come in groups that already have a power base, strong groups, and you're not threatened by sharing that,

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by coming together for a shared voice. And we don't see that everywhere we go around the city, so it's particularly impressive to me to see that.

The second point that I wanted to make is I like in your bylaws the three special interest representatives that your board, once elected, will appoint or will select to make sure that some underrepresented groups -- it could be renters, it could be some others -- that are not elected share in the power on the board.

And then the third point is the youth, as well. Commissioner Woods Gray raised the question, I think, Mr. Solis, that you have proven that there's a commitment to outreach. And how better for the youth in the community to hear it but from their peers and certainly not from us or from folks that are preaching to them, but to folks who realize there's a reason to get involved.

So I support your application and look forward to working with you in the months to come.

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COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Commissioner Herrera-Duran.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: I also support your application. I'm pleased with the way in which you have handled the situation working with the

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Department. I think that the changes in the bylaws were appropriate, and I'm glad that you understand those. And we'll come back later and maybe we'll be seeing you when things change in terms of the boundaries that you allowed to be changed.

I am concerned, and as we take a look at the testimony here tonight, we all should pay attention to the fact that someone said some people in the community were afraid to come out. That's really too bad, but we do have that situation in a lot of areas.

So I'm hoping that as you work and as you organize and you get together and you do address some of these issues, that fewer and fewer of those people will be afraid to come out and that they will themselves get over their fears, because they will have to do that and come out and start supporting you and working in the community. Because we do need to rid our communities of this blight that we have of gangs and all the things that are happening that way.

I appreciate Commissioner Woods Gray's

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questions about those organizations that were excluded. I didn't understand that and it slipped my mind. And then when she brought that to my

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attention by her question, I'm pleased with the answer, because there should be no groups that are not part of neighborhood councils.

So thank you for making the changes that were asked, and I'll support a motion --

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: -- to certify the council.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Thank you.

Well, I see tonight a very strong commitment to Atwater Village. Atwater is clearly one of the enclaves of our city where geography and manmade barriers called freeways have come to create a very distinct and very clear neighborhood, so I have no problem in making the findings that are required for exception to the 20,000 population limitation.

This is clearly a situation which is bounded by the freeways and bounded by the Glendale city limit that has for a long time been identified as Atwater Village, and I would be very happy to support a motion tonight to certify the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council.

So Commissioner Stone, if you would.

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COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you, Mr. President.

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I would move that we adopt the findings of the Department contained in its staff reports, find that the applicant has amended its boundaries and corresponding bylaws to remove the Taylor Yard facility and to adjust its boundaries consistent with DONE staff presentation this evening, that we find that we approve an exception to the 20,000 minimum population requirement, that we approve the shared boundaries with the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council with respect to the area identified as Griffith Park, which is designed for public use and specific to the allowable overlap shared boundary criteria of the plan, find that the applicant has satisfied the outreach criteria set forth in the plan, find that the applicant has agreed to amend its bylaws as recommended by the staff and city attorney, and lastly, certify the applicant as a Los Angeles city neighborhood council.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Second.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. We have a motion and a second. Discussion of the motion?

And I have one question for staff that I want to clarify. When we are talking about the overlapping boundary with Griffith Park, we are not

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talking about the entirety of Griffith Park; we are talking about several small areas along the boundary between the 5 Freeway and the river essentially, so that that's clear to everyone that's here.

CLAUDIA DUNN: That's correct. It's the green area within the yellow boundaries, correct, Tom? It's that small portion and up here.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. All right. As long as we have that clear.

Are there any other questions or comments from the commission as part of the discussion of the motion?

COMMISSIONER STONE: Mr. President, if I can just clarify on my motion. The boundaries, as I mentioned, were the ones that were mentioned by staff, and the bylaws that the applicant has agreed to amend are those sections in Article 7 and Article 8 that are listed in our staff report.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. With those clarifications, I'll poll the commissioners.

Commissioner Stone.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Commissioner Woods Gray.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Yes.

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COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Commissioner Herrera-Duran.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: And I, yes. And we now have neighborhood council number 62.

Okay. Well, that takes us halfway home tonight, and we have our next Item Number 4, which is now a certification application for the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council, and we'll bring back to the microphone Ms. Dunn.

Actually, what we will do is we will take two minutes here while we rearrange the room.

(Recess)

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: If I could ask everybody from Atwater Village to take the conversations outside. I know the weather is not necessarily the best, but we do have our colleagues from Silver Lake who are here who I'm sure would like to be certified as well. So if I could ask the Atwater contingent to settle down and to please give us the microphone back here.

Okay. So since the last announcement didn't work too well, I'll try once more. We would like everybody to take your seats and settle in for the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council application.

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Okay. Ms. Dunn, we seem to now have order in the house.

CLAUDIA DUNN: Okay. You have before you the Item Number 4, which is the application for the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council.

The Department has received the application, has found that it is complete in all of its required components, and the details of the staff report are contained and attached in your packets. The report is dated February 1st, 2003, and has several details in it which I'll address very quickly.

First of all, the boundaries are detailed in the report and I won't read all the north, south, east, west boundaries. They're there. Nothing has changed, as stated in those reports, so those boundaries are accurate for approval as the final staff boundary determination.

You will note that there is a request for the approval of shared boundaries with a number of neighborhood councils, and I'll list those.

There's a request to approve shared boundaries with Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council with respect to the area identified as Thomas Starr King Middle School, which is an area

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designated for public use and, therefore, meets the criteria for an allowable overlap.

Secondly, there is a request to approve shared boundaries with the Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council with the area identified as Allessandro Elementary School, which is also defined for public use, and, therefore, specific to the allowable overlap or shared boundary criteria of the plan.

Thirdly, there is a request to approve shared boundaries with the Elysian Valley Riverside Neighborhood Council with respect to the area identified as Mayberry Elementary School and Tommy Lasorda Field of Dreams, both of which are designated for public use and specific to the overlap/shared boundary criteria of the plan.

Staff finds and recommends that the board approve those areas of shared boundaries designated for public use. Staff further has reviewed all of the information presented by the applicant group and has determined that the applicant group has generally met the outreach criteria required by the plan and ordinance as specified in the staff report.

With respect to the organizational

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structure and the bylaws, there are a couple of areas of required changes to the bylaws which the applicant, I'm sure, will address in their presentation, and those are related to Article 7,

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Section F, Referendums, of their bylaws, and Article 11, Section E, on Voting, Number 2.

Both of those are specific to city attorney advice and recommendation consistent with other bylaws that have been approved by your board related to decreasing the vote of the board to overturn decisions from the stated four-fifths to two-thirds.

If the board -- if the applicant does consent to amend its bylaws to reflect that change, then the bylaws could be amended to reflect the modifications and you can find that they have satisfied the bylaws criteria related to that change.

There's a few advisories that are recommended in the bylaws related to Article 8 on elections, that the applicant group select a final arbitrator on elections and further clarify their election process, and in Section E of that same section, assign all responsibilities for election rules to the election committee.

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In Article 11, Section E, Number 3, it's requested that they delete the reference to no proxy voting, and it's recommended as well that the following language from the plan be included in the bylaws: That no single community stakeholder group shall comprise a majority of the Silver Lake

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Neighborhood Council's governing body unless extenuating circumstances are warranted and approved by DONE.

In addition, there's another advisory that the applicant -- that the applicant be advised that any voting registration requirements that are placed on stakeholders shall not act to discourage stakeholder participation in the neighborhood council.

Those things that I just mentioned are recommended changes.

Let's see. That addresses bylaws.

Next, staff finds that based on the application that has been submitted, that the applicant has met the financial accountability criteria for the plan and ordinance and would recommend approval on that count.

Staff also finds that the information is complete and meets the requirements related to the

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applicable laws and ethical standards, and finally, staff recommends and finds that the applicant has complied with the requirements of the plan and ordinance regarding the provision of a specific number of contact liaison persons.

To that end and in summary, with the aforementioned recommendations, staff would advise the board to clarify some issues that relate to

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bylaws as mentioned and, if those changes were made, then the board could, if they so chose, certify the applicant as the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council for the city of Los Angeles.

In addition, staff has received letters of support from Council Member Eric Garcetti, 13th District, and a letter of support from State Senator Jack Scott for the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council 21st Senatorial District.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Thank you.

Any questions for staff?

Claudia, as I understand it, then, there are two primary differences between what the group has accepted for bylaws and what the city attorney and staff were recommending for changes, one being the proxy voting and one being the referendum questions?

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CLAUDIA DUNN: That's correct.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: So those are the two issues open at this point?

CLAUDIA DUNN: That's correct.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Any other questions?

With that, I would like to invite the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council to come forward and make their presentation.

VINCENT BROOK: Good evening. My name is Vincent Brook. I'm the co-contact person of the

Silver Lake Neighborhood Council and the president of the Silver Lake improvement association.

As for our presentation, we'll be following DONE's guidelines in dividing it into four parts: History and goals, boundaries, outreach and governance, and following our own procedure throughout the neighborhood council formation process, which has consistently sought to maximize participation, we'll be dividing up the duties. I'll be handling history, Lupita Chapa will be handling goals.

Silver Lake has long prided itself with its diversity, its scenic beauty, its important place in Hollywood history, its Bohemianism and political activism, and perhaps most of all, its

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strong sense of community. Thus it was only natural that we became actively involved from the very start in the neighborhood council formation process.

