

# **SORO NC Board Applicant Statements**

16 February 2017

## **Candidates for Zone 3 Representative**

*Interim appointment expiring 2018*

### **Carlo Matricardi**

Good Afternoon Board and fellow SORO neighbors,

I think I would be a strong addition to the SORO NC Board as a Zone Rep for my area, Zone 3, because I am a concerned stakeholder, neighbor, father, husband, brother, son and incredible uncle. Personally, it would be a supreme honor to serve the community I grew up in and have now returned to start my own family.

We've recently welcomed a new addition to my own family. By taking daily walks around the area with my wife and baby daughter, I not only get to see the community through fresh eyes, but I also get the chance to continue meeting more of my neighbors.

If provided the opportunity to serve our neighborhood I would thoughtfully and diligently pursue the best outcomes for our neighbors. Please feel free to contact me for more info and I look forward to working with you all.

## **Candidates for At Large Representative**

*Interim appointment expiring 2018*

### **Thomas Eliopoulos**

I am applying for a seat on the board of directors of the Neighborhood Council because I believe that community involvement is an important responsibility for every American. I have spent the past 5 years as a member of the Board of Directors of the Western LA Boy Scouts Council, managed 2 political campaigns in recent years for Beverly Hills School Board candidates (2013 and 2015) and am familiar with a number of local issues in this neighborhood community corridor. Before joining Avison Young's commercial real estate brokerage firm I worked for Dominion Partners, a boutique real estate company that was based in the 8200 Wilshire building and after that in a business development role for a company based in the 8484 Wilshire Building. I graduated from Carnegie Mellon University and Duke Business School and would look forward to the opportunity to be more involved in this neighborhood at a local level.

### **Michael Steuer**

My name is Michael Steuer. I'm a 38 year old technology executive and have lived in SoRo since 2011. I am married to my dear wife Laura, and we have 3 children - our twins Yuri and Emma, and our 1-year old Noa. Our twins go to school at the Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am, also within the boundaries of SoRo.

In my professional live, I am the Chief Technology Officer of a mobile gaming company. Additionally, I am an advisor and sit on the board of a number of organization in technology or philanthropy.

I have been involved in community representation and organization for as long as I can remember. In my youth, I was a very active board member of several youth and student

organizations. I've always been active in synagogue committees and boards. And as of recently I helped organize and represent over 300 Castle Heights residents in their petition of and ongoing discussions with councilman Koretz with regards to the new zoning rules for our neighborhood. As a community member, a father of kids growing up in this neighborhood, a businessman, a homeowner and an Angeleno, I look forward to working with other community members on ensuring the needs of all South Robertson stakeholders are met and represented.

Thank you in advance for considering my candidacy. Yours truly,

Michael Steuer.

## **Gabriel Rose**

My enthusiasm and energy for this role, in combination with the varied skills and experiences I'd bring to the table, make me an excellent potential addition to the SORO Neighborhood Council Board.

I'm a lifelong community organizer and activist - a passion that I inherited from my mother, who was constantly organizing different community projects to improve our schools and make our neighborhood safer and more connected when I was a child. Over the last ten years, I've been deeply involved in a number of local issues, including affordable housing activism, working to improve neighborhood schools, and volunteering on local school board races and other elections, amongst others. Professionally, I've spent the last eight years as a co-founder and leader for a non-profit organization that supports low-income families in finding the right public schools for their children and organizing for improvements at their children's neighborhood schools. We've helped thousands of families to lead dozens of school improvement efforts during my tenure. I've also completed the Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs (back in 2008-09), which gave me a wonderful perspective on how local government, business, and other sectors connect together to influence public affairs at the local level. Through experiences like Coro, co-founding my successful non-profit organization, and serving as the undergraduate student body president during my time at UCLA, I've gained invaluable lessons in the power and importance of effective teams, particularly in all-volunteer situations like Neighborhood Councils. I would bring to the Council a strong interest in working collaboratively and effectively as part of a larger group, as well as a lot of relevant experience that would help me do so.

On a personal note, I love our neighborhood, and see a lot of opportunities to make it better. My wife and I moved here almost two years ago, and plan on making this our home for some time. We love the friendliness of our neighbors, the diversity of our community, and the strong walkability around us. At the same time, there are tremendous opportunities for our neighborhood to improve - micro issues like street cleanliness and lack of sufficient tree cover that are big issues on our particular block, as well as important broader questions such as the direction of development in our community and the future of S Robertson Blvd, which has so much more potential as a street than is currently being realized. I am sure there are countless other issues that are currently invisible to me but are being constantly dealt with on the Council, and I'd be enthusiastic about jumping into those as well.

More broadly, I believe strong, connected communities are the lifeblood of our city and our country - democracy cannot function without them - and taking a leadership role in my local Neighborhood Council would be a great way for me to meaningfully contribute in this regard.

In short, I'd welcome an opportunity to contribute my time, my energy, and my experience to the Council. Feel free to be in touch, as I'd be happy to get together in person to discuss this opportunity or answer any further questions you might have.

**Peter Davidson**

I have my own consulting company ([www.davidsonllc.us](http://www.davidsonllc.us)), am a longtime resident of SoRo, am presently the consulting CFO to a healthcare company. I have become much more interested in the welfare of our city of late.

**Linda Theung**

I ran last year to be an At-Large Representative and did not win. That did not deter me to give my time to SoRo. I joined the Land Use and Economic Development Committee and currently serve as secretary. In this role, I've worked productively with the chair of the committee to draft and finalize minutes for each meeting. I've learned a lot in my short time in this committee, namely to listen to the concerns of the constituents (\*especially\* if they challenge my personal views), work with fellow committee members to find the best solutions to address issues articulated by residents, and take seriously my role as a representative of the community.

**Ellen Lanet**

I have lived near or in SORO most of my life and raised my 2 daughters here. We appreciate our wonderful neighbors and friends; unique local businesses; diverse schools and parks; proximity to Los Angeles's cultural life, beach and downtown. All these elements create SORO's unique "Spirit of Place". It's an honor to participate in the process to improve SORO's "Quality of Life" as a member of SORO's Land Use and Transportation Committees these past years. I've enjoyed listening to SORO's Stakeholders and discussing their concerns with SORO's Board and Committees to collaborate on new solutions as our neighborhood evolves. My expertise as a local Architect & Urban Planner are additional skills I contribute naturally. I look forward to continuing to support SORO's goals. I would be honored to step up my participation by returning to the Board as an At-Large Representative.



**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Kevin Gres**  
Vice-President

**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

**Beth Hirsch**  
Secretary

**South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council**

PO Box 35836  
Los Angeles, CA 90035

P: (310) 295-9920  
F: (310) 295-9906  
E: info@soronc.org

**soronc.org**



# Motion to file a Community Impact Statement on Proposed Home-sharing ordinance

**Agenda Item:** GB011917-8

**Date:** 19 January 2017

**Proposed By:** Adam Rich

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## Background

The city council is considering a new ordinance to regulate the practice of home-sharing (e.g. via AirBnB) in Los Angeles. This ordinance does many things, but its main effects are as follows:

1. Home-sharing will now be permitted under city zoning regulations as an accessory use of a residence
2. Home-sharing will be limited to 120 days a year
3. Home-sharing will be limited to the host's primary residence
4. Hosts must register with the city
5. Home-sharing is prohibited for apartments subject to the rent stabilization ordinance (RSO) and for units designated as affordable housing
6. Require hosts to pay a registration fee to the city
7. Renters must have permission from their landlords to share their home
8. Only one home-sharing booking is permitted at one time
9. Hosts must report the total number of nights their home was booked and the amount paid each time to the city on a monthly basis

## Proposed Motion

SORO NC should file the attached community impact statement that advocates that the council pass the proposed ordinance after making several changes as follows:

1. Neighborhood Councils should be able to opt-out of home-sharing completely or to otherwise modify the regulations to increase or decrease home-sharing in their area. They could do this by changing the amount of days out of the year the home could be shared or by setting a cap on the number of home sharing permits that can be issued in their area.
2. The mayor or city council should be empowered to temporarily lift restrictions on home-sharing during a disaster or special event that causes a shortage of available hotel rooms.
3. 100% of all taxes and fees used to enforce home-sharing regulations should come from the taxes and fees generated by home-sharing.
4. A timeline should be established for the creation of registration and complaint systems. The ordinance should not take effect until these systems are fully functional.
5. The ordinance should mandate that a certain percentage of home-sharing units in the city be ADA compliant



6. There should be a sunset provision that would cause the ordinance to automatically be rescinded if enforcement ceases or if the funding for enforcement ceases.

