

**ORDINANCE NO. 182830**

An ordinance amending subdivision (2) of Section 22.811 (a) and subparagraph 1 of Section 22.810.1(b)(2)(C)(iii) of the Los Angeles Administrative Code regarding the definition of a stakeholder in the neighborhood council system.

WHEREAS, neighborhood councils are comprised of stakeholders in a community and the term "stakeholder" is currently defined as an individual who "lives, works or owns property in the neighborhood and any individual who declares a stake in the neighborhood and affirms the factual basis for it;" and

WHEREAS, the current stakeholder definition, which allows a person to provide a factual basis for declaring a stake in a neighborhood, has the effect of allowing individuals with tenuous connections to a neighborhood to vote and run for a neighborhood council board seat; and

WHEREAS, the types of stakeholders listed as examples under Charter Section 906(a)(2), e.g., those that live, work or own property in the area, are examples of stakeholders who have substantial and ongoing connections to a neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, all stakeholders in the neighborhood council system should have similar qualities to the types of stakeholders listed as examples in the Charter, by having substantial and ongoing connections within a neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the term "own property" in Charter Section 906(a)(2) should be limited to mean ownership of real property to comport with the intent of the voters in establishing the system of neighborhood councils.

NOW, THEREFORE,

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Subdivision (2) of Section 22.811(a) is amended in its entirety to read as follows:

(2) that neighborhood council membership will be open to everyone who lives, works or owns real property in the neighborhood and also to those who declare a stake in the neighborhood as a community interest stakeholder, defined as a person who affirms a substantial and ongoing participation within the neighborhood council's boundaries and who may be in a community organization such as, but not limited to, educational, non-profit and/or religious organizations;

Sec. 2. Sub-subparagraph 1 of Section 22.810.1 (b)(2)(C)(iii) of the Los Angeles Administrative Code is amended in its entirety to read as follows:

(1) The governing body must, to the extent possible, reflect the diversity of the neighborhood council's stakeholders. All stakeholders must be eligible to vote and run for at least one board seat. Neighborhood councils may allocate their board seats to specific stakeholder categories and establish stakeholder eligibility requirements in voting for the board seats. If a neighborhood council allocates its board seats to specific stakeholder categories, then the neighborhood council must include at least one seat for which every stakeholder is eligible to vote and run. Neighborhood councils may not allocate a majority of their board seats to a single stakeholder group, unless approved by the Department upon a showing of extenuating circumstances. The election procedures created by the Department or City Clerk pursuant to Section 20.36 shall require, in a situation where a neighborhood council requires that a stakeholder provide proof of eligibility, that proof of stakeholder status for community interest stakeholders must be consistent with and substantially equivalent to the evidentiary proof required of stakeholders who live, work or own property.

Sec. 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that this ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, at its meeting of

**From:** Catherine Geanuracos <[catherine@swimsilverlake.org](mailto:catherine@swimsilverlake.org)>  
**Subject:** **Vote in the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Elections TOMORROW!**  
**Date:** April 11, 2014 at 11:15:38 AM PDT  
**To:** Michael Masterson <[Michael.Masterson@silverlakenc.org](mailto:Michael.Masterson@silverlakenc.org)>

## Swim Silver Lake

Hello Michael --

Please VOTE in the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council elections tomorrow, Saturday, April 12th at Micheltorena St. Elementary School from 10 AM to 4 PM. If you don't live in Silver Lake, PRINT THIS LETTER OUT AND BRING WITH YOU TO THE POLLS! We're thrilled that the "[Yours Not Ours](#)" coalition of candidates has included Swim Silver Lake in their platform, and we encourage you to vote and support their candidates ([print out a PDF of the candidates and the election info](#)).

Michael Masterson is a member of Swim Silver Lake. We consider our members to be substantial and ongoing participants in our advocacy and civic engagement activities centered on the future of the Silver Lake Reservoir.