Recognizing the potential of such councils to enhance the participatory democracy and improve the quality of life for all Silver Lakens, our community leaders and other individual stakeholders jumped at the opportunity to form our own neighborhood council. From an initial group of about 40 people drawn from an array of stakeholder groups and the community at large, our group has since gathered the signatures of over 1,000

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stakeholders and developed an active participant base of over 40 people, many of whom are here today.

Can I see a show of hands.

Despite our pride in these high numbers and in our success at achieving significant regional, ethnic, gender, and economic diversity, we are dedicated to continuing and enhancing our outreach efforts in order to make our neighborhood council as inclusive and truly representative of the Silver Lake community as it possibly could be.

Now to discuss goals, Lupita Chapa.

LUPITA CHAPA: My name is Lupita Chapa and I've

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lived in Silver Lake for four years. I've been involved with the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council coordinating committee for about a year. I'm also a member of the community residents association in my own neighborhood.

The principal goal of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council as stated in our mission statement is to improve the quality of life for all of Silver Lake's stakeholders by promoting participation in city governance and the decision-making processes, honoring diversity, building community and forging bonds with neighborhood communities.

Specific goals listed in our bylaws

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include to provide an inclusive forum to discuss community issues, to educate, encourage, and facilitate the process of making government work for our community, to support, preserve, and improve the environmental integrity and rich cultural heritage of Silver Lake.

Throughout the entire formation process the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council has tried to be as democratic and inclusive as possible. The goals and organizational structure of the neighborhood council were developed by a dedicated and diverse

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group of stakeholders who met regularly at monthly coordinating committee meetings and formed specific subcommittees such as boundary, outreach, and bylaws to discuss these specific issues.

In addition to renters and homeowners of various ethnicities and from all geographical regions of Silver Lake, all major community groups were involved in the neighborhood council formation process. These include the Silver Lake improvement association, the Silver Lake residents association, the Committee to Save Silver Lake's Reservoirs, the Silver Lake chamber of commerce, the Silver Lake and Belview Park advisory boards, Silver Lake seniors, representatives from various schools and churches, and on my own group, the Community Residents Association for Parks.

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We feel that our goals were developed in a democratic and inclusive way and expressed the needs and desires of a broad cross-section of our community.

Now to discuss the specific goals and functions of the boundaries committee, I'll hand things over to Dave Kitell and Carol Ing.

DAVE KITELL: Good evening. My name is Dave Kitell. I'm president of the Committee to Save

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Silver Lake's Reservoirs, which is a nonprofit community group that's been working for 13 years to preserve and protect and improve the reservoir that gives Silver Lake its name.

Carol Ing and I were among the volunteers to start working on boundaries in the summer of 2001. 15 to 20 volunteers from all parts of Silver Lake got together roughly monthly in various locations all throughout Silver Lake to work on two goals. One was to propose the external boundaries for Silver Lake Neighborhood Council and the other would be to develop the regions that would be used in our elections.

I'll tell you about the external boundary work. Carol will tell you about the voting districts.

In order to determine the boundaries for the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council, our committee

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considered the following: First we looked at the DONE regulations, of course, and communications, especially those that dealt with overlapping boundaries, and the letter of intent procedure which we ended up using.

We looked at major transportation corridors -- you'll see those on the map --

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Hollywood Freeway, Glendale Boulevard, Hyperion Avenue and Riverside Drive. We looked at landmarks and sign posts that were either intended or perceived by the community to designate its boundaries. Examples would be the Gateway to Silver Lake located at the Hollywood Freeway and Silver Lake Boulevard, and the city of Los Angeles neighborhood signs.

We looked at the boundaries chosen or requested by eight adjacent neighborhood council formation groups and had contact with all of them through the process.

We looked at direct stakeholder feedback. This was obtained through door-to-door canvassing and other efforts of our outreach committee. We looked at how public, educational, and recreational facilities could be shared with those adjacent neighborhood council formation groups. The examples are Allessandro, King, and Mayberry Schools, the Los Angeles River, and the Tommy Lasorda Field of

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Dreams park.

And finally, the mediation that was held with the Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council to resolve our eastern boundary, we formed -- we filed a letter of intent with DONE early in

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2002 to give notice of our proposed eastern boundary which overlapped with Echo Park's proposed western boundary.

We participated in the city-sponsored mediation process and presented our rationale for the proposed compromise based on the canvassing that we had actually done. We came to an agreement with the Echo Park organizers on a boundary that did not overlap and did not leave any stakeholders without representation.

I do need to make one correction, a small correction with regards to the shared public facilities that are in the report that was just given to you. There was a mention of the over -- the adjacent communities that we overlap with on the schools and parks were reversed between the Elysian Valley and Echo Park. The Mayberry School and Tommy Lasorda Field of Dreams are shared with the Echo Park group, and it's the Alessandro school that's shared with the Elysian Valley group. It was reversed in the report.

Thank you.

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And Carol.

CAROL ING: Good evening. I'm Carol Ing, and I've been participating in the formation process of

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the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council since July 2001. I've been a resident of Silver Lake for more than 40 years. I am also the president of the Belview Park advisory board, one of two city parks located in the Silver Lake boundaries.

Under the bylaws, 14 of the 21 elected board members are to be elected by geographical region. After some debate it was determined that there would be seven regions that would select two representatives each. This would be elaborated upon -- this will be elaborated upon in the bylaws presentation.

By the spring of 2002, the governance committee asked the boundaries committee to establish regional boundaries within the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council to serve as voting regions in the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council elections, in accord with the bylaws. The boundaries committee enlisted the help of members of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council outreach and governance committees to complete this task.

After several meetings and after receiving feedback from both the coordinating committee and the community at large, the regions reflected on the

map were approved. These met the goals of

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respecting natural physical geological divisions such as the many hillside streets and stairs, transportation corridors such as Silver Lake, Glendale and Sunset Boulevards, and communities of interest like Silver Lake Park, Belview Park, the dog park, Mayberry, Mitchell, and Alessandro Elementary Schools, and the various business pockets.

As these regions are to be used for Silver Lake Neighborhood Council elections, it is also important that the populations of each of the seven regions are within 10 percent of each other. With the assistance of DONE, it has been determined that the total Silver Lake Neighborhood Council population of about 34,000 is fairly evenly distributed among the seven designated regions while achieving the 10 percent goal.

You should have maps indicating these regional boundaries, and I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Now I'd like to introduce the people who will present our outreach portion, Wes Joe, Bea Gold, and Vivian Escalante.

Thank you.

WES JOE: I am Wes Joe, vice-president of the

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Silver Lake improvement association, and I'm here to give you a little background about Silver Lake before Bea and Vivian describe our outreach efforts.

Silver Lake is mainly residential with a few small business districts along commercial streets. Our population, as Carol mentioned, is about 34,000. Around 43 percent of our residents are Hispanic origin, 33 percent are what the census called nonHispanic whites, and 17 percent are of Asian origin.

A little over half of our residents live north of Sunset Boulevard, which is something of a demographic divide. North of Sunset incomes are above the city average; south, they are below. Almost two-thirds of our households rent, including 79 percent of the households south of Sunset, and 53 percent north.

Silver Lake has a large gay and lesbian population, reflected by the fact that more than three percent of our households are made up of same-sex couples, compared to less than one percent in the city as a whole.

In the interest of time and keeping you awake, I'm not going to go into all -- where all

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these wonderful numbers came from, so please feel free to ask during the question-and-answer period.

And now I'm going to introduce Bea, who will give you an overview of our outreach efforts, followed by Vivian, who will tell you about our special outreach we undertook south of Sunset and some of our plans for the future.

BEA GOLD: My name is Bea Gold, and I have been a resident of Silver Lake for the last 26 years. I'm on the board of the Silver Lake seniors and have been active in the formation of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council since the beginning. I will talk about methods we used in our outreach efforts.

We have more than a thousand completed stakeholder forms, as you heard, but I just looked at the data base and it's 1,022 -- so I'm feeling pretty good -- completed stakeholder forms in our data base.

Our goal has been to reach stakeholders who help the diversity of the community. And to this end we spent over 2,000 hours in our outreach activities.

The data base required about 15 hours a month inputting and updating information. We spent more than three hours each month in outreach

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specific meetings, about 10 hours e-mailing, four hours on the web site. We spent 20 hours a month in door-to-door canvassing, at times combining the boundaries committee and the outreach committee members for specific tasks. We paired Spanish speakers with English speakers in the predominantly Spanish-speaking neighborhoods.

We set up tables at the Saturday Silver Lake Farmer's Market, Sunset Junction, and then voting precincts during elections.

We spent about 12 hours a month developing fliers, posters, and mailings for six community meetings held. About 40 hours a month was spent posting and distributing fliers for the meetings. These meetings were held in accessible public facilities, park recreation centers, schools and churches. Average of attendance at the meetings was a hundred. In addition, all SLNC committee meetings were open and stakeholders were encouraged to attend.

Vivian Escalante will tell you about a gathering that we had and about our plans for the future. Thank you.

VIVIAN ESCALANTE: Hello. My name is Vivian Escalante, and thank you, Bea.

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I'm an active participant in the Silver

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Lake Neighborhood Council information. Our outreach efforts are to get stakeholders in the Silver Lake community informed and involved.

As always, every region is important, but we thought it was very important to reach, inform, invite, and involve our southern boundaries. Outreach met, brainstormed on our greatest attempts, and came up with a neighborhood gathering. Our neighborhood gathering included an invitation to over 900 stakeholders in English, Spanish, and Tagalog. Posters had been posted in businesses throughout Silver Lake.

Many of our outreach tactics was pairing up into teams of two -- one speaking Spanish -- speaking to many churches, schools, and business leaders. When we weren't out at schools, churches, and businesses, we were teaming up and going door to door and meeting many of our neighbors outside their homes as well as in their homes.

At our neighborhood gathering our special guest and speaker was Eric Garcetti, who spoke to the audience in both English and Spanish. We also provided entertainment for all of the children and food from many of our local restaurants. Our Silver

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Lake Neighborhood Council and formation table included copies of our bylaws, boundary maps, and stakeholder forms, and many of our volunteers were

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also available to answer any questions.

We also handed out a survey to help with our outreach methods, again both in English and Spanish. The results of our neighborhood gathering were overwhelming and proved to be a great success.

We are looking forward to certification and the opportunity to have funds for continuing outreach activities. We have discussed using funds for the development of a SLNC specific web site, an office, a newsletter, for translation both in meetings and in print. We wish to hold issue-oriented meetings for each region, focusing on the needs of families and Spanish-speakers.

We do realize we can never have enough outreach. We are always re-evaluating what we have done versus what we can do. We have found our door-to-door to be one of the best ways in reaching out.

To help in maintaining interest throughout Silver Lake, we would like to incorporate block contacts throughout our community and, with the continued help of the workshops to provide us with

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new ways to outreach and with our persistence and commitment, we will do so, we will continue to do so.

The next group will be discussing the bylaws, starting with Marty.

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MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: Good evening. My name is Martin Fiddleman. I've lived in and around the Silver Lake community since 1952. I have been involved with preparation of the bylaws and have served on the coordinating committee as well.

I will be briefly discussing the process we used to develop the bylaws, then Jane Renohan will explain the composition of the governing board, and finally Aretha Johansson will speak to the election process we have adopted.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: I am going to interrupt you one second. We're running long on time, so if you can compress it in any way, please do.

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: I'm about 30 seconds, so --

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay.

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: (Inaudible).

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Much better. Thank you.

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: Our bylaws we're presenting

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to you tonight are as a result of works of hundreds, 15 primarily, on the governance committee.

In order to ensure accountability to the community, we provide for a process for recall of referendum as well as a process for amending the bylaws and appealing the decisions on grievances through the direct vote of stakeholders.

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DONE has advised us that we cannot allow a vote by stakeholders to be final and binding on the SLNC and that the bylaws must provide a mechanism for the governing board to overrule a vote by the community.

Although we would prefer that votes on recalls, referendums, grievance appeals, and bylaw amendments be binding on the SLNC, we have provided that the board may overturn such stakeholder votes by a four-fifths vote of the board. DONE has suggested that we lower this requirement to a two-thirds vote, something that we oppose unless required to do so by this body.

In relation to the proxy voting, we thought it was worthwhile to put in the recognition that at board meetings there would be no proxy voting, but if the board feels that we should remove that, we're willing to do so.

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Jane.

DARREN MARTINEZ: Darren Martinez, deputy city attorney. If I may clarify one issue with the commission, there's not an issue with respect to the requirement for proxy voting.

The reason for the suggestion to eliminate the term no proxy voting is because it's already provided for in the Brown Act. Any time you start paraphrasing another act, you can run into trouble

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so, for example, if in another situation, say for example, stakeholder absentee ballots, you don't want anybody arguing or challenging you that such is a proxy vote, therefore, not allowed because of the bylaws.

That's a reason for a suggested change. The issue is with respect to the two-thirds or four-fifths.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: We understand.

JANE RENOHAN: My name is Jane Renohan. I've been involved with SLNC formation for about a year. I've lived in Silver Lake for 10, and I'm a sophomore at John Marshall High School. I will be talking about our governing board structure.

The governing board proposed this evening consists of 21 members: Four elected by

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geographical region with two per region, and seven elected at large. The terms of office are two years of staggered terms, and board members may serve for the maximum of four consecutive terms.

Officers are elected from among and by elected board members. The officers are two co-chairs, one vice chair, a secretary, and a treasurer. The board member and voting requirements are to be a stakeholder of Silver Lake and be at least 14 years of age.

By having an age limit of 14 to be able to

vote or run for board position, we want to encourage youth to become more involved. 14, we decided, was a good age because we would have input of youth balanced with some level of maturity. I personally became involved with the SLNC when I was 14.

Our board committee in meetings to discuss specific issues will allow for great stakeholder and the existing organization participation and the ability for the greatest diversity of interests to be aired.

Board meetings provide opportunities for the public to speak on issues. Committee meetings allow for stakeholders to participate in formation

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of policy and will also allow for participation beyond the boards. Meetings to discuss special issues will bring the community together and allow for input from the community on issues of the board.

Our structure is a democratic structure. It balances geographic interests with community at-large representation. After hours of discussions and debates, we realized that by having 14 of our members elected from regions within Silver Lake and having seven at-large, we can assure that members would come from different ethnic and economic groups while at the same time having some board members

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answerable to the community.

We decided not to have interest groups because Silver Lake is so diverse, that there are too many possible groups to have decided between them. And we agree that people should run on their own merit for governing board positions, not as one representative for a larger group that would guarantee power to that one person or group. We wanted everyone on a level field.

Aretha.

ARETHA JOHANNSON: Hi. I'm Aretha Johannson, and I have been involved in the Silver Lake

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Neighborhood Council since the summer of 2001. I will be talking about the election process.

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council annual election we've organized by a seven-person election committee, one committee member from each of Silver Lake's seven regions so as to encourage stakeholder participation from all regions and, therefore, increase diversity.

We are confident that by starting the nomination process eight weeks before the election day provides a sufficient amount of time to let the neighborhood know about the election by sending e-mail, distributing multi-language mailers and posters, and publicized announcements in local newspapers.

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This long period of time would also give interested stakeholders time to fight for office. Nevertheless, there will still be an opportunity for last-minute write-ins on election day. And just like the federal and state elections, we also concluded that having the election on one day rather than many would help direct stakeholders' attention, too, and focus on a very important event.

During this 18 months of developing the bylaws it was obvious that Silver Lake's already a

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community of neighbors who are caring, aware, and involved. But it also seemed that at our community meetings, that the use of increased community participation versus a smaller committee gives stakeholders a sense of future community empowerment.

And this is the spirit we would like to continue within legal guidelines. By having the opportunity for workshops and social gatherings, we're attempting to increase stakeholders' involvement and encourage the spirit of a community empowerment.

That concludes our presentation. Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Thank you.

Do we have questions for the applicants?

Commissioner Woods Gray.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Yes. On that bylaws referendum, can you explain to me where the four-fifths -- you maybe did, but why that came about, the four-fifths of the board of directors.

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: Do you know what section it is?

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Yeah, how did you arrive at that percentage, four-fifths?

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COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: This is Article 7, Section F.

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: Yeah, that's correct. 7-F. We felt that in order to overcome a two-thirds majority of stakeholders passing a referendum, we should have a very high standard for overcoming the neighborhood's belief in a referendum and, therefore, we put it at four-fifths. It's as arbitrary as two-thirds.

It's a high number. You could say three-fourths and go in between the two if you wanted to. We thought it should be a very high number in order to overcome and not be voted out for office next time through.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: So if the neighborhood decided that they wanted something, then you could go to your board and decide to overturn it?

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: That's what we've been

advised. That's what ^{DNE7355} DONE has advised us to do.

We would rather not have a referendum overturned by the board, but DONE has advised us that we are required that the board itself must make all final decisions, or at least have the ability to overthrow.

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Now, I don't know what would have happened in the city of South Gate if that had been the issue, if the board itself didn't have the right to overturn what the voters had done, but that's what we have been advised.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Mr. President, through the president to the city attorney, is this in conflict with the city plan or something?

DARREN MARTINEZ: Darren Martinez, deputy city attorney.

I believe that the applicant copied a bylaw provision from another certified neighborhood council that had been certified. The requirement that was -- or the language that was used in that provision at that time was a two-thirds requirement.

With respect to us saying that we would have a two-thirds requirement required for this applicant to put in in these bylaws as well, it is because of a provision in the plan which requires that the board be empowered by the citizens.

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For certain reasons there are problems with the referendum process itself. However, the four-fifths requirement in practice results in -- I think we have a 21-member board. And it would

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basically require 17 of those people to be present.

If, for example, the board had passed something and it wanted to do an item, the group could come back and, as a practical matter, the board may not be empowered in that sense to make a decision because of this referendum process.

That is why the concern arises with respect to referendums and this four-fifths versus two-thirds requirement.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: My concern is that if a community makes a decision, that a few people should not be able to overturn the will of a large group. Because we're trying to empower the community, neighborhoods, people, stakeholders, not a board, in my opinion.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Commissioner Stone.

COMMISSIONER STONE: I think the question on the same topic for the applicant, am I reading your bylaws correctly that a referendum by the stakeholders could not occur until the board takes an action? So it's basically the referendum wouldn't be on its own; it would be to overturn an

action by the board; is that correct?

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: That's correct. But there's

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a -- to be fair, I mean -- I see where you're going. That's -- you know, the community is outraged by the board's action, then they have a referendum process and then to come back to the board, which would take a large vote.

But there's also another issue at another place in the bylaws in voting where we enlarge that same issue. That's in Section E where it states that votes by stakeholders on recall of board members, referendums, grievance appeals, or ratification of bylaws amendments are binding unless overturned by four-fifths, two-thirds, so that that issue is probably -- I would guess in your mind is more important -- I'm not sure, but our feeling is that if you're going to recall board members, the community is going to recall board members, that two-thirds of the board shouldn't be able to reverse that recall after the community has come and voted by a two-thirds majority to recall someone, to now come back and say the board can reverse that by two-thirds. We just believe that the -- more power to the neighborhood.

COMMISSIONER STONE: You have mentioned the recall of board members a couple times now. Is that where you see this really playing out or do you see

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it a policy issue? Do you see it in bylaws adjustments?

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: Well, ratification of bylaws. That might be the place that you see it most often, is the ratification of bylaws where the -- at a community -- at a board meeting with the community voting you satisfy a bylaw by two-thirds vote and then the board can come back and change that by two-thirds vote. It just seems like the neighborhood stakeholders should have more say. That was our belief.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Am I missing something in that discussion, that the recall, as it's been described in paragraph number 4, does not provide for the board to overturn that decision; if there's a recall, that 500 signatures are submitted, and then a two-thirds majority of at least 200 stakeholders with a minimum of 100 stakeholders for regional board members advise a recall, then as I read it, there's no board action required or -- in order -- in that situation?

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: But 11-E addresses the issue. It's a relevant section.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Which section are you in?

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MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: 11. Section E, 11-E.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Article 11?

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: Yeah, Article 11, Section E,
Voting, Number 2.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay.

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: That was also referenced.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. I see.

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: Again, if it's the board's
wish we would go along with two-thirds, but we would
prefer the four-fifths.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Any other
questions?

Commissioner Herrera-Duran.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: It was just
something I didn't quite -- wasn't clear on, and
that's the co-chairs. And you were asked to define
the function of each one of those, and I honestly
didn't see really defined what each was responsible
for. What if they get in an argument --

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: Well, we did amend that as
requested. Basically it says the board steps in. I
can show you the --

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: The board steps in
and settles the argument?

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: And decides what the duties

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are going to be. But let me --

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: Is this going to be defined as the two are elected or as they get into a dispute or what?

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: When -- let me find it. Oh, here it is. It's Article 9-A.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: Oh, yes, I did see that.

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: Okay. In the case of a dispute between the co-chairs regarding the respective roles, the board will determine the role that each co-chair shall play in the performance of their duties.

We don't expect that to happen but, you know, with personalities -- so far we haven't had that problem. We have had a series of co-chairs in each of our meetings. They have been able to work cooperatively together.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: So they are to decide between them how they will chair each of the meetings?

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: How they will distribute the work between the co-chairs, yeah.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: What's the purpose of that?

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MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: More democracy.

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COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: Excuse me?

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: We had long discussions about that both in the governance meeting and the community meetings. The feeling was we didn't want kings or queens. We didn't want someone feeling that they owned the organization. We felt that we would do better if we had co-chairs so it would be seen more as a community effort rather than have one titular head.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: Okay. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Any other questions?

On the question -- before you run away, I have one question. On the issue of proxy voting which the city attorney has explained is really a redundancy question, are you comfortable with removing that clause?

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: Well, I'm a vice-president of California Federation of Teachers and I have written a lot of contracts and helped write a lot of contracts over the years, and I find that oftentimes redundancy is worthwhile with contracts because the people don't know, for example, in this case the Brown Act, and people will say -- someone might say

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here, "Here, I'll give you my vote. You go vote for me tomorrow."

We just thought it would be clearer for

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people to read it there even though there was a chance for redundancy.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: I'll take that as a no.

All right. With that, we'll move to the public hearing portion, and since we've done it once already tonight I don't have to explain the process. I will call three names, and hopefully we can move through the speakers quickly.

Brian Center, Milt Rosenberg, and Jeff Gardner.

BRIAN CENTER: Hi. My name is Brian Center. I'm a resident of Silver Lake. My day job is I'm a deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Lori Molina.

In the many hours that I spent with the people of Silver Lake, I can say that I'm nothing but proud and impressed by their efforts. The people of Silver Lake are represented by the diversity of people of varying styles and goals and ideas, but there's a common thread that I've seen, a true passion for democratic ideals, for openness,

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for fairness, and for reaching out to people who are traditionally underrepresented in the democratic process.

If I had a catch phrase, I would say there's a lot of bleeding hearts, in the very best

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sense of that phrase, and that people are really worried and concerned themselves with being open and giving people a chance to participate and to have their voices heard.

So I just wanted to voice my support today for certification and say that I'm confident that if we are certified, that we will continue to live and govern ourselves by those guiding principles and that I'm nothing but confident that the people of Silver Lake will be able to make this experiment in democracy a success, and thank you for your support.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Thank you.

Milt Rosenberg, Jeff Gardner, and James Omahen.

MILT ROSENBERG: My name is Milt Rosenberg. I've been a resident of Silver Lake for approximately 40 years and a homeowner since 1974.

The reason I'm addressing B0NC tonight is to emphasize that the bylaws have developed through a long democratic process and reflects the consensus

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of the community.

It has been my pleasure to see the neighborhood groups and individuals that have in the past failed to cooperate for the good of the community do so in this regard, and I urge that you approve our application.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Jeff Gardner,

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James Omahen, and Stephanie Vendig.

JEFF GARDNER: Hello. I'm here to voice my support also. I'm not a resident in Silver Lake, but I've participated in Greater Griffith Park and Atwater Village, and I've seen great cooperation break out and I've seen a lot of people work together over a period of years. It doesn't work easily in the beginning, but after a while people all start to gel, they start to understand better. And I've seen people starting to cooperate that were not cooperating two years ago when this process and this great adventure began.

So I'm very much in favor of Silver Lake Neighborhood Council certification. Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Thank you.

James Omahen, Stephanie Vendig, and Maryann Kuk.

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JAMES OMAHEN: Thank you once again, and very briefly, I come before you as a stakeholder employee in Silver Lake supporting the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council and, again, I urge their certification this evening.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Stephanie Vendig, Maryann Kuk, and Cheryl Revkin.

STEPHANIE VENDIG: I'm Stephanie Vendig. I

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have been a resident of Silver Lake for 37 years. I am the president of the senior club at Silver Lake, Silver Lake Seniors, seniors 50 and above.

The Silver Lake senior club is a member of the Federation of Senior Clubs of the recreation and parks, and our activities take place at the Silver Lake Recreation Center.

We seniors truly support the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council and wish it certified. We are in great need of easy access to services, resources, but mainly opportunities to be able to improve our facility, improve our community, and that is why we would like to have this council certified.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Thank you.

Maryann Kuk, Cheryl Revkin, and Andrew

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Westall.

MARYANN KUK: Good evening again. My name is Maryann Kuk, and I'm president of the Silver Lake residents association, and my day job is a real estate agent with Housing Solutions.

I have participated with the neighborhood council formation committee since the beginning. The Silver Lake residents association mission statement is to promote and maintain the most desirable environment in the Silver Lake area and to contribute to the welfare of the community at

large.

We have been an association for over 35 years and have had a consistent 900 members who pay \$15 a year out of an approximate 5,000 households in the SLRA territory. I bring this up because I know how hard it is to do outreach and to interest people in getting involved in helping make the neighborhood better.

The outreach efforts by this group of dedicated participants is remarkable. In a little over a year they have about -- I can say exactly, 1,022 stakeholders signed up. This is from starting at zero. The effort that was expended in at least three languages was amazing. I have the utmost

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confidence that this activity will continue and will be even more successful.

All along the way the formation group brought their ideas and rough drafts to the larger group for their input, suggestions, and approval. Many people were consistent in their participation; others would drift in and out. All were welcome.

We wholeheartedly support the certification of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council. We look forward to continuing to work with other existing neighborhood associations and working together with the neighborhood councils towards making our neighborhood better.

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Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Cheryl Revkin, Andrew Westall, and Lin Min Kong.

CHERYL REVKIN: Hi. I'm Cheryl Revkin. I've been a business person in Silver Lake for 25 years and I'm president of the Silver Lake chamber of commerce. The chamber of commerce wholeheartedly supports the certification of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council. We commend their efforts at outreach, especially for including the business community.

There are five -- what we consider five

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districts in the business community. We're constantly struggling to unify those five districts, and we see the neighborhood council as an organization that will help us do that.

So thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Thank you.

Andrew Westall, Lin Min Kong, and Ingrid Popper.

ANDREW WESTALL: Hi. Andrew Westall again with the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, and as I said, we highly support the application for certification by Silver Lake, one of our other neighbors, and that we hope to work with both of our neighbors over the course of time as a real regional base of power for citizens and residents in

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northeast Los Angeles.

So once again, we do support Silver Lake's certification as well. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Lin Min Kong, Ingrid Popper, and Derek Ryder.

LIN MIN KONG: I'm Lin Min Kong, on behalf of the newly certified Atwater Neighborhood Council. Thank you very much. I'm also an attorney at Center for Law and the Public Interest. I'm here in support of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council.

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We worked very closely with them at the beginning stages of formation when we decided to both split off and form our own neighborhood council. We had our own individual concerns for our neighborhoods. I'm here to support them.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Thank you.

Ingrid Popper, Derek Ryder, and Michele McGrath.

INGRID POPPER: My name is Ingrid Popper, and I've been involved in the certification process for about a year and a half now. And I've kind of drifted in and out of it. I've been pretty involved in outreach, but this is a really diverse group in that they all have their own ideas, very individualistic people, and they have worked very, very hard to argue and then come to agreement on

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things. And I think this is going to be a very good group and really support this and hope that you approve our certification.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Thank you.

Derek Ryder and Michele McGrath.

DEREK RYDER: Hi. My name is Derek Ryder and I've been working with the neighborhood council in

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formation for the past year and strongly support it. It's been a great democratic experience.

And I specifically want to speak in favor of the four-fifths vote that was discussed earlier because I believe that this clause of the four-fifths vote for the purpose of recall and referendum is an example of direct democracy that is kind of the life spirit of the neighborhood councils and their reason for being, and to take away that four-fifths and have it equal to two-thirds of the board that equals the two-thirds of the community that just voted against them is setting the authority of the board over the people. And the purpose of the neighborhood council should be to give power to the people.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Thank you.

Michele McGrath and Bennett Kayser.

MICHELE MC GRATH: I actually didn't need to

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speaking, but I just wanted to say it's a great group that's been working together. Please support it. And thanks for listening.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay.

BENNETT KAYSER: Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Bennett Kayser. I'm a stakeholder in

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Silver Lake as a resident, as a business person. I'm a stakeholder in Echo Park as the vice-president of the Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council.

I'm here to support the Silver Lake application and certification. As you know, as you remember, during the Echo Park certification one of the boundary disputes was with Silver Lake. We were able to negotiate and work out a solution that met the needs of both organizations. We're eager to see the neighborhood get better and would like to work with the Silver Lake and Atwater neighborhood councils.

On a separate personal note with this, not representing my neighborhood council, I'm a little bit puzzled at the DONE policy about the four-fifths and two-thirds and why that's there at all, but that's for another meeting.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Thank you.

Okay. That concludes the public hearing

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portion for this evening. What I'd like to do is ask the applicants to come back to the microphone and make a rebuttal statement if they wish. Okay.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: I have a question

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I forgot to ask.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Yes.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: I need to ask the person who talked about the outreach, whichever, whomever.

BEA GOLD: I said I was going to answer for all the applicant's questions, right or wrong.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: I notice that in the demographics that were given to us, there's a 43 percent Latino and 33 percent white. I don't really see that that was represented here today, that what -- what -- how did you do the outreach, what --

VIVIAN ESCALANTE: Well, the thing is that we find that since the demographic is so intensely involved with their families that --

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: You know, I can hardly hear you.

VIVIAN ESCALANTE: I'm sorry.

We have found that when we have communicated with the stakeholders at our door-to-door, that the majority of the people have families and they're working full time. And for them to actually leave and go to a meeting, it's

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been extremely difficult for them.

And I also myself, just recently having to

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go door to door this past weekend, have found it very difficult for them to leave the home, leave the family, and then get ready for the next day. And that's one of the primary reasons why they don't really come out, is because of that.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: I find that very difficult to -- you know, there are other ways you can handle that.

BEA GOLD: It was very interesting. I guess it's two weeks now, two weeks ago I went to a neighborhood council alliance meeting. And it was all over the city, and there was -- after we began the program there were tables set up for community interest groups. And I went, of course, to the outreach interest group.

And one of the areas that people were talking about was reaching the unreachable. It's been very interesting for us because we've worked very hard and we know where we're missing the boat, but we haven't quite figured out yet how we're going to get where we want to go.

At that meeting there was a woman who came from district -- I think it was Vermont Neighborhood Council, if this is one, whose name was Barbara. And she was talking about reaching these people

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through a food program. And so I asked if she would come and speak to us.

What we do, where we go from here, I don't know, but we will get there and we will get people out.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: Can you tell me what you did now in your outreach?

BEA GOLD: You mean to reach the people?

VIVIAN ESCALANTE: We've actually gone door to door to the homes where we know that some of the people are unable to come out. But more importantly, we're finding that throughout our regions, because it's so difficult to reach them, we're hoping that we'll be able to -- when we have our issues there, what we're going to do is go out to the regions.

For example, as you see two and three, if they're not too large, we'll have them combined, if not, we'll have them separate so the communities can actually come out and they will speak.

And there's a survey that we're actually working on right now to be sent out to all stakeholders so they will realize there's some issues there that will be coming to their region and we urge them to participate and also to let us know

what -- if the item is not on the list of their concern, for them to actually put it on there.

So we know that we will need to do some special outreach for them to make sure we can get to them. It's important that we do, and we are going to get to them.

BEA GOLD: We did -- actually, we have a number of stakeholder forms that people have filled out and have been talked to, and they are not in isolation there in terms of what we have attempted to do.

I'm just saying I think we have a great job to get them out. It's not that we don't have numbers -- and I have my computer here; I can tell you how many we have -- but I think the issue is right on, and in terms of what methods we use to bring them out -- they came to that affair, that special event that we talked about. It was a very very successful event, but it was one time.

And so we need to look at how do you bring them out, how do they come to meetings. I think the election process will do something. We will have elected people in those areas.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: I think that from what I see now, unless something is different, the election process wouldn't include them at this

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point. I don't see that they're that represented.

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: Yeah. I know that one of the things we found is that Silver Lake is a little unusual in that you don't have a homogenous community; you have a community with very wealthy people, you have people who don't have that much money, you have people with families, then again you have a wealthy section of people with very small households who have time to participate, who are older, who, again, have time to participate. So you have lots of barriers.

We do hope that once we start dealing with issues -- we understand that we're going to have a walking man campaign prior to our elections; we are going to hit every household in Silver Lake, going to have issues fairs. We are going to get to people. We have avoided dealing with issues up to this point, things that affect people's families, things that affect people's lives because we were advised to do so by the League of Women Voters.

But once we get into gear we realize that people will come forward because they will realize that these things can have an effect.

I'd like to lastly just point out the difficulty. I mean, you guys want diversity. I

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know you do. But here we are outside the Silver Lake community in a recreation center that's not served by transit. It's very far away from south Silver Lake, which is the heart of the Hispanic community in Silver Lake. I'm sure you didn't do that on purpose, I know you want us to participate, but that's the way things worked out.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: I'd like to point out that at one of our meetings -- not to be argumentative and defensive -- but we did have a meeting where you had lots of families with children. They did come out. And this is what, our 60th-something certification where we've had lots of families come out. So it is possible.

I was just concerned that I didn't see a lot of those represented here.

VIVIAN ESCALANTE: Yeah, we're actually disappointed that they weren't able to come out, but they were also aware of the fact that there is going to be somebody here to represent them and they know that they have be aware of that, so if they're going to want that representation they're going to have to know who's actually running so they can elect them. And that has been very clearly stated to them, so that they actually receive the representation that

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they need in their regions.

BEA GOLD: One of the interesting things that

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came up was regarding who comes to the meetings in this district that I was talking about. I'm not sure, it's Jan Perry is the council woman there, council person there.

But she was very clear in terms of when they were talking about reaching the unreachable, they had a sign, you know, it was not -- this was not something that was an idea; that was our problem; it was everybody's problem.

And so the issue of how they used food in that particular area to get people out was a very interesting one. And I think there are many creative ways to go about it we will have to keep pursuing.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: I appreciate that. But let me ask one thing, that we don't look at them as unreachable. They are reachable.

BEA GOLD: I understand. I'm just saying that was a sign that was up.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: Put that aside. They are interested.

BEA GOLD: I'm just saying that was the sign that was made for that table.

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COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: Put the sign away and talk about reachable.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: All right. We had

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one other speaker that I missed earlier in the process. Melody Lazowitz would like to make a comment.

MELODY LAZOWITZ: Hi, Commissioners. My name is Melody Lazowitz. I've lived in Silver Lake for the past 14 years and been involved with the launch of the neighborhood councils. I initially had an interest about the citywide launch and then, of course, got involved with my local region.

I produced the first workshop that launched the committees of this organizing group and I stayed very active. I chaired a committee called the communications committee. Out of the -- I don't know how many tables we had total, but I set up 14 of the information tables and was very active in trying to get the community involved.

But I have to say that I did have a sense of disappointment that our -- for instance, our written stakeholder forms didn't necessarily translate into people coming to the meetings.

And I find that some of our major

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decisions on boundaries, both -- well, the internal boundaries and also our decisions on the bylaws were really localized within a small group of individuals that were meeting monthly but that weren't necessarily bringing in new people every month. And I got discouraged by that process and stopped being

active last April.

But I wanted to share my support for a neighborhood council for Silver Lake. We're a terrific community and we deserve to be united under a big umbrella, but I wanted to bring out one point that maybe this is my last chance to make any comment on our bylaws.

We have a formula of 21 representatives. And out of the 21, 13 of them are elected by region only. And what that means is that -- and seven of them are elected by the whole community.

What that means is as a stakeholder myself, I can only elect nine of the people or vote for nine of the individuals on a 21-person board. And I think that is a limitation for the community to be able to try to shape the kind of leadership and the kind of people that we're going to be electing as our board.

It wouldn't be quite as bad except that we

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also don't have an opportunity to vote for our chairs and our vice-chairs and our officers because the officers are going to be elected by the board.

So in a traditional sense, some of the neighborhood councils are letting the stakeholders vote for the president and the chairs and the officers, but we're not doing that and, in addition, we're not giving the stakeholders an opportunity to

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even elect a majority number of our seats. And I think that's something that we should look into.

I have talked to so many of the stakeholders and I don't think that they have been as involved in making these bylaws decisions. So I just wanted to point that caveat to you and, if it's a concern to you all, you can take that up as well.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Thank you.

With that, I'm going to close the public hearing one more time and move to commissioner discussion.

The items this evening that we have to deal with focuses, I said earlier, on two primary bylaws questions: One, the four-fifths requirement for referendum, or four-fifths requirement to overturn a referendum of the stakeholders, and the question of proxy voting which is referenced in the

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bylaws.