## Considerations

**Committee review:**  
*(highly recommended)*

Votes For: 5

Against: 0

**Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget:** \$  
*(applies to funding motions only)*

### Arguments for:

The proposed ordinance benefits our community in several ways:

- It legalizes home sharing, giving our residents extra income
- It puts limits on home-sharing that will prevent housing units being converted to full time home sharing units
- It makes it easier for the city to enforce its laws and prevent home-sharing from causing problems

The amendments we are asking for will make benefit our community by:

- Allowing us to adjust the regulations for our own neighborhoods' needs
- Allow the regulations to be flexible during emergencies to account for displaced people who may need temporary housing
- Allow the regulations to be flexible during special events when demand on hotels is high and affordable lodging is needed
- Ensure that there are sufficient funds to enforce the home-sharing rules, without using other city funds.
- Ensure that home-sharing does not start until the mechanisms to control it are in place.

### Arguments against:

The proposed ordinance legalizes home sharing which could cause problems:

- It means more strangers in our community which can cause security concerns
- It can hurt local hotels
- It can change the character of the neighborhood

It limits home-sharing by banning it on non-primary homes and RSO units depriving those owners of the income and other benefits of home-sharing.

It requires hosts to pay taxes and pay registration fees that burden the hosts.

The amendment we are requesting to allow NCs to modify the rules could create a complicated patchwork of rules throughout the city.

The amendment we are requesting to lift the rules during emergencies and special events may be invoked frequently causing too much home-sharing.

The amendment we are requesting to have 100% of enforcement funding come from taxes and fees may limit the amount of funding for enforcement to insufficient levels.



- Ensure that the ordinance is only in effect if it is being enforced.
- Ensure that there are ADA compliant home-sharing units available, so that the disabled can benefit from home-sharing.

# Community Impact Statement on Home Sharing Ordinance

## Statement

SORO NC Supports the passing of the proposed home sharing ordinance with a few caveats:

- Neighborhood councils should be able to adjust the ordinance to increase or decrease home-sharing to better suit their neighborhoods' needs, including the ability to opt-out of home-sharing in their area completely.
- It should be possible to suspend restrictions on home-sharing during times when there may be a shortage of hotel rooms.
- 100% of taxes and fees collected from home-sharing should be used to pay for administering and enforcing the ordinance.
- A timeline should be established for the creation of registration and complaint systems. The ordinance should not take effect until these systems are fully functional.
- The ordinance should automatically sunset if it is not being enforced or if enforcement funding ceases.
- The ordinance should mandate that a certain percentage of home-sharing units in the city be ADA compliant

## Letter

Dear City Council:

On \_\_\_\_\_, the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council held a regularly scheduled, Brown Act-noticed, public meeting of the full governing board with a quorum of 00 board members present at which the board approved the following motion and directed that a Community Impact Statement be filed reflecting its position by a vote of \_\_\_ yes to \_\_\_ no and \_\_\_ abstentions. The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports the passage of the home-sharing ordinance with important caveats. Following is a list of those caveats.

Different neighborhoods have different needs when it comes to home-sharing. In some neighborhoods it causes problems, because it contributes to a lack of available housing. In other neighborhoods it is a great benefit as it helps people make extra income and alleviates a lack of hotel rooms in the area. One policy for the whole city does not make sense. Neighborhood councils should be empowered to modify the ordinance for their neighborhood in any of the following ways:

- Banning home-sharing
- Removing the 120 day limitation
- Modify the 120 day limitation to be higher or lower

- Adding a cap on the amount of permits that can be issued

Sometimes there are events (e.g. The Olympics, the Super Bowl, etc.) that take place in the city that can bring in a large influx of visitors. Other times disasters can take place that displace a lot of LA residents (e.g. earthquakes, wildfires, etc.). This can cause a shortage of affordable hotel rooms. When this happens we should use home-sharing to make up the short-fall. The city council and the mayor should be empowered to lift any and all restrictions on home-sharing for the duration of a special event or disaster.

If this ordinance is not enforced the problems that exist currently with home-sharing will persist. We therefore ask that 100% of the revenue generated by the ordinance in taxes and fees be dedicated to enforcing it.

It is also crucial that the complaint system and the registration system are in place soon and before the current ban on home-sharing is lifted. This way the enforcement mechanisms will be ready when home-sharing begins.

This ordinance will be harmful if it is not enforced. Therefore, we believe that the ordinance should contain a sunset provision. If the ordinance is not being enforced or if funding for enforcement ceases to exist, then the ordinance should be automatically rescinded.

In order to make home-sharing available to disabled guests, a percentage of home-sharing units should be ADA compliant.

In general, we feel that the home-sharing ordinance strikes a good balance between the benefits and detriments of home-sharing. It will also provide the funds needed to enforce the rules and maintain that balance.

Sincerely,

Doug Fitzsimmons President, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

Cc: Hon. Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

LA City Council Members

Vince Bertoni, Director of Planning, Department of City Planning

Council Member Paul Koretz, Council District 5

Council President Herb Wesson, Jr., Council District 10

Shawn Bayliss, Director of Planning and Legislation, Council District 5

Faisal Alserri, Senior Planning Deputy, Council District 5

Jordan Beroukhim, Planning Deputy, Council District 10





# Motion to fund up to \$415/mo. to move to a larger storage unit.

**Agenda Item:** GB011917-11  
**Date:** January 19, 2017  
**Proposed By:** Jon Liberman

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## Background

At the request of the Executive Committee I looked into the need to upgrade our storage unit. We have a 10x10 foot unit at Public Storage on Burchard Ave. Our rental is \$245.00 per month. The unit is near capacity will little room for more storage. The cost to upgrade to a larger unit at the same facility is approximately \$286.00 per month if they have on available. This would be an additional \$ 41.00/month. If this is not available they have a separate 5x10 foot unit available for \$157.00 per month.

I have checked 3 other facilities within close proximity to Soro, The price per month ranges from \$361.00 to \$432/month for a 10x15 foot unit.

## Proposed Motion

- I. I request authority to move to a larger storage unit a cost not to exceed \$415 per month for a 10x15 foot unit.

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## Considerations

**Committee review:** Votes For: -0- Against: -0-  
*(highly recommended)*

**Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget:** \$ n/a  
*(applies to funding motions only)*

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**Arguments for:**

**Arguments against:**

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**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Ken Blaker**  
Vice-President

**Jon Liberman**  
Treasurer

**Beth Hirsch**  
Secretary

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# Motion to fund \$5000 NPG to SoRo Community Foundation, Inc. for Great Streets

**Agenda Item:** GB021617-8  
**Date:** 16 February 2017  
**Proposed By:** Executive

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## Background

As part of the fiscal year 2016-17 budget, SORO NC allocated \$5000 for a South Robertson Blvd. vision project. We knew at the time that it would be insufficient to cover costs, and that we'd need to apply for additional grant funds.

The Mayor's Great Streets initiative provided a framework for our project and an opportunity to extend its reach. We therefore supported SoRo Community Foundation's Great Streets application. This grant will help get the program started.

## Proposed Motion

SORO NC approves a \$5000 Neighborhood Purposes Grant to the South Robertson Community Foundation, Inc. for the purpose of implementing the Mayor's Great Streets outreach and planning program along Robertson Blvd.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Ken Blaker**  
Vice-President

**Jon Liberman**  
Treasurer

**Beth Hirsch**  
Secretary

**Martin Epstein**  
Corresponding Secretary

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## Considerations

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<b>Committee review:</b> <i>(highly recommended)</i>	Votes For: 4	Against: 0
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<b>Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget:</b> <i>(applies to funding motions only)</i>	\$5000
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### Arguments for:

This is exactly what we set aside the money for. The Great Streets application included these funds in the proposal.

With a budget of \$22,000, the Great Streets project quadruples the funds available for the vision project.

### Arguments against:

The project will be run by an independent steering committee (with strong input by the NC).

We could do our own thing.

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**Neighborhood Council Funding Program**  
**APPLICATION for Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG)**



This form is to be completed by the applicant seeking the Neighborhood Purposes Grant and submitted to the Neighborhood Council from whom the grant is being sought. All applications for grants must be reviewed and approved in a public meeting. The Neighborhood Council (NC), upon approval of the application, shall submit the approved application along with all required documentation to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

Name of NC from which you are seeking this grant: South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

**SECTION I - APPLICANT INFORMATION**

1a) SoRo Community Foundation, Inc. 95-4756212 California 08/10/00  
**Organization Name** **Federal I.D. # (EIN#)** **State of Incorporation** **Date of 501(c)(3) Status (if applicable)**

1b) 1836 1/2 Robertson Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90035  
**Organization Mailing Address** **City** **State** **Zip Code**

1c) \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Business Address (if different)** **City** **State** **Zip Code**

1d) **PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION:**  
Laurence DeMers (310) 836-0340 larry@demersandassociates.com  
**Name** **Phone** **Email**

2) **Type of Organization- Please select one:**  
 Public School *(not to include private schools)* **or**  501(c)(3) Non-Profit *(other than religious institutions)*  
**Attach Grant Request on School Letterhead** **Attach IRS Determination Letter**

3) \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name / Address of Affiliated Organization** **City** **State** **Zip Code**  
*(If applicable)*

**SECTION II - PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

4) **Please describe the purpose and intent of the grant.**  
 As the lead applicant, SoRo CF, Inc. will administer the funds for the South Robertson Blvd. Great Streets grant awarded by the City in 2017. The grant will fund community outreach and plan development for traffic and other economic improvements to S. Robertson.

5) **How will this grant be used to primarily support or serve a public purpose and benefit the public at-large. (Grants cannot be used as rewards or prizes for individuals)**  
 The Great Streets initiative will provide a framework and vision for the future of one of SORO's signature streets. While the project's ultimate details will be driven by community input, the application expressed a preference for complete streets solutions, pedestrian-first policies, sustainable transportation options, and a multi-modal traffic grid in accord with the 2035 Mobility Plan.

**SECTION III - PROJECT BUDGET OUTLINE**

6a) Personnel Related Expenses	Requested of NC	Total Projected Cost
Strategic consultant: meeting facilitation, outreach process & goals framework	\$ 2,150.00	\$ 2,150.00
Architect: streetscapes & renderings		\$ 8,000.00
Designer: presentation and outreach materials		\$ 8,850.00

6b) Non-Personnel Related Expenses	Requested of NC	Total Projected Cost
Outreach materials (signs, printing, etc.) and social media advertising	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Venue rental	\$ 850.00	\$ 1,500.00
Canvassing		\$ 480.00

7) Have you (applicant) applied to any other Neighborhood Councils requesting funds for this project?

No      Yes, please list names of NCs: \_\_\_\_\_

8) Is the implementation of this specific program or purpose described in box 4 above contingent on any other factors or sources or funding? (Including NPG applications to other NCs)      No      Yes, please describe:

Source of Funding	Amount	Total Projected Cost
City of LA Great Streets grant	\$ 13,000.00	
Reynier Village NA	\$ 4,000.00	
Other community donation	\$ 1,980.00	

9) What is the TOTAL amount of the grant funding requested with this application: \$ 5,000.00

10a) Start date: 02/13/17     10b) Date Funds Required: 03/01/17

10c) Expected completion date: 09/01/18 (After completion of the project, the applicant must submit a follow-up form to the Neighborhood Council and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment)

**SECTION IV - POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

11a) Do you (applicant) have a former or existing relationship with a Board Member of the NC?

No      Yes - Please describe below:

Name of NC Board Member	Relationship to Applicant

11b) If yes, did you request that the board member consult the Office of the City Attorney before filing this application?      Yes      No \*(Please note that if a Board Member of the NC has a conflict of interest and completes this form, or participates in the discussion and voting of this NPG, the Department will deny the payment of this grant in its entirety.)

**SECTION V - DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE**

I hereby affirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided herein and communicated otherwise is truly and accurately stated. I further affirm that I have read Appendix A, "What is a Public Benefit," and Appendix B "Conflicts of Interest" of this application and affirm that the proposed project(s) and/or program(s) fall within the criteria of a public benefit project/program and that no conflict of interest exist that would prevent the awarding of the Neighborhood Purposes Grant. I affirm that I am not a current Board Member of the Neighborhood Council to whom I am submitting this application. I further affirm that if the grant received is not used in accordance with the the terms of the application stated here, said funds shall be returned immediately to the Neighborhood Council.

12a) Executive Director of Non-Profit Corporation or School Principal - REQUIRED\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT Name                      Title                      Signature                      Date

12b) Secretary of Non-profit Corporation or Assistant School Principal - REQUIRED\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT Name                      Title                      Signature                      Date

\* If a current Board Member holds the position of Executive Director or Secretary, please contact the Department at (213) 978-1551 for instructions on completing this form

## 2E. How will you engage your community?

### Specific Opportunities

Neighborhood Associations, religious institutions, businesses, schools, park patrons, Robertson Library, senior centers, door-to-door canvassing

### Research

HealthyCity.org for baseline demographic and economic information; meetings with businesses, developers, and realtors for market information. In 2014, we conducted a traffic study of Robertson Blvd. that will give us recent traffic numbers.

### Method: Community Meetings

Project kickoff	Goal: announce project, recruit volunteers and potential steering committee members (community subject matter experts, business leaders, neighborhood association leaders, etc.). All community meetings in English and Spanish. (1 large meeting)
Businesses briefings	Goal: solicit direct input from the business community, discuss concerns and desirable outcomes. (3 small group meetings, minimum; could be a working group)
Open forums	Goal: answer community questions, solicit input and ideas, gain buy-in for the challenge process, communicate project progress (2 large meetings)
Design charrette	Goal: hands-on session to give participants the opportunity to draw preferred solutions and share them within small breakout groups. (2 large meetings: one for street configuration, one for landscaping)

### Method: Surveys

Online & in-person	Door-to-door and event surveys on general preferences for the streetscape and redevelopment. Regular online polling to identify particular preferences and encourage engagement.
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### Method: Online

Social media	Paid social media advertising to support meetings. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram posts on a regular basis to provide project updates and drive to polling.
Website	Creation of simple project hub to act as a repository of information, with regular blog posts. (To be created for free by D. Fitzsimmons, a web designer and developer).
Email	Use SORO NC's 900 member email list for project updates and events. Recruit community partners (e.g., synagogues, neighborhood associations, schools) to email to their lists, as well.

### Other Methods

Flyers	Publicizing events in English and Spanish
Yard signs	Publicizing events in English and Spanish

## 2F. How will you use your grant funds?

[Budget .XLS spreadsheet attached]

Our strategy will be to carry out a series of smaller and larger group meetings over the course of the life of the project. This will begin with strategic planning to establish a framework, define mission, goals and metrics of success, and establish a steering committee.

With the framework clearly defined, we will pursue a strategy of large-scale community stakeholder meetings interspersed with smaller hands-on working group meetings, allowing community ample opportunities to engage at the level and depth they prefer.

Our community partners SORO Neighborhoods Council and The Relational Center have committed to cover in-kind costs for convening smaller working group meetings. They have ample experience, strong credibility and relationships with the community and are ideally positioned for this.

We anticipate the bulk of hard costs will be associated with the five large-scale community stakeholder meetings. We will use Hamilton Auditorium for these, a full theater facility that seats 650 people. Each large meeting will seek broad input; the work between large meetings will transform input into tangible ideas.

Our outreach will leverage our rich network of community partners, and employ multiple strategies to ensure we reach across the generational and digital divide.

## Great Streets Application: South Robertson / Build Project

Task	Formula	Estimate
Strategic Planning for Outreach Process & Goals Framework	Consultant / \$75/hr / 12hrs	900
Facilitation for 5 large scale community stakeholder meetings (3 hours/meeting plus planning time)	1 Facilitator / \$50/hr / 25 hrs total	1250
Venue for 5 large scale community stakeholder meetings	\$300/meeting	1500
Design for presentation materials	1 Designer / \$75/hr / 78 hrs	5850
Design for outreach materials (social media graphics, project branding etc)	1 Designer / \$75/hr / 40 hrs	3000
Architect consultant to draw conceptual renderings of elevations & streetscapes	1 consultant / \$200/hr / 40 hrs	8000
General outreach supplies (includes small and large meetings, yard signs etc.)	1 flat \$500	1000
Social Media outreach advertising budget	1 flat \$2000	2000
Door-to-Door canvassing	2 emp / \$20/hr / 24 hrs	480
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23980</b>
	<b>Committed to date</b>	<b>9000</b>
	<b>Balance needed</b>	<b>14980</b>

NCTO

A0758996

2142607  
Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation

FILED DR  
Secretary of State  
State of California GAD

1pc JUL 28 2014

The undersigned certify that:

1. They are the president and the treasurer, respectively, of South Robertson Neighborhoods Council, a California corporation.
2. Article I of the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation is amended to read as follows: The name of the corporation is SORO Community Foundation Inc.
3. The foregoing amendment of the Articles of Incorporation was voted upon and has been approved by the Board of Directors.
4. The corporation has no members.

We further declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the matters set forth in this certificate are true and correct of our own knowledge.

Date: March 1, 2014

*Mary Earl*

Mary Earl, President

*Laurence R. DeMers.*

Laurence R. DeMers, Treasurer



Attachment 3  
1 of 4

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: AUG 10 2000

Employer Identification Number:  
95-4756212  
DLN:  
17053117005030  
Contact Person:  
JULIE Y. CHAN ID# 95051  
Contact Telephone Number:  
(877) 829-5500

SOUTH ROBERTSON NEIGHBORHOODS  
COUNCIL  
C/O SUSAN BURSK  
822 S ROBERTSON BLVD STR 102  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90035

Accounting Period Ending:  
June 30  
Foundation Status Classification:  
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)  
Advance Ruling Period Begins:  
July 8, 1999  
Advance Ruling Period Ends:  
June 30, 2004  
Addendum Applies:  
No

Dear Applicant:

Based on information you supplied, and assuming your operations will be as stated in your application for recognition of exemption, we have determined you are exempt from federal income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3).

Because you are a newly created organization, we are not now making a final determination of your foundation status under section 509(a) of the Code. However, we have determined that you can reasonably expect to be a publicly supported organization described in sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Accordingly, during an advance ruling period you will be treated as a publicly supported organization, and not as a private foundation. This advance ruling period begins and ends on the dates shown above.

Within 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period, you must send us the information needed to determine whether you have met the requirements of the applicable support test during the advance ruling period. If you establish that you have been a publicly supported organization, we will classify you as a section 509(a)(1) or 509(a)(2) organization as long as you continue to meet the requirements of the applicable support test. If you do not meet the public support requirements during the advance ruling period, we will classify you as a private foundation for future periods. Also, if we classify you as a private foundation, we will treat you as a private foundation from your beginning date for purposes of section 507(d) and 4940.

Grantors and contributors may rely on our determination that you are not a private foundation until 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period. If you send us the required information within the 90 days, grantors and

Letter 1045 (DO/CG)

Wick Inc  
Attachment 3  
2 of 4

- 2 -

#### SOUTH ROBERTSON NEIGHBORHOODS

contributors may continue to rely on the advance determination until we make a final determination of your foundation status.

If we publish a notice in the Internal Revenue Bulletin stating that we will no longer treat you as a publicly supported organization, grantors and contributors may not rely on this determination after the date we publish the notice. In addition, if you lose your status as a publicly supported organization, and a grantor or contributor was responsible for, or was aware of, the act or failure to act, that resulted in your loss of such status, that person may not rely on this determination from the date of the act or failure to act. Also, if a grantor or contributor learned that we had given notice that you would be removed from classification as a publicly supported organization, then that person may not rely on this determination as of the date he or she acquired such knowledge.

If you change your sources of support, your purposes, character, or method of operation, please let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on your exempt status and foundation status. If you amend your organizational document or bylaws, please send us a copy of the amended document or bylaws. Also, let us know all changes in your name or address.

As of January 1, 1984, you are liable for social security taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act on amounts of \$100 or more you pay to each of your employees during a calendar year. You are not liable for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Organizations that are not private foundations are not subject to the private foundation excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Internal Revenue Code. However, you are not automatically exempt from other federal excise taxes. If you have any questions about excise, employment, or other federal taxes, please let us know.

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Donors may deduct contributions to you only to the extent that their contributions are gifts, with no consideration received. Ticket purchases and similar payments in conjunction with fundraising events may not necessarily qualify as deductible contributions, depending on the circumstances. Revenue Ruling 67-246, published in Cumulative Bulletin 1967-2, on page 104, gives guidelines regarding when taxpayers may deduct payments for admission to, or other participation in, fundraising activities for charity.

You are not required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, if your gross receipts each year are normally \$25,000 or less. If you receive a Form 990 package in the mail, simply attach the label provided, check the box in the heading to indicate that your annual gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less, and sign the return. Because you will be treated as a public charity for return filing purposes during your entire advance ruling

Letter 1045 (DO/CG)

So No Lnc.  
Attachment 3  
4 of 4

- 4 -

SOUTH ROBERTSON NEIGHBORHOODS

Because this letter could help us resolve any questions about your exempt status and foundation status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

If you have any questions, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,



Steven T. Miller *SM*  
Director, Exempt Organizations

Enclosure(s).  
Form 872-C

Letter 1045 (DO/CG)



# Motion to establish Robertson Revitalization committee as the NC's Great Streets working group

**Agenda Item:** GB021617-9

**Date:** 16 February 2017

**Proposed By:** Executive

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## Background

The Great Streets project for S. Robertson will require extensive involvement by the NC. While it will require input and work from many of the NC's committees, it will be helpful to have a single committee acting as point.

Historically, the Robertson Revitalization committee was created for that co-ordinating role. We recommend that it continue with the Great Streets program.

## Proposed Motion

SORO NC's Robertson Revitalization committee will act as the primary co-ordinating body with the SORO Great Streets Steering Committee, and work with other NC committees to execute project tasks as needed.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Ken Blaker**  
Vice-President

**Jon Liberman**  
Treasurer

**Beth Hirsch**  
Secretary

**Martin Epstein**  
Corresponding Secretary

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## Considerations

**Committee review:**  
*(highly recommended)*

Votes For: 4

Against: 0

**Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget:** N/A  
*(applies to funding motions only)*

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### Arguments for:

This is a natural extension of the committee's charter

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### Arguments against:

It could act as a bottleneck.

**South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council**

PO Box 35836  
Los Angeles, CA 90035

P: (310) 295-9920  
F: (310) 295-9906  
E: info@soronc.org

**soronc.org**





# Motion to approve a \$10,000 Neighborhood Purposes Grant for the 2017 SoRo Festival

**Agenda Item:** GB0216176-10  
**Date:** 16 February 2017  
**Proposed By:** Executive

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## Full Proposal

For twenty years, the SoRo Community Festival has built bridges amongst our neighbors, local businesses and public service organizations and celebrated the cultural diversity of our community. The Festival is organized by the SoRo Community Foundation, Inc.

The single-day Festival includes activities for kids, a wide range of food, a live music stage and lots of exciting artist and vendor booths.

The Festival has been the Neighborhood Council's largest single outreach effort each year, attracting over 8,000 residents. It helps build pride in our community, and gives stakeholders a chance to talk with their NC board members and tell us about their priorities for the neighborhood. The Festival also provides unique opportunities for representatives of City departments and non-profit organizations to meet with residents and give them information about their services, and for local businesses to promote themselves to their community.

This year, due to transition in leadership, the Festival is behind in fundraising and has requested \$10,000 from the NC. Note that because the NPG is for more than \$5,000, the City will require a contract with SoRo Community Foundation.

## Proposed Motion

- I. SORO NC approves a \$10,000 Neighborhood Purposes Grant to the SoRo Community Foundation, Inc., for the purposes of putting on the 2017 SoRo Festival.

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## Considerations

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<b>Committee review:</b> <i>(highly recommended)</i>	Votes For: 4	Against: 0
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<b>Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget:</b> <i>(applies to funding motions only)</i>	\$5000
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### Arguments for:

We have an additional unbudgeted \$5k

This is our largest outreach effort to the immediate community.

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### Arguments against:

The festival should be self-sustaining.

The festival is structured to attract a small local audience at time when we need to raise the profile of our business community to a broader audience.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Ken Blaker**  
Vice-President

**Jon Liberman**  
Treasurer

**Beth Hirsch**  
Secretary

**Martin Epstein**  
Corresponding Secretary

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**Neighborhood Council Funding Program**  
**APPLICATION for Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG)**



This form is to be completed by the applicant seeking the Neighborhood Purposes Grant and submitted to the Neighborhood Council from whom the grant is being sought. All applications for grants must be reviewed and approved in a public meeting. The Neighborhood Council (NC), upon approval of the application, shall submit the approved application along with all required documentation to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

Name of NC from which you are seeking this grant: South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

**SECTION I - APPLICANT INFORMATION**

1a) SoRo Community Foundation, Inc. 95-4756212 California 08/10/00  
**Organization Name** **Federal I.D. # (EIN#)** **State of Incorporation** **Date of 501(c)(3) Status (if applicable)**

1b) 1836 1/2 Robertson Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90035  
**Organization Mailing Address** **City** **State** **Zip Code**

1c) \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Business Address (If different)** **City** **State** **Zip Code**

1d) **PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION:**  
Laurence DeMers (310) 836-0340 larry@demersandassociates.com  
**Name** **Phone** **Email**

2) **Type of Organization- Please select one:**  
 Public School *(not to include private schools)* **or**  501(c)(3) Non-Profit *(other than religious institutions)*  
**Attach Grant Request on School Letterhead** **Attach IRS Determination Letter**

3) \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name / Address of Affiliated Organization** **City** **State** **Zip Code**  
*(If applicable)*

**SECTION II - PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

4) **Please describe the purpose and intent of the grant.**  
 See Attachment 1

5) **How will this grant be used to primarily support or serve a public purpose and benefit the public at-large. (Grants cannot be used as rewards or prizes for individuals)**  
 See Attachment 1

**SECTION III - PROJECT BUDGET OUTLINE**

6a) Personnel Related Expenses	Requested of NC	Total Projected Cost

6b) Non-Personnel Related Expenses	Requested of NC	Total Projected Cost
Operating expenses, including Fest set up, children's entertainment, advertising	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 33,750.00

7) Have you (applicant) applied to any other Neighborhood Councils requesting funds for this project?  
 No  Yes, please list names of NCs: \_\_\_\_\_

8) Is the implementation of this specific program or purpose described in box 4 above contingent on any other factors or sources or funding? (Including NPG applications to other NCs)  No  Yes, please describe:

Source of Funding	Amount	Total Projected Cost
See Attachment 2 (Budget)		

9) What is the TOTAL amount of the grant funding requested with this application: \$ 10,000.00

10a) Start date: 03/01/17      10b) Date Funds Required: 03/01/17

10c) Expected completion date: 06/03/17 (After completion of the project, the applicant must submit a follow-up form to the Neighborhood Council and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment)

**SECTION IV - POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

11a) Do you (applicant) have a former or existing relationship with a Board Member of the NC?  
 No  Yes - Please describe below:

Name of NC Board Member	Relationship to Applicant

11b) If yes, did you request that the board member consult the Office of the City Attorney before filing this application?  Yes  No \*(Please note that if a Board Member of the NC has a conflict of interest and completes this form, or participates in the discussion and voting of this NPG, the Department will deny the payment of this grant in its entirety.)

**SECTION V - DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE**

I hereby affirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided herein and communicated otherwise is truly and accurately stated. I further affirm that I have read Appendix A, "What is a Public Benefit," and Appendix B "Conflicts of Interest" of this application and affirm that the proposed project(s) and/or program(s) fall within the criteria of a public benefit project/program and that no conflict of interest exist that would prevent the awarding of the Neighborhood Purposes Grant. I affirm that I am not a current Board Member of the Neighborhood Council to whom I am submitting this application. I further affirm that if the grant received is not used in accordance with the the terms of the application stated here, said funds shall be returned immediately to the Neighborhood Council.

12a) Executive Director of Non-Profit Corporation or School Principal - REQUIRED\*

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 PRINT Name Title Signature Date

12b) Secretary of Non-profit Corporation or Assistant School Principal - REQUIRED\*

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 PRINT Name Title Signature Date

\* If a current Board Member holds the position of Executive Director or Secretary, please contact the Department at (213) 978-1551 for instructions on completing this form

## **APPLICATION for Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG)**

SORO Community Foundation, Inc.

### **4) Please describe the purpose and intent of the grant.**

This grant is intended to support an event: the 20th Annual South Robertson Community Festival to be held on June 5, 2016, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., on South Robertson Boulevard. This Festival, held annually since 1998, has become a community tradition, growing gradually each year in size, sophistication and reputation. Each year, an estimated 6,000 to 8,000 people attend. Open to the public, the Festival features local and regional entertainment, special ecological and greening pavilions (featuring energy and water conservation and waste recycling), and 60 to 70 booths featuring neighborhood businesses and information. A particularly popular feature, which has grown each year, is the "Camp SoRo" area for children; this all-day activity engages leadership students from Hamilton High School, children from the community and their parents in creative arts and crafts activities.

The Festival celebrates the broad cultural diversity and sense affinity that exists among the some 45,000 residents in the seven neighborhoods encompassed in the South Robertson community area. It attracts local businesses and organizations and elected representatives including local legislators and heads of our public agencies. The Festival encourages beautification and revitalization of the SoRo corridor where people can shop, dine, and enjoy a good quality of life, and it is committed to strengthening local educational institutions.

This annual Festival has broad and continuing community support and involvement, including: the City's Department of Cultural Affairs; the two local Councilmembers (CD-5 and CD-10) who represent our community; the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council; local businesses, schools, houses of worship, non-profit organizations, and individuals; and local representatives of City agencies including LAPD and LAFD. With the Festival area bounded on the south by Cattaraugus and on the north by Beverlywood, with the central point at approximately 2730 South Robertson, this site has proven to be logistically optimal for managing the event efficiently and for ensuring optimum accessibility for the community.

The Festival is managed under the auspices of SORO Community Foundation, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization dedicated to the revitalization and beautification of South Robertson Blvd. between the Santa Monica Freeway and Pico Blvd. and its surrounding residential neighborhoods. SORO Community Foundation, Inc. is an all-volunteer organization, and its largest activity is this Annual Festival.

The Festival is organized and implemented by the Festival Organizing Committee, comprised of volunteers from SORO Community Foundation, Inc., the South Robertson Neighborhood Council (SORO NC), the local community, and staff of the offices of Council members Koretz (CD-5) and Wesson (CD-10). The Committee begins its work early in the calendar year, contacting hundreds of local businesses and organizations by mail and email with invitations to participate in and/or contribute to the Festival and firming up logistical arrangements. Committee members also visit personally many businesses and organizations to discuss the Festival and post flyers in local businesses to raise residents' awareness. Two weeks before the Festival, Committee members post some 200 eye-catching lawn signs in strategic locations throughout SoRo neighborhoods. Articles in local media, wherever possible, as well as emails to community members, also help to encourage broad community participation. Publicity provided by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (listing in its Festival Guide) and our own press releases to local media outlets help spread the word even more broadly in the community.



The Festival budget (Attachment 2) and SORO Community Foundation, Inc. 501(c)3 letter (Attachment 3) are attached. As part of the City's application and permit process for the event (Bureau of Street Services), SORO Community Foundation, Inc. obtains the insurance coverage required by the City before the permit is issued.

**5) How will this grant be used to primarily support or serve a public purpose and benefit the public at-large.**

This lively and highly successful annual event provides fun and education for the whole family. The Festival is open to the public with no admission fee. It features local and regional entertainment, emphasis on environmental issues and emergency preparedness, arts and crafts and games for children. The Festival attracts local businesses and organizations and elected representatives including local legislators and heads of our public agencies. More than 60 neighborhood businesses, non-profit organizations, and city service representatives have booths so they can provide information about their services. The Festival involves local schools, their students and their parents in arts and crafts projects and environmental issues. The Festival provides the community an opportunity to honor individuals who volunteer in their communities and businesses that practice sound environmental policies.

The Annual Festival brings community members together to recognize, learn about, and celebrate the cultural, economic and social well-being of the South Robertson neighborhoods. The enhanced feeling of community the Festival engenders, and the ties with public service providers it strengthens, serves to promote, market and enhance the South Robertson neighborhoods and make them a cleaner, more attractive and safer environment in which to work, visit and live.

**11a) Do you (applicant) have a former or existing relationship with a Board Member of the NC?**

SORO Community Foundation, Inc. supports the neighborhood on community projects and outreach efforts. We invite one NC board member to attend our meetings to be fully informed about what we are doing. SORO Community Foundation, Inc. also sponsored the creation of the NC and was the group that originally had applied to DONE to create the NC. As such, some of our board members were the original NC board, replaced entirely at the first NC election. The SORO Community Foundation, Inc. board are all volunteers and receive no compensation.

Current Non-Profit Board Members that resided on the original Founding NC Board:

Susan Bursk

Christel Wilson

Terry Schonwald

Laurence DeMers

# SoRo Inc. Festival Budget

	<b>17 Budget</b>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
<b>Contributions, Gift &amp; Grants</b>	
Direct Public Support UR	7,000
Gov Contr & Grants	4,580
<b>Total Contributions, Gift &amp; Grants</b>	11,580
<b>Program Service Revenue</b>	
Food	2,500
Booths	5,500
Paid Attraction Ticket sales	2,500
T-Shirts	1,200
<b>Total Program Service Revenue</b>	11,700
<b>Total Income</b>	23,280
<b>Expense</b>	
Professional Management	5,000
Conf's, Conv's & Meetings	0
<b>Festival Event Expenses</b>	
Advertising	2,500
Decorating & Setup	300
<b>Entertainment</b>	
Paid Attractions Camp SORO	2,100
Music & Stage	2,900
Camp SORO Arts & Crafts (free)	500
Other Entertainment	300
<b>Total Entertainment</b>	5,800
Equipment Rental	12,000
Merchant C.C. Expense	50
Insurance, Permits & Fees	8,000
<b>Total Festival Event Expenses</b>	28,650
Postage and Delivery	0
Supplies	100
<b>Total Expense</b>	33,750
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	-10,470
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Other Income</b>	
SORO NC Sponsorship & Exp Paid	10,000
<b>Total Other Income</b>	10,000
<b>Net Other Income</b>	10,000
<b>Net Income</b>	-470



# Motion to Fund up to \$3300 For SORO Computer Literacy Program

**Agenda Item:** GB021617-11  
**Date:** February 16, 2017  
**Proposed By:** Quality of Life Committee

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## Background

Use of Computers and the internet are now an integral part of all daily life; necessary for employment, education, business administration, commerce, basic communications/ information services, access to medical services, city services and even social interaction. Despite the growing importance of computers and being connected to the internet, the United States Department of Commerce has stated that nearly 30% of Americans do not use the internet at all; showing that many may have fallen behind in this fast paced digital and computer age. This is due to many factors and includes demographics from all segments of our population.

**In order to help address this issue in our own community,** The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council, along with our initial partners, Microsoft, The Robertson Branch Public Library of the Los Angeles Public Library and SORO Community Foundation have collaborated to create FREE and local access to basic and intermediate computer literacy courses.

Classes begin in March 26<sup>th</sup> 2017, kicked off by a Reception and Mini Computer Clinic on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Since our Target audience for this program are those who are computer and internet challenged therefore our usual methods of advertising on social media may not be sufficient to reach our main audience, so, additional funding for non-digital distribution will be necessary.

## Note: Substitute Motion

SORO NC shall fund up to:

- I. \$100 for snack and beverages for the Launch Reception/Computer Clinic.
- II. \$3200 for printing, flyer distribution and social media advertising for program outreach

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## Considerations

**Committee review:**  
*(highly recommended)*

Votes For: 0

Against:

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**Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget:** \$4000  
*(applies to funding motions only)*

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### Arguments for:

1. The uniqueness of the demo graphic requires that we focus on paper advertising
2. Additional outreach to more people who may not have received anything from the

---

### Arguments against:

Some community members don't like flyers or wont even look at them.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Ken Blaker**  
Vice-President

**Jon Liberman**  
Treasurer

**Beth Hirsch**  
Secretary

**Martin Epstein**  
Corresponding Secretary

**South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council**

PO Box 35836  
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# Motion to respond to NC election report by the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment

**Agenda Item:** GB021617-12  
**Date:** 16 February 2017  
**Proposed By:** Executive

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## Background

The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) has issued a 30-page report on the 2016 NC elections ([Council file 15-1022-S2](#)), summarized here:

*We [DONE] recommended to continue the online voting and voter registration build out for the remaining 46 Neighborhood Councils to be administered for all Neighborhood Council elections in 2018.*

*We believe that having online voting and voter registration is critical to the expansion of the Neighborhood Council system so that we can engage more community stakeholders per our mission. We have also made the following recommendations:*

- 1. Voters would only need any type of picture identification to vote in any Neighborhood Council s/election where they would self-affirm the type of stakeholder they are without further documentation. The complexity of documentation voter verification in the Neighborhood Council system is simply unrivaled in any other type of government election and creates a barrier to engagement.*
- 2. Voter age be lowered citywide to 16 years old where applicable. Neighborhood Councils with existing voting ages lower than 16 years old can maintain the younger age. Neighborhood Councils should be one of the first civics experiences for youth in Los Angeles. While it would be ideal for all Neighborhood Councils to have youth on their boards, at the very least, youth should be able to participate in elections where it will be their first opportunity to experience a local government election.*
- 3. There should only be a maximum of 3 ballot types for every Neighborhood Council election. Currently, Neighborhood Councils range from 1 to 21 different ballot styles. We've seen such complexity cause confusion for both candidates and voters at elections, and hope that this change would assist in simplifying the process.*
- 4. Per the request of Neighborhood Councils in post election town halls, EmpowerLA has asked for additional funding this and next fiscal year to expand our election outreach for the Neighborhood Council system so existing board members will not be expected to do extensive outreach to find people to run against them.*
- 5. In election years, however, Neighborhood Councils should still set aside 20% of their funding for election outreach notifications and costs. Neighborhood Councils will still need to assist in notifying their community of candidate filing and of the election day as well as election days expenses even with EmpowerLA taking on a more robust election outreach role.*

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Ken Blaker**  
Vice-President

**Jon Liberman**  
Treasurer

**Beth Hirsch**  
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In addition, the upcoming shift to even-number-year elections at the City level will lead the City Clerk to recommend to the City Council that NC elections shift to odd-number-years, with the two lead proposals moving the next NC election to either 2019 or 2021 and extending terms accordingly.

DONE has asked that NCs weigh in on their proposals via community impact statements and other City Council testimony.

## Proposed Motion

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council believes in encouraging community participation and enfranchising as many voters as possible. We therefore recommend the following reforms to the NC election system:

1. **Voter Registration:** we are in favor of lowering the barriers to registration to enfranchise more voters, including eliminating the photo ID requirement for online registrations. As a practical matter, it creates delays in confirmation and is inconsistent with Federal, State, County, and City requirements.
2. **Voter Age:** we are in favor of allowing youth to vote in NC elections, and have had success with our own 15 year-old minimum age requirement. We further strongly recommend that NCs follow our practice of appointing a student to a yearly term on the Board.
3. **Ballots:** we support the Clerk's office working with NCs to reduce the ballot types within a single NC election, while remaining flexible on a maximum where it is in the community interest to be so. Three ballot types should be a target, not a mandate.
4. **Citywide Outreach:** as many stakeholders remain unaware of the NC system at all (for many reasons), we support additional funding for DONE promote NC elections as opportunity to increase general participation and awareness.
5. **Election Funding and Inclusivity:** NCs should favor inclusivity and participation at every opportunity. We therefore recommend review of election rules and practices of NCs whose candidate registration and voter turnout places in the lowest third in the system each election. Further, all NCs should be required to file an election outreach plan prior to the elections and a post-mortem after. We **do not** believe setting a minimum expenditure of 20% of the NCs budget is the proper way to address the problem: it would invariably lead to waste and frivolous expenditures, eroding civic trust in the system and City.
6. **Election Timing:** we understand that the complexities of NC elections mean that it is impractical to hold them concurrently with other elections, and agree that moving them to odd-number-years is a reasonable solution. However, we strongly oppose any effort to extend terms beyond an additional year to implement the change. This has already happened once (in 2008), and in the interests maintaining the legitimacy of our elections, should never be repeated.
7. **Online Voting:** as a pilot participant in the 2016 online voting program, we support the future use of online voting, but only if the following problems are corrected:
  - a. The registration software failed to operate correctly. The most egregious failure occurred when many registrants entered their addresses and were then incorrectly warned, in an alert window, that their address did not fall within the SORO borders. That alert message caused some voters to abandon the registration process, and leading to voter disappointment and disenfranchisement. Our endorsement of future online voting is predicated on the software processes being fully tested and passing all tests, including end-to-



- end testing.
- b. Many voters complained about the perceived need to upload an image of their state issued photo ID (usually driver's license). We understand that the photo ID requirement was not limited to state issued forms of such ID. We feel that this complaint was indicative of a poorly worded instructions on the website, and our endorsement of future online voting is predicated on the clear, complete, plain language and easy to follow instructions be implemented on the website, with instructions located on the relevant pages.
  - c. Regarding the photo ID requirement, we also question the logic of the photo ID requirement since the process does not support visual validation of the image of the voter at the time they vote. We recommend that the commonly used online methodology of validating unique identity by means of a Social Media account, or a Google or Yahoo or Microsoft or Apple or AOL account be supported in lieu of photo ID.
  - d. Many voters complained about long delays between the time they completed the online registration and when they were able to vote. We recommend that registrants be allowed to vote right after they complete their registration application, with their vote remaining provisional until their registration is approved. We further recommend that a link be provided at the time of the provisional vote where they can check to see whether their vote has been accepted.
  - e. The online ballot software provided no confirmation that the completed ballot had been accepted. We recommend that voters be shown an alert window after they click the submit button for their ballot, showing that their ballot has been recorded, or listing any validation errors that have caused their ballot to not be recorded (and allowing them to correct such validation errors).
  - f. We support future use of popup polling process that was done several times in our Neighborhood, but would like to see several problems corrected in the use of those popup polling places.
    - i. Electioneering rules were not enforced at popups, and in some cases the physical locations, such as sidewalk locations, made it difficult for candidates to lead voters to the polling place without pushing or exceeding permissible limits. We recommend that this issue be reviewed with the City Attorney to determine clear rules for the people who run the popup polling, and for candidates, to permit optimal stakeholder inclusion without creating an environment where voters are uncomfortable or feel constrained as they register and complete their ballots.
    - ii. In some cases popup polling places were requested by industrious candidates who were better informed than their competitors regarding how to arrange popup polls. We recommend that all candidates be provided with the same information regarding how to request popup polling places, and any limits on timing or dates that the city is imposing; that requests be approved on a "first-come, first-served" basis; that popup polls may only be requested by an NC, not a candidate; and that all popup polls be subject to consistent requirements for public notice and outreach.



# Motion to support proposed LA County Pharmaceutical and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance

**Agenda Item:** GB021617-13

**Date:** 16 February 2017

**Proposed By:** Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

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## Background

Please see the attached summary of the proposed LA County ordinance that would create a collection and safe disposal system for medication and sharp medical items.

The 1/5/2016 draft ordinance includes the following key provisions:

- a. **Residents throughout the county will have access to a secure collection system** for all unwanted medications and sharps used in the home, with convenient collection sites distributed throughout the county, as well as options for prepaid mailers upon request.
- b. **All unwanted medications used in homes, for people and pets, will be accepted**, both prescription and over-the-counter, and including prescription drugs that are controlled substances.
- c. **Manufacturers of medicines and sharps have the primary responsibility for secure collection and safe disposal of their products as a cost of doing business.** Visible fees cannot be charged to consumers at point of purchase or at disposal. This approach recognizes that industry has a key role in managing the society impacts and end-of-life consequences of their products, and that externalizing all the costs onto other stakeholders and local governments is not fair or sustainable. Manufacturers can include the modest cost of a safe take-back program – a penny for every \$10 prescribed as stipulated in the Alameda Supreme Court case – in the cost of medicines and sharps without significantly impacting consumers.
- d. **Security protections are required** that will give consumers confidence that the take-back system for their leftover medications and sharps is safe and confidential.
- e. **Manufacturers must promote the stewardship program to residents and the health care community, and expressly discourage the stockpiling of unwanted pharmaceuticals/sharps and discourage disposal into the trash or by flushing into a sewer.**
- f. **The ordinance requires secure handling and environmentally sound disposal of all collected pharmaceuticals and sharps** in compliance with all relevant state and federal regulations.
- g. **The stewardship plan review process includes public comment opportunities** and gives the county the option of forming a technical advisory committee to assist with plan review to ensure local stakeholders are heard in the planning process.
- h. **The ordinance has a clear definition for “Responsible Steward” that focuses responsibility on the manufacturer of the medicine or sharp,**

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and also clearly defines who the county can hold responsible as the steward if the manufacturer cannot be identified.

### Proposed Motion

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports creating a county-wide stewardship program for the safe and convenient disposal of unwanted medicines from households. Ensuring easy access to collection sites providing secure and environmentally sound disposal of leftover medicines and sharps will reduce risks of medicine abuse and poisonings, help prevent dangerous and costly needle sticks, and protect our waterways and environment. We support the provisions of the 1/5/16 draft language, and strongly urge the county to adopt this legislation.

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### Considerations

**Committee review:**  
*(highly recommended)*

Votes For: 0

Against: 0

**Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget:** N/A  
*(applies to funding motions only)*

**Arguments for:**

**Arguments against:**



# Summary of Draft LA County Pharmaceutical and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance

## What does the Draft Ordinance do?

LA County's Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship ordinance has been created to address the problem of unwanted medicines and sharps through an Extended Producer Responsibility program. Unwanted medicines and sharps pose a growing risk to people's health and safety when stored in homes, can pollute the environment when disposed as trash or flushed through the sewer system, and jeopardize the health of waste collection and recycling workers exposed to used sharps (needles).

The Ordinance establishes Pharmaceutical and Sharps Stewardship Plans that:

**(1) Allow for the safe, convenient and sustainable collection and disposal of unwanted Drugs and Sharps by County residents, and**

**(2) Protect, maintain, restore and/or enhance the environment and its natural resources**

The Stewardship Plans established under the ordinance will be designed, operated and funded by "Responsible Stewards", with oversight by the Director of the County's Department of Public Health.

## Who is a Responsible Steward?

A Responsible Steward is defined by the Ordinance as— (a) A Person who Manufactures Covered Drugs or Sharps; or (b) If the Manufacturer is beyond the County's jurisdiction, the first Person who repackages or distributes the Covered Drug or Sharps in or into the County, including but not limited to a Wholesaler or Repackager; or (c) if the Persons described in (a) and (b) are beyond the County's jurisdiction, the first Person who sells or offers for sale the Covered Drug or Sharps in or into the County.

## What is a Covered Drug?

A Covered Drug includes **prescription, nonprescription, brand name, and generic drugs sold or distributed for use in LA County.**

Covered Drugs do not include vitamins or supplements, herbal-based and homeopathic remedies, and personal care products that are regulated as both cosmetics and nonprescription drugs by the Federal government.

## What are Responsible Stewards required to do?

Mandatory participation is required by all Responsible Stewards, who must notify the Director of their intent to operate or participate in a Stewardship Plan within 6 months of the effective date of the Ordinance or 6 months after the Covered Drugs or Sharps are first sold. Responsible Stewards can participate in Stewardship Plans either by: **(1) operating, individually or jointly with other Responsible Stewards; or (2) entering into an agreement with a Stewardship Organization.**

A Responsible Steward must submit a Stewardship Plan within 9 months of the effective date of the ordinance or 9 months after the Covered Drugs or Sharps are first sold. Stewardship Plans must be approved by the Director and include contact information for an official point of contact for the plan. The Stewardship Plan must be implemented within **3 months of the Directors approval**, and thereafter, any substantive changes made to the plan must be submitted to the Director at least every 3 years.

Within 6 months of the effective date of the Ordinance or 6 months after the Covered Drugs or Sharps are first sold and annually thereafter, Responsible Stewards are required to notify the following Persons, of the opportunity to participate in the Stewardship Plan by serving as Collectors:

1. All retail Pharmacies, hospitals/clinics with on-site Pharmacies, and other Potential Authorized Collectors;
2. Persons other than Potential Authorized Collectors, such as retail establishments, that could potentially host Collection Sites for Sharps; and
3. All law enforcement agencies in the County.

Additionally, any Person who is not a Responsible Steward, such as a Person providing Covered Drugs or Sharps free of charge, can also participate in the Program. Such Person may operate individually, jointly with a Responsible Steward or group of Responsible Stewards, or through a Stewardship Organization. Any Responsible Steward, group of Responsible Stewards, or Stewardship Organization must in good faith consider allowing such Person to participate in its Stewardship Plan.

#### **What must a Stewardship Plan consist of?**

A Stewardship Plan must consist of the name of each Responsible Steward participating in the plan and the Covered Drug and type of Sharp manufactured or purchased by the Responsible Steward. The plan must have the contact information for an official Point of Contact to whom the Director can direct all inquiries regarding a Responsible Steward's compliance.

A Stewardship Plan must describe the collection system designed to provide safe, convenient and continuous collection services for Covered Drugs and Sharps from County Residents. The description should include a list of - all collection methods, participating and potential collectors, and collection sites; a description of where and how periodic collection events will be held; and a description of how any Mail-Back Services will be provided to County Residents.