Our members have participated in community outreach meetings that we host frequently at the Silver Lake Reservoir and have provided public comment at multiple neighborhood meetings, including meetings of the Neighborhood Council and its committees, in addition to meeting with elected and appointed officials.

We're happy to report that the good people at Empower LA have confirmed that Swim Silver Lake is an APPROVED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION for the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council (SLNC) elections.\* While one sitting member of the SLNC petitioned to **stop our participation**, once the Empower LA staff learned more about our group, they understood that we're an important part of the Silver Lake community and approved our members as Silver Lake Stakeholders. Come out and show that our community cares about the future of Silver Lake!

Anyone who lives or works in Silver Lake can vote - as well as anyone who is a "stakeholder" in Silver Lake. To vote, bring photo ID AND proof that you live or work in Silver Lake (such as a recent utility bill or paystub) OR a letter from a neighborhood business, school, OR PRINT THIS EMAIL AND BRING TO THE POLLING PLACE.

Hope to see you at the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Elections TOMORROW!

Please [keep sharing Swim Silver Lake with your friends, family and neighbors!](#)

Thanks again!!

Sincerely,  
Catherine Geanuracos and  
The Swim Silver Lake Organizing Committee

\*You must be registered online at Swim Silver Lake with your legal name to be considered a stakeholder for Neighborhood Council election purposes.

Catherine Geanuracos

<http://www.swimsilverlake.org/>

Swim Silver Lake · United States

This email was sent to [Michael.Masterson@silverlakenc.org](mailto:Michael.Masterson@silverlakenc.org). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Created with [NationBuilder](#), the essential toolkit for leaders.

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Nina Sorkin <[nina.sorkin@gmail.com](mailto:nina.sorkin@gmail.com)>

**Subject: Re: Vote in the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Elections TOMORROW!**

**Date:** April 11, 2014 at 12:33:52 PM PDT

**To:** Masterson Michael <[michaeldmasterson@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldmasterson@gmail.com)>

You are correct, I will not certify them to vote if they show up with this letter and are claiming community Interest Stakeholder status.

See you tomorrow.

Nina

On Fri, Apr 11, 2014 at 12:29 PM, Masterson Michael <[michaeldmasterson@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldmasterson@gmail.com)> wrote:

Thank you, Nina. Then my understanding is that Swim Silver Lake members cannot claim Community Interest Stakeholder status based on that affiliation or use it to vote in Region 7 in that case. Is that correct?

Michael

P.S. And my personal thanks again for all of your hard work on this!

On Apr 11, 2014, at 12:25 PM, Nina Sorkin <[nina.sorkin@gmail.com](mailto:nina.sorkin@gmail.com)> wrote:

Michael,

I am not DONE but I received notification that SWIM Silver Lake members are not eligible to vote. Renee received the same response from DONE.

In the event an individual is claiming being Community Interest Stakeholder status, he/she will bring in the proper documentation and then vote in the Region where he/she participate.

Hope this answers your questions.

Nina  
Election Chair

On Fri, Apr 11, 2014 at 12:20 PM, Masterson Michael <[michaeldmasterson@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldmasterson@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear DONE,

I just received this and wanted to verify it. As a candidate for Region 7 (which includes the reservoirs) does this mean that anyone who is a "member" (meaning they have simply registered on the Swim Silver Lake web site and could live anywhere), can vote in the election as they say?

My second question regards the regional vote. If a "member" lives outside Silver Lake, are they allowed to vote in a region or only for at-large reps? And, if they are allowed to vote in a region, is that Region 7 since this organization is promoting swimming in the reservoirs located in Region 7? This is a critical and very important issue to be resolved prior to the election tomorrow.

Thanks for your prompt attention to this.

Michael Masterson

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Catherine Geanuracos <[catherine@swimsilverlake.org](mailto:catherine@swimsilverlake.org)>  
**Subject:** **Vote in the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Elections TOMORROW!**  
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Thanks again!!

Sincerely,  
Catherine Geanuracos and  
The Swim Silver Lake Organizing Committee

\*You must be registered online at Swim Silver Lake with your legal name to be considered a stakeholder for Neighborhood Council election purposes.

Catherine Geanuracos  
<http://www.swimsilverlake.org/>

Swim Silver Lake · United States

This email was sent to [Michael.Masterson@silverlakenc.org](mailto:Michael.Masterson@silverlakenc.org). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Created with [NationBuilder](#), the essential toolkit for leaders.

Terrence Gomes <[terrence@empowerla.org](mailto:terrence@empowerla.org)> April 9, 2014 PM  
To: Renee Nahum <[reeneenahum@yahoo.com](mailto:reeneenahum@yahoo.com)>



RE: Urgent clarification please

Thank you for your email.

After conferring with the City Attorney's Office, participation in the Swim SilverLake online group is insufficient to qualify for a community interest so they will not be able to vote as a member of the Swim SilverLake CO.

Those members may be able to come out and vote if they do belong to another CIS group.

Definitions can be found on the [empowerla.org](http://empowerla.org) website.

Sincerely,

Terrence Gomes  
Independent Election Administrator, [Region 6](#) & [Region 7](#)  
2014 Neighborhood Council Elections

File to be a Candidate Online and for more Election info please visit  
[EmpowerLA.org/Elections](http://EmpowerLA.org/Elections)  
[Volunteer as a Poll Worker](#)

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment  
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 2005  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Downtown Office: (213) 978-1551  
Downtown Fax: (213) 978-1751

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[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Newsletter](#)

Terrence Gomes <[terrence@empowerla.org](mailto:terrence@empowerla.org)>  
To: Terrence Gomes <[terrence@empowerla.org](mailto:terrence@empowerla.org)>  
SLNC Election and Community Organizations  
Greetings,

April 11, 2024 4:14 PM

In light of the number of groups that are submitting membership rosters for the SLNC 2014 elections and the claims that they are/aren't made up of people with an ongoing and substantial interest in the community, please have all organizations submitting rosters answer these questions so that we can review the rosters in advance of the election:

How long has the organization been active?  
How often does the organization meet?  
Where does the organization meet?  
Does the organization have an address?  
Does the organization have a roster?

Organizations submitting membership rosters for the SLNC 2014 Elections will need to answer these questions so that we can review the rosters and determine if the organization qualifies as an ongoing and substantial interest in the community. Organizations that do not provide the information can submit their rosters but the members will need to vote provisionally.

Sincerely,

Terrence Gomes  
Independent Election Administrator, [Region 6](#) & [Region 7](#)  
2014 Neighborhood Council Elections

File to be a Candidate Online and for more Election info please visit  
[EmpowerLA.org/Elections](http://EmpowerLA.org/Elections)  
[Volunteer as a Poll Worker](#)

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment  
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 2005  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Downtown Office: (213) 978-1551  
Downtown Fax: (213) 978-1751

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Stephen Box <[stephen@empowerla.org](mailto:stephen@empowerla.org)> April 16, 2014 6:33 PM  
To: Terrence Gomes <[Terrence@empowerla.org](mailto:Terrence@empowerla.org)> Cc: Handal Jay  
<[jay@empowerla.org](mailto:jay@empowerla.org)>  
Re: EmpowerLA-SLNC-Canvass of Votes with Provisional Ballots

Terrence,

In addition, votes cast by members of the FrontRunners, the Silver Lake Swim Club, and the Silver Lake Dog Park were counted, the organizations qualify as Community Interest because of the ongoing and substantial interest the members have in the specific neighborhoods.

Stephen

Stephen Box  
Director of Outreach and Communication  
Senior Project Coordinator

**Department of Neighborhood Empowerment**  
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 2005  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Downtown Office: (213) 978-1551  
Downtown Fax: (213) 978-1751

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