Personally, I don't have a problem, I think, with leaving the proxy voting statement in the bylaws, although it is referenced in the Brown Act and the city attorney has expressed a concern about being redundant with regard to other acts and requirements of state law.

I can't necessarily imagine a circumstance where a prohibition on proxy voting would necessarily conflict or cause confusion with the

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requirements of the Brown Act, which essentially contains the same prohibition.

The question of the four-fifths versus two-thirds issue is one that we have sort of wrestled with in other forums and other locations around the city.

The city council, in their infinite wisdom when they established the citywide plan for neighborhood councils, did so with the understanding that each neighborhood council would have a governing body, and they did that because they wanted to establish a responsible body for the actions of the neighborhood council, somebody that they could rely on or some group that they could rely on that was duly elected or duly constituted to

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represent the interests of the neighborhood council.

When you're dealing with an electorate, be it a referendum, be it a recall, be it whatever else in the situation of the neighborhood, the electorate or the body tends to shift over time and you can't really go back and identify, well, this is the group that acted on behalf of the neighborhood council, because the next time you hold an election or referendum, it may be an entirely different group, especially when you are setting limits that are a minimum of 100 or 200 stakeholders participating in

those kinds of elections or those kinds of referendums.

Because if you're looking at a population -- I think we're at 34,000 roughly in Silver Lake, 100 people out of 35,000 is a very, very tiny percentage of the overall stakeholder group that you're trying to represent. So it's a question of balancing the gatekeepers that we're talking about, whether it's the 100 people that are the minimum for mounting a recall drive or whether it's the 17 members of the board that are the people who are ultimately making the determination.

The thinking behind the plan and the city

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council's action in establishing the plan that we as a board of commissioners are charged with implementing was that the board would ultimately be duly constituted through an electoral or appointed process and they would stand as the certified council or governing body of the neighborhood council in all settings.

So, therefore, we are required to empower that board with certain responsibilities relative to the neighborhood council. So when we come along with a situation where there's a referendum or recall that allows the stakeholders as a group to take an action, it can't necessarily be binding on the board as a final action. And that's because of

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the way the city council wrote the ordinance that establishes neighborhood councils.

We have an issue in other places where we're dealing with town hall style of neighborhood council governance where everybody who comes to the meetings gets a chance to hold up a card and vote on a particular question. The city attorneys have advised us and the city council has advised us that that particular style of governance doesn't fit within the plan and ordinance as we currently have them on the book.

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The referendum that we are talking about tonight is akin to that situation where the will of the stakeholders is given weight to essentially overturn the actions of the board.

So what we are trying to do is establish a balancing point somewhere where the wishes of the board as duly constituted and elected as the responsible agency for a neighborhood council can reassert their will or judgment over the actions of the stakeholders at large depending on, again, viewing the question of who the stakeholders are in that given electoral situation.

And it's really a balance of saying at what point does the will of the board outweigh the referendum of the stakeholders; is it two-thirds of the board in upholding the action or four-fifths of

the board? And as the gentleman said earlier, it's purely arbitrary in making that determination.

The question of balance comes in how we weight those two groups. Do we weight the boards as having more authority in a situation like that or do we weight the will of the stakeholders in general? And that's what makes our job sometimes interesting and sometimes difficult, to try to figure out what the answer to that question is.

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And I've sort of wavered over the last week or so in the last week back and forth having looked at the question of do we give the board authority with two-thirds of their vote to overturn or do we give the will of the stakeholders with one-fifth support of the board the will to carry the final action?

And it's sort of Solomon's choice of one choice versus the other, and I'm tending to come down tonight in sort of looking at the two-thirds as being not enough and the four-fifths as being too much and trying to get to the point of three-quarters where we might actually get to the middle.

So I'll listen to the thoughts of my colleagues to see if they have some differing opinions on the matter.

Commissioner Stone.

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COMMISSIONER STONE: Thank you, Mr. President.

Just on pure numbers and trying to align this with or look at some of the other neighborhood councils that we've certified, it's my understanding -- and I don't have the bylaws in front of me, but I think it's Westchester Playa Del Ray has a procedure where a two-thirds majority of the board is the

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empowered board. But that's to override a simple majority vote.

So here there's already a safeguard built in that it's a two-thirds requirement. So we're not looking at a simple majority which is then overturned by two-thirds. We're looking at two-thirds which is overturned. Whether it's three-quarters -- I think four-fifths is a comfortable number for me. I would support that.

But we have four of us here tonight. We have to be unanimous. But I think that we should make a distinction between this and a situation where there's just a simple majority that is then being appealed to the board.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: I think what mitigates it in favor of that is the fact that the referendum only occurs in a situation where there has been an action in the board that is being reconsidered by the stakeholders at large.

The only piece that troubled me in the

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bylaws was there was also a provision that said that a referendum could be held on a matter which hadn't been acted on in a timely manner by the board, and the timely manner was not defined as to what that meant. I'm a little hesitant about that question.

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Commissioner Woods Gray.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Mr. President, I'm pleased to see that there is a process in the bylaws that allows stakeholders to make decisions and have some input to their board. I believe this is very important because, for me, power doesn't equate who has last word. And that's kind of like what I'm hearing, that the board kind of has to have the last word.

I think that power is the ability to get things done. It's going to make a difference for these neighborhoods and for the people who live in them.

And I believe that the boards need to be accountable. And this to me seems as if it's a way for stakeholders to hold the boards accountable to decisions, and not only to the ones that they have already made but to ones that they may not have made yet and need to make. That's also in the bylaw.

And I can see that being a situation in some neighborhoods where people need to have that ability to hold the boards accountable. And I'm

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really very much interested in empowering stakeholders as opposed to the boards of these neighborhood councils.

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And I like the four-fifths in that if a neighborhood has decided on a particular issue, then it would be more difficult for the board to actually overturn the will of the stakeholders. And I don't know if that was the intent of the maker of those bylaws but, to me, I agree with that.

Because if I -- I realize that neighborhoods need to have some way to hold these boards accountable because the boards can do anything they want to if they have the last word and it's very easy for them to overturn it. They can say, "Well, say what you want."

You know, I work for an employer who does things like that, where we voice our opinions and then they do what they want to do. And I am very cognizant of that fact that people need to have a way to hold people accountable.

And -- otherwise neighborhood councils just are not going to have any real meaning if boards are the ones who are running neighborhoods as opposed to the stakeholders who live in the communities. It's real important to me.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Commissioner Herrera-Duran.

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understand what you're saying. I think I have seen that on a couple of instances where people have felt a little bit frustrated that it's the same-old same-old in terms of another body making a decision for the community and not having a word.

I can think in my mind now two occasions where that has caused some issues, short-term issues, but within a couple of neighborhood councils that I know of.

This is a grand experiment, I think. Hopefully we don't make too many mistakes, and perhaps this is one time in which we need to take a look at changing what we have done in the past.

I agree also and I understand what the city attorney is saying, that we do need to vote in terms -- and we do need to make our decisions and we need to -- I understand what the president has said. We do need to make our decisions cognizant of the fact that we are responsible also to the city and to those who have put us in this position to make decisions that are fair.

However, I trust the commissioners here, I trust what they say and I trust their thought pattern, and so I'll wait to see how they choose to vote. But I do believe that this is something that

could be workable.

And I understand what Commissioner Woods Gray is saying, too, without going through all of that, and I agree with it.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: Well, one thing while we do this, while we're still in some discussion. I am a little bit concerned about the outreach. I'm not backing down on that.

I would encourage you to change -- there's nobody who's unreachable. Please don't say that. Because they would have said that about my parents, and that's not true. So everybody is reachable and there is a way, and please be cognizant of that.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Mr. President, I'm not really clear, but I believe I heard that they have continued to outreach because of the fact that they turned in 233 signatures with their application and I understand that now they have a thousand. So obviously they must have continued to outreach.

And that's something that we urge our councils to continue to do even after certification. It's extremely important that all stakeholders participate. And I want to support Commissioner Duran on that.

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COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Mr. President, I have a question. There is another -- putting this sticky issue aside for the moment, there's another bylaw advice from the city attorney and from the Department about the final arbiter.

Did we cover that in our -- during staff presentation or in the -- and I'll ask the applicant to comment on that.

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: Yeah, we're willing to add Article 8-A, the recommendation line that says "DONE or another neutral outside party will be the final arbiter for any disputes that may arise from the election. Selection of the arbiter shall be by majority vote of the SLNC coordinating committee." That's fine.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. Thank you. Now back to the sticky issue.

Just for -- I'm not the most proficient in math, but numbers here, if we're talking about a board of 21 members, from my scribbles, two-thirds is -- that's an easy one. Two-thirds is 14, three-quarters is 16, four-fifths is 17. So if we're talking about the difference between three-quarters and four-fifths, that's one board

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member. That could go either way.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: That's true. I think at this point, since three commissioners have indicated an affinity for four-fifths, I won't stand in the way.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Then it's probably time to strike while the iron is hot.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: You don't want to miss the opportunity.

COMMISSIONER STONE: So I will move that we adopt the findings of the Department contained in their staff reports, find that the boundaries meet the criteria as set forth in the plan, and approve the final staff boundary determination as defined in the staff report, approve shared boundaries with the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council with respect to the area identified as the Thomas Starr King Middle School designed for public use and specific to the allowable overlap shared boundary criteria of the plan, approve shared boundaries with the Elysian Valley Riverside Neighborhood Council with respect to the areas identified as the Alessandro Elementary School designed for public use and specific to the allowable overlap shared boundary criteria of the plan, approve shared

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boundaries with the Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council with respect to the area

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identified as Mayberry Elementary School and Tommy Lasorda Field of Dreams designed for public use and specific to the allowable overlap shared boundary criteria of the plan, further find that the applicant has satisfied the outreach criteria set forth in the plan.

We further find that the applicant's bylaws Article 7, Section F, and Article 11, Section E, regarding referendums and voting do not defeat the requirement in the plan for a -- for a board to be empowered to make decisions on behalf of a neighborhood council as set forth in the citywide system of neighborhood councils.

We further find that the applicant has agreed to amend its bylaws as identified and specified in the Department's evaluation of certificate application report dated February 1st, 2003, with regard to Article 8, Elections, and Article -- on Article 8, Elections, as applied to final arbiter on elections, and Article 11, Section E, deleting the reference to proxy voting, and further find that the applicant has agreed to include the following language from the plan in the

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bylaws, that no single community stakeholder group shall comprise a majority of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council's governing body unless extenuating circumstances are warranted and approved

by the Department.

We advise the applicant that any voting registration requirements placed on stakeholders shall not act to discourage the stakeholders' participation in the neighborhood council.

We find that based on the reports presented by the Department and additional evidence obtained tonight during the public hearing, that the applicant satisfies all remaining criteria set forth in the plan and the ordinance and, finally, that we certify the applicant as a Los Angeles city neighborhood council.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I second.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: No, sir, please. No, please sit down.

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: Well, the problem is that he added things --

COMMISSIONER STONE: Hold on. Mr. President, I did include something in my motion that we had in the staff report. And I was just going through this and I wanted to keep it on the table, and I might be

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willing to amend that.

And that has to do with the no single community stakeholder group comprising a majority. I'm not sure if we did have the applicant agree to that, and I would yield to the applicant to clarify.

MARTIN FIDDLEMAN: We have no problem with

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that, but the -- the issue is that the word "stakeholder group" is not well defined, and so we understood stakeholders to be residents, owners of property, people who work. It might be that the majority are residents. That's a problem.

But if you talk about stakeholder groups and let it be put on the record that by stakeholder groups you mean such things as members of an educational institution, religious institution, community organization, block club, neighborhood association, homeowners association, resident association, faith-based group, senior group, youth group, chamber of commerce, service organization, cultural group, environmental group, police advisory group, and such like those mentioned, that we think that it's a reasonable addition.

We do have a problem, though, in the implementation of it after people will be elected. If in fact this is not held up, what do you do if

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the democratic process works and it doesn't work to have the results you want? What is then the result of that?

But we're willing to accept the language as long as that is the understanding of what is meant by stakeholder groups.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Thank you.

I think one of the -- and you've

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identified probably one of the flaws in the plan as it was originally drafted in terms of lack of definition of the stakeholder group when applied to a majority situation.

We have in certain situations interpreted that to be residents, workers, property owners as stakeholder groups. We have also acknowledged in certain areas that certain community -- or certain neighborhood councils are made up primarily of residents and there is not a very large business base and, therefore, we acknowledge that there may in those certain circumstances be a majority of residents.

We also have situations where we have all at-large voting and no categories, where we can have a result that would be all one stakeholder group or a majority of one stakeholder group.

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So the practical answer to that question is that after the dust settles and after the elections have been held and after the neighborhood council has been operating for a while, there may be challenges to neighborhood councils on the basis of majority stakeholder positioning on boards of directors, and we will have to deal with that as sort of a bridge we cross when we come to it. Because we haven't got -- we don't have a hard-and-fast rule that we can apply in all

situations today.

And that's part of the evolution and part of the growing process that we're all going to go through as neighborhood councils throughout the city.

So I don't think that there is necessarily a problem with accepting the language tonight, which is the intent to provide a diversity among the stakeholders on the board. And we're going to have to just wait and see how that plays out in the future in the neighborhood council.

That brings up the other point I wanted to address that was brought up by one of the speakers, that in many cases there is not a direct election of all stakeholder groups or all board members. In

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some cases there are. You have different types of governing structures for different types of neighborhoods in different settings.

Part of the idea or intent behind the neighborhood council is to bring together a number of divergent viewpoints, and if everybody is evenly or equally elected, the views on the board of directors tend to be more homogenous than if in fact there are appointed or restricted slots on boards of directors for certain people so that minority viewpoints and other views which may not be the most popular views in the community can be heard at the

board level and that that discussion can have the benefit of a wider variety of viewpoints than just the simple majority of all stakeholders throughout the neighborhood council.

And the same goes for the question of does the board get to elect their officers or does the neighborhood council stakeholder base elect the officers. We do it both ways in various places.

And again, we're -- as Commissioner Herrera-Duran said tonight, this is a grand experiment. We're going to have to look back as we go through this process and decide which ones work, which ones don't, and for what reasons and what

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locations. And the answers may vary from place to place around the city as well.

So while you have chosen your organizing group and your stakeholders have chosen a certain framework today, it doesn't mean that that framework is frozen in time forever. Bylaws can change. Election processes can change. All of this is subject to review and refinement as we go forward.

So where we are tonight is taking one step along that process. And hopefully as a group you will monitor the progress and decide which of your bylaws are working, which of them may need tweaking, which of them may need outright change over time. And they may be fine this year, next year, five

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years from now, and then all of a sudden circumstances of the community will change and the bylaws will need to be adjusted sometime down the road.

So look at all of this as a relatively amorphous and ever-changing process that we'll have all have a lot of fun with in the years to come.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Mr. President, if I can be recognized on my motion, and I have a question for the city attorney.

This particular provision that we're

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talking about now inserting something into the bylaws about no single stakeholder's group dominating the board, that's already in the plan? That's my first question.

DARREN MARTINEZ: Right. That's the language that comes right out of the plan.

COMMISSIONER STONE: And have we required that other neighborhood councils insert that into the bylaws?

DARREN MARTINEZ: As I indicated, it is under the advisory, so some groups do, some groups don't. A lot of groups when they are in a situation where there's a likely probability that there could be problems with the board composition go ahead and include it because it's right there and it does remind them.

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COMMISSIONER STONE: But it is not necessary because it is in the plan.

DARREN MARTINEZ: It's not necessary because it still would be binding on the neighborhood council. They'd still have to comply with it even if it wasn't in their bylaws.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Given that's the law and it's in the plan, I would then amend my motion to remove that particular provision from the bylaws.

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DARREN MARTINEZ: Okay. I thought we had -- did we have consent of the applicant to add it? So did you want to take it out or --

COMMISSIONER STONE: I didn't see the consent from the applicant.

DARREN MARTINEZ: So revise your motion. That would be appropriate.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: And as the seconder, I will agree.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: I have also asked the maker of the motion to revise the -- or to retain the clause in the bylaws that prohibits proxy voting. I don't necessarily see a benefit by removing that.

Since the stakeholders have indicated a desire to have that clause in the bylaws, it doesn't necessarily in my view create a problem to retain

it.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: As the city attorney has stated, we have at times and we haven't, and since this applicant did not include it in their original application and we realize it is in the plan, I believe that it's covered without adding it.

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DARREN MARTINEZ: These are suggested changes that we're dealing with. These are not required for the applicant. The only reason that they are brought up or brought to their attention is for their consideration.

For example, the requirement of no proxy voting is a requirement that's stated in the Brown Act, but that has been interpreted; it's very applicable. Boards will know that they're not supposed to proxy vote.

However, the reason the suggestion is made to the applicant is because if this is stated in your bylaws, it could be used as an argument against you as well. If you're looking at the Brown Act and you see no proxy voting, then you know what that means.

However, if in your bylaws it says no proxy voting, let's say for example in your election you then want to have the stakeholders electing your board, somebody could argue that an absentee type

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system where stakeholders are voting from home could be a proxy-type voting. So that's the reason it's brought up. I really don't care what you do with it. I just brought it up.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay.

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COMMISSIONER STONE: Mr. President, I will amend my motion to remove the suggested bylaw change which would delete the reference to no proxy voting.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: I second.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: All right. The motion and the second are agreed. I think we have the motion in the final form. I won't ask anybody to read it back at this point.

Is there any further discussion of the motion? If not, I'll poll the commission.

Commissioner Stone.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Commissioner Woods Gray.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Yes.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Commissioner Herrera-Duran.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: And I, yes. Number 63, welcome to the club.

Okay. We'll take a two-minute break and

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then we have a few things we have to complete before we can adjourn for the evening.

(Recess)

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COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. All right. Can I ask the commissioners to take their seats one more time. We have a couple of items we need to run through tonight to finish up.

Item Number 5 on our agenda tonight is the general manager's report. And Ms. Dunn, if you would like to try to speak over the crowd one more time.

CLAUDIA DUNN: Good evening. I am making this report for the general manager, who is--

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Can I ask for order in the room, please?

CLAUDIA DUNN: Claudia Dunn, assistant general manager. I'm reporting for Greg Nelson, who is currently at the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council election, along with a huge number of our staff, as it is controversial. And I'll leave it at that.

A couple of things I will run through in light of the fact we're going to lose our quorum here.

In terms of the Department and operations, we're still in a position where we're twelve positions down based on vacant positions, and we're

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down by 12 positions because, as you know, there is

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a hiring freeze. And we're in the process of working with the CAO and the mayor's office to see exactly what we can get in terms of filling vacancies. As you know, the fiscal situation in the city is pretty critical, and we're doing the best we can with the resources we have at this point.

Let's see. We are going to meet with the mayor on our proposed 2003/2004 budget. It's a budget hearing that occurs this Thursday. And we'll report the results to you at a future meeting.

I will say that the recommendations we've seen thus far have been, compared to other city departments, quite benevolent, and we're quite pleased. We have heard every city department has taken a seven percent cut, and I will say that we haven't taken a cut. And so I'm pleased to report that.

Last week I believe Greg mentioned that Education on Neighborhoods had met and gave DONE the responsibility of convening a working group that is to report back to Education on Neighborhoods in the middle of March.

And it's a working group of about 30 or more of our closest friends, including neighborhood councils and city departments and whatnot, and it's

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to give some input and get a work plan in place for issues that are related to ENS and some technical challenges that we have been experiencing over a period of time. We will keep you up to date and notify you of that when we actually schedule that meeting so you can become involved as well. We're just working out the nuts and bolts right now, trying to get staffing component put together with that.

In addition, tomorrow in front of the city council, city council will be considering a recommendation from Education on Neighborhoods related to adopting a community impact statement implementation process. We have looked at a prototype that the city clerk put together and we actually saw the prototype at Education on Neighborhoods.

It's fairly exciting in that once we get the entire ENS piece together and then the community impact statement from neighborhood councils, it could actually work very effectively.

There's a lot of process questions and implementation questions that we'll have to report back to Education on Neighborhoods on. However, the intent is that our Department will be responsible

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for administering the whole program. So part of the implementation piece will be also addressing needing additional staff to accomplish this.

Let's see. We have -- I know that several of you have been asking us for election reports. We should be getting some of them to you by e-mail in the very near future, and mainly because we did last Saturday have six elections all across the city, several of which are facing challenges. And that's also been a challenge for us to deal with as well.

Let's see. We had last week a focus group meeting related to the congress of neighborhoods, which is on April 5th, and that focus group meeting included many neighborhood council leaders who had expressed an interest in participating with us in developing a curriculum. It was an excellent meeting.

We actually had a tremendous amount of input on what they feel is an important priority on related -- important priorities related to the curriculum for the day. So we're very excited about that, and we are having another meeting with them to get back together on the next steps. It's February 20 -- it's Saturday, February 22nd is the next meeting. So we'll get that information out to you

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as well.

Finally, I think maybe this will come up on hearing commission business or future agenda items, but I just wanted to report we are working on honing in on what the policy meeting issues might be, and certainly we can discuss that at the next item.

But one of the things we did want to bring forward as a staff report in conjunction with the commission on children, youth, and families has to do with youth outreach strategies that we are working with them on. And we wanted to be able to present that at the policy meeting for information and in the event that down the road we will have to get back to Education on Neighborhoods as well.

In addition, there's some pending policy matters, as you know, that we considered last time during the policy meeting, and we are expecting a draft from the city attorney's office on a few things that they were supposed to get back to us on so we can finalize the reports to you all and put those on the agenda.

So I anticipate we'll have that -- some suggestions tied up by the end of this week for the policy meeting, and of course anything else you all

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want to tell us to put on there, we'll put on there,

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too.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay.

CLAUDIA DUNN: That's about it.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: All right. Thank you.

Questions for the general manager -- or for the assistant general manager, one of the two.

Seeing none, then we'll move to commission business. Any new commission business tonight?

COMMISSIONER STONE: Is this an appropriate place to talk about an agenda item for the policy hearing?

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: We'll catch that on the next item.

COMMISSIONER STONE: Okay. Then I wanted on commission business to thank Commissioner Herrera-Duran for changing her schedule to allow us to meet tonight and certify the applicants.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: All right. That takes us to future agenda items.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: No. I have commission business.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: Since there is a

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committee that was formed to discuss ENS and that sort of thing and we are not part of that, I would like to have that on our next agenda item so we can

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talk about what role we should -- or can be played in this whole process where perhaps we can come up with some kind of plan that people can respond to also.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Shannon, that will be an ENS item for the next agenda.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Mr. President, I remember we were assigned committees to work on something.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: We did at one point.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Is it possible that we can pull up that list of the committees?

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: We'll revisit that.

All right. Then on future agenda items, the policy meeting now scheduled for February 27th apparently has a problem relative to Commissioner Membreno, who is not able to attend that day. So you had -- Commissioner Herrera-Duran, you had suggested the first Tuesday in March.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: The first Tuesday or Thursday. Since this was scheduled on a Tuesday and we don't have a meeting on March 4th, perhaps we

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could do it then, or perhaps Thursday, March 6th.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Either of those dates.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: If it's the first week in March, I can't attend.

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COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Then what I would -- since we only have four commissioners here tonight anyway, what I would suggest, Shannon, is that you pick three or four dates that are possible and poll the commissioners to see if we can find a date that matches for everybody, because at some point we are going to have to have the meeting whether we get seven of us in one room at the time or not.

But we'll try for at least sometime in early March if we can. If we can't get anything before the middle of March, then we'll have to just pick a date and go. Okay.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: If it's the Friday in March, the first Friday, I could do it.

COMMISSIONER HERRERA-DURAN: I could, too.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay.

CLAUDIA DUNN: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays will always conflict with city council during the day. Just FYI.

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COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: We're not expecting the council members to attend our meetings.

Okay. The only other question in the future agenda is I see we're stretching out toward June with our certification hearings. I wanted to just ask staff if there's any way to either pair up some of those or move them in a manner that we can

get to them.

If there's somebody that's got a certification application in today and they're waiting until June to be certified, I'm not sure that's necessarily fair to the neighborhood council. So see if there's a way that can be addressed.

CLAUDIA DUNN: We can look at it but, quite frankly, there's some issues with bylaws and timelines and producing the completed staff work quickly right now, but we'll do our best to look at that.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Whatever happened to -- I received an e-mail from Shannon about meeting on the first and -- Tuesdays.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Commissioner Lucente has a conflict on the second Tuesday evening of the

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month. Let's see if -- whether we can move that date to the first or the third.

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: First and third? I remember she sent us an e-mail that said first and fourth, which sounded like a really good plan to me.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: So you like the first and the fourth?

COMMISSIONER WOODS GRAY: Yes, because I have meetings on the second and third that I would love

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to attend.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: So we'll check on that because we have two votes for the first and the fourth. It will also help me because I may schedule blocks of time out of town.

Okay. With that, I think we're down to Item Number 8, which is adjournment. And hearing no objections to --

COMMISSIONER STONE: I think Mr. McQuiston had in a card.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Comment happened several hours ago, Jim.

COMMISSIONER STONE: He's going to comment on our adjournment motion.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: If you comment on the adjournment, we'll consider it in order.

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JIM MC QUISTON: Jim Mc Quiston, East Hollywood Community Association. I'm sorry that I couldn't get here earlier and that public comment period is just a little twirly for the pig's tail.

I did want to say that I did go to another of the meetings which was talked about here, and that was the rules committee. Janice Hahn has put in quite a few ENS motion changes, and it went to the rules committee instead of the ENN committee and there was an e-mail sent out by DONE saying that it was going to be heard on a certain date. And the

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rules committee got inundated by people asking what was going on and it was not on the agenda. In other words, DONE got the wires crossed.

And I went to the meeting and when I found out that it wasn't going to be heard, I was going to leave. And Ali Edie, who's the clerk, said, "Why don't you stick around and make some public comments," and he put me on first before any of the rest of the program.

And before I opened my mouth, Alex Padilla said, "Oh, we hear you're here because DONE goofed and sent out the wrong message." And he was very upset because just before that practically ENN had discussed some of the other motions. This was, I

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think, on a Wednesday and ENN had met on Tuesday afternoon.

And I got the impression that he was very upset with DONE because DONE wasn't supposed to be sending out these messages. It was supposed to be coming out of the actual departments instead, or out of the committee, and he didn't like the fact that he was getting all this e-mail and cell phone calls when nothing was happening.

And if you read the ordinance, the ordinance was specifically amended so that DONE was prohibited from doing this, so I think there's a little bit of trouble there.

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And I did want to say that there weren't any board members there and no one could speak for the board, and I believe that it would be a good idea for a board member to attend meetings if on the agenda there is something coming up that involves the board's procedures.

Since the board is setting policy for the Department, that means that they really have to get in on the head-in and find out what people are thinking and then start formulating the policy rather than waiting for the general manager to come down and say, "I've developed a policy, and here's

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the policy and go ahead and approve it." Because that's not what the Charter says and that's not what the ordinance says.

But we are getting to the point now with the police changing their rules and the fact that the notifications weren't given to anybody that it's about time that the board really takes the bull by the horns and says, "Hey, look, we have the Charter behind us. We really got to move on this thing and we got to set up a procedure and a policy and everybody in the whole city of Los Angeles has to follow our policy because that's what the Charter says we have the power to do."

And that's good for the city to have some kind of a policy rather than just letting it be

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subject to kind of a catch-as-catch-can type thing with department to department.

So I did want to let you know that was a rather startling statement that the president of the city council had made and we ought to take some heed to it.

The other thing that I want to say is that this group, working group that's gotten up by the ENN committee on notification procedures, really ought to have the constant supervision of the board,

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and that means probably getting plugged in really at the start.

I would suggest that someone contact Council Member Hahn and say, hey, look, we want such-and-such a person to be present on that working committee. And I think it would be very, very salutary for this board to make that move. And I'm sure Janice would just love to have one of you on that committee.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. McQuiston moves and the rest of us second the idea of an adjournment.

(Commission adjourned at 9:30 p.m.)

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