The plan must also describe the handling and disposal system (including the person retained to transport the collected item and the Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility to be used). The plan must take into consideration: 1) the use of existing providers of waste pharmaceutical services; 2) separation of Covered Drugs and Sharps from packaging to reduce transportation and disposal cost; and 3) recycling of Drug and Sharp packaging to the extent possible.

A Stewardship Plan must ensure that any patient information appearing on Drug and Sharp packaging will be kept secure and promptly destroyed. It must also include a strategy (including short-term and long-term plans) to educate the public and promote the plan.

#### **How are the Covered Drugs and Sharps Collected?**

The ordinance **does not require mandatory participation of any Person as a Collector**. A Person can volunteer to be a Collector and may or may not be compensated by Responsible Stewards or a Stewardship Organization.

A Collection Plan must offer ongoing, convenient and equitable access for all County residents in the Service Area regardless of the racial, cultural, or socioeconomic composition of the neighborhoods within which the Collection Sites are located. In each participating Unincorporated Community and City with at least one Potential Authorized Collector, each Stewardship Plan shall provide at least one Collection Site for each Unwanted Covered Drugs and Unwanted Sharps. For every 30,000 County residents at least one additional Collection Site should be provided for each Unwanted Covered Drugs and Unwanted Sharps.

Collection sites must be geographically distributed to ensure that every resident within the Service Area is **within 2.5 miles** of a Collection Site for each Unwanted Covered Drugs and Unwanted Sharps. Additionally, there must be **at least 10 collection sites** for each Unwanted Covered Drugs and Unwanted Sharps in each County Supervisorial District.

In areas, where a collection system with the above requirements cannot be met, Responsible

Stewards or the Stewardship Organization must provide monthly collection events and/or Mailers to be distributed to consumers. The Mailers and Mail-Back Services, should be provided free of charge, to residents in the Service Area upon request through the Stewardship Plan's 24-hour, toll-free phone number and website.

Collection systems must **maintain patient confidentiality** by destroying patient information on packaging. Responsible Stewards must also provide for distribution of FDA-compliant Sharps containers for the safe handling of Sharps to the **consumer free of charge**, preferably at the point of sale of the injectable Drug or at the time the consumer otherwise receives the Sharps for usage. Additionally, Responsible Stewards or the Stewardship Organization should provide FDA-compliant Sharps collection receptacles to any hosts of Collection Sites for Sharps.

#### **How are the collected Covered Drugs and Sharps Disposed of?**

Covered Drugs collected under a Stewardship Plan must be disposed of at a **permitted Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility**. Sharps collected under a Stewardship Plan must be disposed of in accordance with California Health and Safety Code Section 118286 or any successor legislation.

If the Director deems the use of a Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility to be infeasible for the Stewardship Plan based on cost, logistics, or other considerations, the Director may grant approval for a Stewardship Plan to dispose of some or all collected Covered Drugs at a permitted large municipal waste combustor.

Alternatively, a Stewardship Plan may petition the Director for approval to use final disposal technologies that provide superior environmental and human health protection, by providing superior expectations in– (1) monitoring of any emissions or waste; (2) worker health and safety; (3) reduction or elimination of air, water or land emissions contributing to persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic pollution; and (4) overall impact on the environment and human health.

#### **Who bears the cost of the Stewardship Program?**

Each Responsible Steward, group of Responsible Stewards or Stewardship Organization participating in a Stewardship Plan must pay for the preparation and implementation of their Stewardship Plan. Responsible Stewards are not required to pay for costs of staff time at Collection Sites provided by Collectors volunteering to participate in a Stewardship Plan.

Responsible Stewards or Stewardship Organizations are prohibited by the Ordinance from charging customers a point-of-sale fee or a specific point-of-sale collection fee, to recoup the cost of the Stewardship Plan.

#### **What are the penalties of non-compliance or violating the Ordinance?**

A Person found in non-compliance or violation of the Ordinance would be notified by the Director, and has 45 days after the date of mailing to come into compliance or correct the violation. Any Person who knowingly and willfully violates the requirements of the Ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine between fifty dollars (\$50) and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each day per violation, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Additionally, any Person in violation of the Ordinance shall be liable to the County for a civil penalty of a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per day per violation. Each day in which the violation continues shall constitute a separate violation.

The appropriate penalty is determined by the Director depending on the extent of harm caused by the violation, the nature and persistence of the violation, the frequency of past violations, any action taken to mitigate the violation, and the financial burden to the violator. County Counsel, the District Attorney, and any applicable City Attorney can also bring a civil action against a Person found in violations or out of compliance with the Ordinance.

#### **How will the Public be educated about this Program?**

Any Person selling Covered Drugs or Sharps to the public has to post display materials approved

by the Director explaining how and where members of the public may safely and lawfully dispose of Unwanted Covered Drugs and Unwanted Sharps at no cost to the consumer. These materials shall be legible and easily understandable by the average person and can be in English, Spanish, and any other language as determined by the Department of Public Health. Stewardship Plans are also required to **establish a 24-hour, toll-free phone number and single website** where information can be obtained regarding collection options and current locations of Collection Sites

Stewardship Plans are required to develop a system of promotion, outreach and public education. The system must promote the collection options provided under the plan to residents and the health care community through educational and outreach materials that include- (1) promoting safe storage practices of drugs and sharps, (2) describing where and how unwanted drugs and sharps should be returned, (3) discouraging stockpiling of drugs and sharps, and, (4) discouraging disposal of unwanted drugs and sharps through trash or a plumbing or septic system.

The education and outreach materials must be provided to Pharmacies, retailers of Covered Drugs and Sharps, health care practitioners, health care facilities, veterinary facilities, and other prescribers for their own education as well as for dissemination to residents. Responsible Stewards or Stewardship Organizations must work with Collectors to develop clear, standardized instructions, signage and promotional materials for residents on the use of collection receptacles and a readily-recognizable, consistent design of collection receptacles.

Within six months of the effective date of the Ordinance and biennially thereafter Responsible Stewards and Stewardship Organizations are required to conduct a survey of residents, pharmacists, veterinarians, retailers, and health professionals who interact with patients on the use of Drugs and Sharps after the first full year of operation of the plans. These surveys should include questions that - (1) assess the awareness of the County's Stewardship Program, the Stewardship Plans in operation, and the location of all available Collection Sites; (2) assess to what extent Collection Sites and other collection methods are safe, convenient, easy to use, and utilized by residents; and (3) assess knowledge and attitudes about risks of abuse, poisonings and overdoses from prescription and nonprescription Drugs used in the home.



# Motion to call for equal protection for all travelers to the U.S.

**Agenda Item:** GB021617-14  
**Date:** 16 February 2017  
**Proposed By:** Doug Fitzsimmons

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## Background

On February 1, the Palms Neighborhood Council passed the a resolution making the following points:

*Whereas, the United States was founded by immigrants fleeing religious and political persecution; and*

*Whereas, Palms and its 45,475 residents exemplify the diversity of people, creeds, and cultures that makes Los Angeles and the United States strong and proud; and*

*Whereas, our core American values and due process rights were called into question by executive order on January 27, 2017; and*

*Whereas, this order has led to the detention and/or deportation of otherwise legal permanent residents, individuals with approved refugee applications, and authorized non-citizens upon arrival at LAX; and*

*Whereas, the United States Constitution's 14th amendment grants "equal protection of the laws" to every person, citizen or non-citizen, within the United States; and*

*Whereas, the California State Governor, the California State Senate, the Mayor of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles City Attorney, and multiple City Councilmembers have issued statements or resolutions condemning this executive overreach.*

SORO NC is home to a large population of Iranian and other Middle Eastern immigrants, many of whom, despite being integral to the fabric of our community, do not hold full citizenship or have family and friends in the targeted countries.

The restrictions placed by the current administration unfairly affect their ability to travel based not on personal behavior, but on place of birth. Further, by creating exemptions specifically for minority religions in Muslim-dominant countries, the order creates a privileged class based solely on religious belief. This is antithetical to our history and our founding beliefs as a nation.

## Proposed Motion

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council joins our fellow Neighborhood Councils as well as State and City representatives in urging that any individual who enters United States airspace or has entered United States territory, including at every stage of arrival within an airport, sea port or land crossing, be treated with equal protection of our laws, regardless of origin.

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