



March 24, 2015

Neighborhood Councils
City of Los Angeles

RE: ENHANCING THE RELATIONSHIP WITH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

Dear Honorable Neighborhood Council Board Members:


Neighborhood Councils are a priority for the City Council and the entire City of Los Angeles. Since their inception in 1999, we have always understood the value that Neighborhood Councils bring to the City, as well as the important responsibility the City has to help, and not hinder, the growth and involvement of Neighborhood Councils in the daily discourse of City government. The success and functionality of our Neighborhood Councils are deeply important pillars of our democratic society, and are essential to ensure a transparent and stable City government of the 21st Century.

Over the course of the next three months, we will hold several Education and Neighborhoods Committee meetings that will be designed to put things in place to move forward on several outstanding issues, such as Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment staffing, once the new City Council is in place on July 1.

In an effort to jump start this process, we have put in a request with the Mayor's budget team to increase funding for each Neighborhood Council to \$45,000 dollars annually, as well as to allow for some percentage of rollover from year to year. We will be fighting for this and several other issues affecting Neighborhood Councils and the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment during the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year budget process.

If you have any questions about these matters, please do not hesitate to discuss them with us.

Sincerely,


HERB J. WESSON, JR.
Councilmember, 10th District
President, Los Angeles City Council


PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee