



Motion to support the expansion of YULA Boys High School

Agenda Item: GB040711-3

Date: 7 April 2011

Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Supports the YULA BHS expansion project and endorses the proposed changes to the Conditional Use Permit

Full Proposal

In 1999, a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) was issued by the City for the Yeshiva University of Los Angeles Boys High School (YULA BHS). At that time, the school was interested in a two-phase expansion project, and the CUP defined the conditions of and restrictions on those planned phases. A variance was also issued to reduce the total number of required parking spaces in Phase 2 to 85.

The first phase of the expansion was completed, and now, a decade later, the school is preparing for Phase 2. The project will expand the facilities on the existing lot by 10,500 square feet, including a new gymnasium, classroom space, library, and Beit Midrash (religious study hall). YULA BHS also seeks to modify some aspects of the 1999 CUP.

Project size

The 1999 CUP limits the total build-out to 47,100 square feet. Approximately 7,153 square feet (the "West Wing" of the property) is currently in possession by another organization (the Simon Wiesenthal Center) and is now governed by a separate permit. With that reduction, the new project will bring the total to 45,000 square feet, 2,100 less than approved by the CUP.

The gymnasium would increase in size and height to accommodate multiple uses, going from 7,500 square feet and 40 feet in height to 9,100 square feet and 45 feet in height (in accordance with current Municipal Code restrictions). To mitigate this height increase, the building would be stepped down by classrooms ringing the gymnasium.

Parking

The current project differs from that discussed in 1999 in that it eliminates surface parking in favor of a subterranean garage. The garage will provide 100 spaces, exceeding the 85 required in the 1999 variance. This should also result in reduced car noise. Reclaimed building space will be used for classrooms, helping to architecturally and acoustically buffer the gymnasium from nearby neighbors.

Parking is limited to registered students, faculty, employees and visitors. It may not be used by any third parties, specifically, the Museum of Tolerance and the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Students and staff who park on residential streets face fines and eventual suspension.

The 1999 CUP also calls for the creation of a cul-de-sac that would funnel school traffic into the parking area and split Castello Avenue. Surveys of neighbors by YULA suggests ambivalence to the idea. While the school is willing to construct the cul-de-sac, it proposes revisiting the idea once the parking garage is up and running.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

**South Robertson
Neighborhoods Council**

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Los Angeles, CA 90035

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E: info@soronc.org

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Make up of the student body

In addition to the High School, YULA facilities are also used by adult-education programs and for limited orthodox Jewish prayer and services, including Bat and Bar Mitzvah ceremonies (but not banquets and receptions). The 1999 CUP specifies that the total enrollment after Phase 2 is complete may be increased to 450 students (250 for the BHS, 30 for YOLA University, and 170 for the Jewish Studies Institute). Additional redistribution of students are allowed in 10% yearly increments.

YULA proposes that the CUP be amended to 300 BHS students and 150 JSA/YOLA University students at project completion, gradually shifting further over three years to 350 BHS students and 100 JSI/YOLA University students.

Events

The 1999 CUP limits the number of Special Events sponsored by the school to eight per year. With the construction of the gymnasium and parking garage, YULA BHS proposes eliminating that restriction.

They also propose clarifying the allowed use of the facilities by the YULA Girls High School and increasing the number of permitted people attending religious activities from 25 on weekdays and weekends to 100, and 50 on religious holidays to 200.

Objections to the project and CUP changes

Conversations and meetings with the neighbors around the YULA have been going on for several years. A number of neighbors continue to express concern, specifically:

- The composition of the student body shifts substantially towards high school students, increasing the peak traffic demands on the neighborhood and the number of students potentially loitering in the area. In the 1999 CUP, all students were barred from leaving the campus during lunch; the proposed CUP would allow older students to do so (with penalties for loitering).
- The Draft EIR shows that the cul-de-sac almost completely eliminates traffic impact on the neighborhood. Without it, traffic is significantly affected at three intersections and on one residential street segment. However, some locals point out the cul-de-sac would effectively prevent residents from using Castello to enter and exit Pico Boulevard, and could also impede emergency response vehicles. A rolled curb has been proposed to address the latter issue. Delaying the cul-de-sac would also eliminate any benefit during construction.
- The increases in permitted attendance for religious services would increase foot traffic and noise within the neighborhood. Neighbors question the need for it, as a large number of orthodox synagogues are already in the neighborhood, including Mogen David across the street.
- The proposed CUP changes allow unlimited use of the outdoor areas until 9:30pm weekdays and 10:30pm Saturdays until the gymnasium is completed (although no sound amplification is permitted). The 1999 CUP limits outdoor use for Special Events to 6:30pm (although it does allow some sound amplification).
- Neighbors point out that the gymnasium will have 400 fixed seats—with the potential to add many more on the floor—yet the parking only has 100 spots.
- The definition of Special Events in the proposed CUP is much broader, and lifts the limit of eight per year.



- The annexation of the West Wing to the Museum of Tolerance was not considered in setting the 47,100 square foot limit. Opponents argue that by not counting the West Wing, the *overall* building on the lot will end up much larger than agreed to in 1999.
- The expansion of the Museum of Tolerance was not considered in developing the 1999 CUP. Neighbors argue that the additional people that project would bring, combined with increased traffic from the YULA expansion, would be a huge strain on the neighborhood.

Proposed Motion

That SORO NC officially support the YULA Boys High School expansion project, including the proposed changes to the CUP and deferment of the cul-de-sac on Castello Avenue

Considerations

Pro

The project and CUP changes are necessary to ensure that the YULA BHS continues to be an attractive and vibrant place of learning.

The proposal is the product of over two years of public meetings and negotiation (not counting the original hearings in 1999 upon which it is based).

The neighbors are split on the question of the cul-de-sac; it is prudent, therefore, to adopt a wait-and-see approach.

Con

The expansion of the YULA BHS should not negatively affect the quality of life or property values of the residents who live nearby.

While progress has been made, the process has not resulted in consensus and additional public meetings are necessary.

Neighbors opposed to the cul-de-sac may not be fully considering the impact of increased traffic on Castello.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Motion to Approve a Resolution of Support for the LAPD Carnival

Agenda Item: GB040711-4

Date: April 7, 2011

Proposed By: Michael Lynn

A Resolution of Support for the proposed November LAPD Carnival on Pico Blvd.

Full Proposal

The LAPD holds carnivals in divisions throughout Los Angeles to raise money to sponsor various youth programs (DAPS, PAL Program Cadets, Jeopardy program, etc...). The carnival has previously operated successfully in 17 other divisions, offering several rides, food and family entertainment.

They are planning on the carnival to take place June 17-19, 2011 on Pico, between La Cienega and Sherbourne. The carnival would require the street closure of Pico, from the Thursday through Sunday for the purpose of set up and clean up. They must receive 51% of the resident and business addresses on the affected part of Pico to approve their petition. DOT would plan the rerouting of traffic.

Local businesses affected by the closure would be offered booths at the carnival, free of charge. SORO NC could also have a booth, as well.

Proposed Motion

- I. The SORO NC hereby resolves to support the LAPD in its proposal to hold a November carnival on Pico Blvd., and its objective to raise funds to sponsor neighborhood youth programs.

Considerations

Pro

Carnival supports local youth programs that benefit the community.

SORO NC and affected businesses offered free booths.

Successful, fun event for the neighborhood last Nov.

Con

Pico closed from Thursday through Sunday. Traffic re-routing congestion.

Access to local businesses may be affected.

Date is very close to the SORO Festival.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

**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

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Resolution to approve authorized Community Impact Statement filers

Agenda Item: GB040711-5

Date: 7 April 2011

Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

The City requires that NCs officially approve CIS filers.

Full Proposal

Community Impact Statements are a powerful tool for making the NC's voice heard in the City Council. SORO NC can have up to 5 representatives authorized to forward the NC's CIS motions.

Proposed Motion

- I. That when directed by the Board to do so, Doug Fitzsimmons, Brian Kite, Terrence Gomes, Gerald Chavarria, and Joe Gjonola be authorized to file Community Impact Statements on behalf of SORO NC.

Considerations

Pro

The five people listed here are the ones most likely to generate CIS statements

Con

CIS filers should be more evenly distributed across Board roles.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
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Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:

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Resolution to approve second financial signatory

Agenda Item: GB040711-6
Date: 7 April 2011
Proposed By: Brian Kite

The City requires that NCs have a second financial signatory for all funding motions

Full Proposal

SORO NC needs to designate a second signatory for all funding requests. This person must take DONE's Treasurer training course.

Doug Fitzsimmons has agreed to be the second signatory until another candidate volunteers and takes the training.

Proposed Motion

- I. That Doug Fitzsimmons be authorized by SORO NC to be the second signatory on all SORO NC financial matters.

Considerations

Pro	Con
Increases financial oversight	None

Board Notes

Votes For: **Against:** **Abstain:**

Proposed Amendments:

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Motion to reallocate committed but unspent funds for FY 10-11

Agenda Item: GB040711-7
Date: 7 April 2011
Proposed By: Terrence Gomes

Several of our previously passed motions in FY 2010-11 either cannot be completed in time or were funded for more money than required.

Full Proposal

Because of DONE's April 15th deadline for funding paperwork, a number of motions passed by SORO NC cannot be completed in time. Other motions were overfunded. By reallocating the unspent money, we can use the funds for projects we can complete in time.

Proposed Motion

I. That the funds allocated for the following motions be reduced as indicated:

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Motion number	Description	Original Allocation	Revised Allocation
10-11 Budget	Meeting Food	\$1,200.00	\$850.00
10-11 Budget	Economic Development	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
GB101509-4	Hami Garden Demand Warrant *	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
GB102110-5	Food Truck Promotion	\$250.00	\$0.00
GB102110-10	Town Hall Supplement Funding	\$500.00	\$0.00
GB111810-9	SORO NC Business Cards	\$1,000.00	\$800.00
GB021711-10	Castle Heights T-Shirts	\$900.00	\$550.00
Total		\$11,850.00	\$2,200.00

Total amount reallocated: \$9,650.00

* Motion was replaced by GB021711-9 Hami Garden Neighborhood Purposes Grant

Considerations

Pro

Frees funds for other projects

Con

None

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:

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Motion to request an increase in FY 10-11 Q4 purchase card limit to \$7500 and maximum charge to \$4500

Agenda Item: GB040711-8
Date: 7 April 2011
Proposed By: Terrence Gomes

Purchasing SORO NC promotional items online—the most cost-effective option—requires a temporary increase in our monthly and per-charge limits

Full Proposal

At the February Board meeting, SORO NC approved the purchase of three promotional items: license plate holders, shopping bags, and keychain lights. In order to buy them from the lowest priced vendor, ePromos.com, we would need to be able to charge it to a credit card online. However, such a charge would exceed our maximum per charge limit (\$2500) and, given our other purchase card commitments, the quarterly total limit (\$5,525).

Proposed Motion

To submit a request to DONE Funding to increase our FY 2011-12 4th Quarter purchase card limit to \$7500 and to increase the per charge limit to \$4500 to cover ePromos.com promotional items.

Considerations

Pro

Helps DONE Funding process our motion more easily, as well as allowing the NC to use the most cost-effective vendor.

Con

None

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:

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Motion to fund \$16,000 for permanent neighborhood markers for SORO

Agenda Item: GB040711-9

Date: 7 April 2011

Proposed By: Marjan Safinia

Motion to fund \$16,000 for permanent SORO NC street markers

Full Proposal

The banner program we have up along Robertson Boulevard has been one of the most high impact outreach programs we have as an NC, both to help people know about us (multiple very active board members cite the banners as the reason they joined the board) and in terms of identifying the neighborhood within the city and fostering a sense of neighborhood pride.

Unfortunately, those banners have to come down within the coming months, since the City no longer will allow a "temporary" banner to be up past 3 years. This motion is to replace many of those banners with "permanent street markers" which would never have to come down, as long as they were in good condition (not dilapidated).

The Robertson Revitalization ad hoc committee has drafted a multi-year, phased plan for the economic revitalization of South Robertson Boulevard and a critical piece of the first phase of this plan is to restore beauty and pride to the boulevard. By using a combination of mature trees picked to grow with leafy canopies and permanent neighborhood markers that identify SORO as a distinct piece of the City, we seek to begin to turn around public perception of the corridor.

The outreach committee has drafted 3 designs and is most in favor of the "medallion" design (overleaf). We are currently working with different vendors to price out the best solution. The multi-year goal is to have 150 permanent markers along South Robertson and at the gateways and boundaries of our neighborhood. Each piece will cost between \$600-\$1000 approximately, so this is a significant investment in our neighborhood.

The Robertson Revitalization committee met with Council Member Herb Wesson on March 21st and presented our comprehensive report and recommendations to him. At that meeting, Council Member Wesson agreed to partner with us and to personally reach out to Council Member Koretz so that the three groups could collaborate on this important revitalization work. CM Wesson agreed to offer significant assistance towards completing the first phase goal of trees and markers.

Since the target goal for the overall project is larger than the NC can undertake alone, and CD10 have agreed to make significant contributions, this motion is to fund \$16,000 to Council District 10's Community Benefit fund towards the purchase of permanent neighborhood markers for our community in 2011, as soon as the full scope of CD10 and CD5's involvement in the project has been finalized.

Proposed Motion

That SORO NC approves funding \$16,000 to Council District 10's Community Benefit Fund for SORO NC permanent street markers to help define our neighborhood, promote SORO NC and begin Phase 1 of the Robertson Revitalization effort.

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Considerations

Pro

Expands the reach and visibility of the SORO NC brand

These markers are permanent. We spent \$12,000 on the temporary banners.

Con

Cost is significant

We would have to replace any signs that became dilapidated over the long term.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Laser Cut Sign with Painted Lettering
Metal 36"x 36"



Motion to fund \$14,000 for purchase, installation and care of trees

Agenda Item: GB040711-10

Date: April 07, 2011

Proposed By: Paula Waxman and Larry Hess

Motion to fund \$14,000 for trees on S. Robertson Blvd.

Full Proposal

The ad hoc Robertson Revitalization Committee has developed a multi-year plan for the economic revitalization of S. Robertson Boulevard. One of the most important pieces of this plan is to restore beauty and pride to the Boulevard in the form of trees, which can instantly improve the outward perception of the street. This recommendation is supported by a comprehensive 1997 report created about S. Robertson by the UCLA School of Urban Planning for then Council Member Mike Feuer.

Larry Hess, Co Chair of the Green Team Committee, was designated by the ad hoc committee to research various tree planting options. Larry conducted a full survey of the area, and determined that to prepare 64 beds along S. Robertson between Cadillac and Cattaraugus for planting, purchase sixty-four 24 inch boxed trees and install and maintain for two years, the cost will be between \$60,000 and \$70,000. The new trees should be attractive, healthy, drought tolerant, of good size and picked to grow with a large leafy canopy. This is the Phase 1 target for the revitalization project. The full scope of the project ultimately includes the purchase installation and care of 144 trees.

The Robertson Revitalization committee met with Council Member Herb Wesson on March 21st and presented the comprehensive report and recommendations to him. At that meeting, Council Member Wesson agreed to partner with us and to personally reach out to Council Member Koretz so that the three groups could collaborate on this important revitalization work. CM Wesson agreed to offer significant assistance towards completing the first phase goal of trees.

Since the target goal for the overall project is larger than the NC can undertake alone, and CD10 have agreed to make significant contributions, this motion is to fund \$14,000 to Council District 10's Community Benefit fund towards the purchase of appropriate trees for our community in 2011, as soon as the full scope of CD10 and CD5's involvement in the project has been finalized.

Larry Hess will research and present to the Board a minimum of 3 types of trees from which they would select the most appropriate.

Proposed Motion

That SORO NC approves funding \$14,000 to Council District 10's Community Benefit Fund for the purchase, installation and care of appropriate trees to be planted along S. Robertson Blvd. for Phase 1 of the Robertson Revitalization effort.

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Considerations

Pro

Trees have been shown to beautify a street and enhance its attractiveness to potential businesses. The City of Los Angeles knows this as well, which is why they invest in tree grants to augment revitalization projects. Many Robertson shops remain vacant. In order to attract more businesses and customers, we need to invest in this project.

The Chatalpa trees along Robertson were improperly planted 7 years ago. In an attempt to prevent roots from damaging the sidewalks, the trees were planted in the ground in bottomless boxes. As a result, the roots were unable to take hold and now the trees blow over in even mild wind. Those trees that have rooted, are stunted or growing at strange angles. Therefore the city determined that if we do a tree planting project along Robertson, that we not augment the existing trees, but instead, completely replace them.

Con

There might be other profound impediments to business growth, such as lack of parking and absentee landlords, that tree planting alone will not fix.

Instead of doing a complete re-planting of Robertson Blvd., why not fill in missing spots with the same type of tree for a consistent look and lower price?

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Motion to approve letter to CD10 regarding funding for collaborative Robertson Revitalization project

Agenda Item: GB040711-11
Date: 7 April 2011
Proposed By: Marjan Safinia

Motion to approve letter to CD10 regarding funding for trees and permanent neighborhood markers

Full Proposal

The ad hoc Robertson Revitalization was formed in order to lead the effort to revitalize South Robertson Boulevard, a project which the overwhelming majority of our stakeholders expressed was their primary concern for the area in a survey conducted at the 2009 SoRo Festival.

After research and multiple meetings, the committee met with Council Member Herb Wesson on March 21st and presented him with a comprehensive report and recommendations for starting this revitalization project. It is worth noting that efforts to revitalize the Boulevard have been ongoing since at least 1997, and have made little ultimate impact on the situation.

At that meeting, Council Member Wesson recognized that it is high time something was actually done, and agreed to partner with us on this goal and to personally reach out to Council Member Koretz so that the three groups could collaborate on this important revitalization work. Council Member Wesson also agreed to offer significant assistance towards completing the first phase of the project.

SORO NC has significant funds to contribute towards Phase 1 of the project, allocated towards the purchase, installation and care of trees (\$14,000) and the design, purchase and installation of permanent street markers to replace our existing banners (\$16,000).

CD10 and CD5 will be partnering with us on these projects, which both require significant planning and cohesion before execution. Since SORO NC would like to allocate \$30,000 of funds from the 2010-11 fiscal year towards these projects, DONE has imminent funding deadlines in place, and the two Council offices have not yet finalized their level of involvement in the overall plan, SORO NC would like to allocate the funds we will spend on this work to the CD10 Community Benefit Fund, so that when the full scope of Council District involvement has been determined, the aggregate funds can be spent on this project, in 2011.

In order for us to be able to safeguard the SORO NC funds, ensure that they will only be spent in the manner for which they were allocated, and make sure that our intent for the project and the funding is clear, we would like the board to approve the attached letter to Council Member Wesson. In return, the Council Member will also present a motion at City Council that confirms the same details so that they are memorialized in the public record.

The ad hoc committee and CD10 staff have worked closely to make sure that this approach is viable and fully understood by both sides.

Doug Fitzsimmons
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Proposed Motion

- I. That SORONC approve the attached letter to Council Member Wesson, regarding the allocation and intended use for the \$30,000 of NC funds we are putting towards the overall plan to buy trees and markers for Phase 1 of the Robertson Revitalization effort. Additional resources towards this overall effort will be forthcoming from the Council office.

Considerations

Pro

Robertson Revitalization is a stated objective for this NC and immediate beautification of the area is a priority. This letter allows us to commit \$30,000 towards this letter from the 2010-11 funding cycle.

DONE's current funding deadlines effectively prohibit us from being able to submit complete project paperwork for this major undertaking before the April 15th funding paperwork deadline. Given that NC rollover funds may well be swept, this motion allows the money to be spent within our boundaries, as it was intended, rather being swept to counterbalance the current City deficit.

Con

It might be preferable to purchase the trees and markers directly and avoid concerns about the funds being "lost" at CD10.

It is possible that the rollover funds will not be swept, in which case we could carry these funds over to the next fiscal year and spend them at that time.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



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Council Member Herb Wesson
1819 S. Western Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90006

31 March 2011

Re: SORO Economic Revitalization Project

Dear Council Member Wesson:

Thank you for meeting with our committee on 21 March 2011, for receiving and studying our report on the Economic Revitalization of SORO, and for your commitment to collaborate with us on this issue.

As we agreed in the meeting, this project will be a multi-year effort and will involve all the critical stakeholders, SORO NC, CD10 and CD5, since South Robertson Boulevard is the boundary between the two Council Districts. We appreciate your recognition of the fact that all parties must collaborate on this "divided" street to achieve a result. We also appreciate your willingness to work closely with Council Member Koretz to make this happen.

As we all agreed at our meeting, the first phase is to move forward immediately with trees and permanent neighborhood markers for the primary target areas, on both the east and west sides of Robertson Boulevard. Since March 21st, we have been working closely with your staff on trees and markers, trying to find the most fiscally responsible and cohesive plan to execute our goals.

Based on our committee research, which was comprehensively detailed in the report, our recommendations for the scope of Phase 1 are:

Phase 1: Trees

Overview

Most of the current Chitalpa trees planted along South Robertson in 2003 have died, are stunted, blown over, or have grown at strange angles. An LA City tree specialist said that the trees, once thought appropriate for city streets, are no longer deemed suitable. As a result, we are faced with the task of replacing ALL the Chitalpa trees along South Robertson, and replacing other random trees along the corridor to maintain cohesiveness.

Requirements

- Drought tolerant
- Root systems that will not disturb sidewalks
- Evergreen
- Medium to tall leafy, shady canopy that will not interfere with businesses and traffic nor telecom and power lines.
- Fast growing, sturdy.
- Potential trees include: Chinese Elm, Moreton Bay Chestnut, Gold Medallion Cassia, Brazilian Tipu

Project scope

- 144 new trees over approximately 20 blocks on east and west sides of Robertson
- Site preparation including removal of existing trees and stumps, cutting cement to create tree beds, labor, soil amendments, maintenance program to ensure healthy rooting

Continued.../



Phase 2: Permanent Neighborhood Markers (medallion style)

Overview

SORO NC's temporary banner program has been a huge success in the community with measured results in terms of neighborhood pride, neighborhood identity within the City at large and striking recognizable brand elements in which we are deeply invested. The City has advised us to move to permanent street markers if we wish to maintain this presence. This project would replace the existing banners and extend to place permanent markers on the boundaries and gateways of our community, as successfully modeled in many redevelopment projects.

Requirements

- Design cohesive with the SORO brand (design concept developed)
- Secure and sustainable permanent display pieces which will hold up over time
- Large enough to be highly visible while remaining within City requirements

Project scope

- 150 permanent SORO medallion markers along the east and west sides of South Robertson and at SORO gateways and boundaries
- Project includes careful research of safe installation options and sustainable finishes that will weather the elements

SORO NC would like to contribute some funds towards this effort, as a confirmation of our serious commitment to this stated goal for our neighborhood council. Our board has allocated \$14,000 towards the purchase and maintenance of trees and \$16,000 towards the purchase and installation of permanent neighborhood markers for the benefit of our whole community within the boundaries of SORONC.

As you know, in order for us to be able to commit the \$30,000 from this year's funding allocation, we need to submit completed funding paperwork by 15 April 2011, DONE's deadline for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

This project needs to be cohesively executed. Given that SORO NC's contribution only represents one portion of the total funding required for the first phase of the project, we will be allocating these funds to Council District 10's Community Benefit Fund for specific expenditure during 2011 towards the project goals detailed above, pending finalization of the plan.

To comply with DONE's required Demand Warrant information by April 15th, we confirm the details associated with the CD10 Community Benefit Fund are:

[insert exact details of the CD10 department number, fund number, account number for fund transfer and accounting contact from CD10 who will oversee this transaction]

For your records, the funds will be coming from [insert corresponding SORO NC fund information from DONE]

Council Member Wesson, we deeply appreciate your leadership on this issue, and the commitment you have made to improve the quality of life for our community. Kindly confirm your receipt and agreement to the outlined plan in writing at your earliest convenience. We understand that you will also bring a motion before City Council on this issue on 8 April 2011.

Sincerely,

Doug Fitzsimmons, President SORO NC



Motion to fund a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) of \$5000 for Summer Program Supporting at-Risk Youth.

Agenda Item: GB040711-12
Date: 7 April 2011
Proposed By: Kimber Smith

Fund a NPG of \$5,000 to SoRo Inc. in support of a summer youth program for high-risk students from the La Cienega Heights district of the South Robertson Community.

Full Proposal

The Robertson Activities League (RAL) program was developed by community partners in 2006 in response to a neighborhood gang shooting that tragically claimed the lives of three area youth. RAL was run as a partnership between SORO NC, the West LA Police Department, Parks and Recreation, other city departments and community leaders between the winters of 2006 and 2009. During that time the program provided a safe gang-free space during winter, spring and summer school breaks. SORO NC funded RAL until December 2009 when the program became ineffective due to the departure of key staff, specifically project originator and manager, Beth Ryan, who took a full time job and was unable to maintain her level of involvement, as well as the director of the Robertson Recreation Center.

Youth in the La Cienega Heights neighborhood of SORO unfortunately continue to face a disproportionate level of social dislocation and risk of violence due to gang activity compared to the rest of our neighborhood. To help support these youth, SoRo Inc. and project manager Beth Ryan have designed a new and improved summer support program. Beth Ryan has cleared her schedule from now until the end of the program to be able to prioritize this activity. The Summer Youth Program (final name TBD) will run for 10 weeks during the summer of 2011 and provide 200 hours of academic and creative instruction to about 40 - 60 pre-selected youth ages 13-16 from La Cienega Heights. Students will also attend field trips and leadership seminars, mentorship from key professionals and community members and receive meals and physical fitness training. The program will focus on Hamilton High's most at-risk youth that are currently failing courses and would require summer school (which LAUSD currently does not provide) as well as incoming Hamilton High School freshmen. Administrators and the Outreach Committee have thoroughly reviewed program design and have addressed the areas of concern previously expressed by the Council. Project manager, Beth Ryan has been in close contact with the Hamilton Principal and Dean of Students to help identify the youth that are most in need of the program, as well as seeking support from LAPD.

Proposed Motion

That SORO NC fund a Neighborhood Purpose Grant of \$5,000 to SoRo Inc. to support the 2011 Summer Youth Program for at risk youth in the La Cienega Heights Neighborhood of the South Robertson Community. \$5,000 represents about 9% of the projected \$54,810 budget.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

**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





Considerations

Pro

Fulfills NC mission to support programs that contribute to social improvement of Council area.

Will provide much needed support and resources for the most vulnerable youth within SORO NC boundaries.

Program evaluation required by the NPG program will give good insight into status of underserved youth in our community.

Con

Significant cost: Represents 11% of the current NC's annual funding allocation

Targeted support does not prioritize youth from other areas of the SORO NC community.

Program administrators must still raise a significant \$50,000 in funding and in-kind donations beyond proposed SORO funds or program may be compromised.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:

APPLICATION for Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG)

Invoice No. 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, upon approval of the application, shall submit the approved application along with all required documentation to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

Name of Neighborhood Council you are seeking the grant from: South Robertson Neighborhood Council (SORO NC)

Neighborhood Council Name

SECTION I - APPLICANT VERIFICATION INFORMATION

1A) <u>SORO, Inc</u> Organization Name	<u>95-4756212</u> Federal I.D. # (EIN#)	<u>California</u> State of Incorporation	<u>8/10/2000</u> Date of 501(c)(3) Status (if applicable)
1B) <u>1836 1/2 S. Robertson Blvd</u> Organization Mailing Address	<u>Los Angeles</u> City	<u>CA</u> State	<u>90035</u> Zip Code
1C) <u>N/A</u> Business Address (If different)	<u></u> City	<u></u> State	<u></u> Zip Code
1D) <u>N/A</u> Address of Affiliated Organization (If applicable)	<u></u> City	<u></u> State	<u></u> Zip Code
2) <u>2730 S. Robertson Blvd.</u> Street	<u>Los Angeles</u> City	<u>CA</u> State	<u>90034</u> Zip Code
3) Type of Organization- Please select one: (Organizations must be located within the City of Los Angeles)		Name: <u>Christel Wilson</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public School (not to include private schools)		<input type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(3) Non-profits (other than religious institutions)	
Attach Letterhead		Attach IRS Determination Letter	

SECTION II - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

4) Please describe the Neighborhood Improvement Project for which the grant is intended.

See attachment NPG Summer Youth Program.docx

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

See attachment NPG Summer Youth Program.docx

City of Los Angeles, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
Neighborhood Council Funding Program
APPLICATION for Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG)

4) Please describe the Neighborhood Improvement Project for which the grant is intended.

This grant is intended to support a summer program for youth aged 13 – 16. The summer program will take place every Tuesday – Friday for 10-weeks beginning on Tuesday, June 28th and ending on Friday, September 2, 2011. The students will participate in a variety of activities from 1 – 6 PM each day.

There will be between 40 – 60 students enrolled in the program.

The Summer Program is a leadership development program that will offer the most vulnerable teens the opportunity to interact with community members to learn more about art, music, acting, drawing, writing, sports, character building, leadership skills and improving their reading and math skills.

Youth will also participate in sports and learn the benefits of working together as a team. They will receive training, individualized coaching and support, and numerous group activities to supplement the one-to-one support. Teens will also participate in field trips travelling throughout Los Angeles as well as volunteering their time visiting the Children's Hospital, a senior center and a homeless shelter. In the process, students will increase self-confidence and community awareness taking an active role in their environment.

The youth participating in this summer program includes the following three student segments:

1. At-risk for dropping out of school
 - a. These students are identified by the school counselors and directors who have personal knowledge of the students most in need of extra attention.
 - b. For these youth, in addition to the regular activities and field trips, we provide one-on-one counseling, mentorship and training focused on the importance of a high school education.
2. Students failing a class or being held back a grade
 - a. These students are identified by school personnel who understand that with a little extra attention and mentoring, these students could perform at a higher rate in their classes.
 - b. For these youth, in addition to the regular activities and field trips, we provide additional focus on reading, math and comprehension skills in addition to some focus on time management and homework and test taking skills.

3. Behavioral Issues

- a. These students are identified by the school's deans or police or by the students' parent or guardian and have generally been suspended from school, been caught skipping classes or in jeopardy of getting involved in more serious offenses and in need of extra attention.
- b. The Summer Program ensures that these students fully participate in the activities and field trips being offered and interact with the community volunteers. The emphasis on these students is to engage them fully in the program and when appropriate offer them leadership positions so that they can elevate their confidence in making positive choices.

All students are placed in groups with a combination of students so that each student is rewarded for positive behavior and surrounded by adults who provide feedback and encouragement for students to be fully engaged while they are learning new skills and having fun.

The Summer Program will be managed by community leader, Beth Ryan in collaboration with SoRo, Inc. South Robertson Neighborhoods Council, Inc. is an active non-profit charitable organization dedicated to South Robertson community for the past decade.

The Summer Program Budget (Attachment 1), Sample Weekly Activities (Attachment 2) and SoRo, Inc. 501(c)3 letter (Attachment 3) are attached.

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

If left to their own, too many teens are influenced by their peers to participate in illegal and harmful behaviors. Teenagers throughout our community need to be aware of the community support and interest in them making positive choices.

The Summer Program is committed to making a difference in the lives of at-risk youth and allowing them to experience new activities and explore the city of Los Angeles.

In order to achieve this, we offer many services including the following:

- Recruiting community members to volunteer their time and share their skills – and time - with the students
- Scheduling field trips for the students to learn more about local museums and attractions
- Focusing on raising the students' comfort and skill levels in reading and math
- Group activities to build teamwork skills and self confidence
- Teaching character building exercises

- Establishing a leadership program

The interaction that the students have with community members is the most impactful. Community members teach the students about art, music, acting, photography, dance, martial arts, cooking, career choices, writing, the joy of reading and a host of other activities. The mere act of the adults showing up each week to spend time with them conveys a sense of worthiness to the students. They begin to realize that there are people who care about the choices they make and the lives that they live. And they develop relationships with these mentors and have role models in the community.

The program will be created in collaboration with administrators at Hamilton High School, staff at the Robertson Rec Center, Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Herb Wesson, School board member Marguerite LaMotte, LAPD, parents, business owners and local neighborhood association leaders.

Sample Weekly Activities

Sample Week One									
Tues, June 28th									
Sports	Location	All - Check in	Groups	Groups	Groups	Groups	Groups	Book Club	All - Wrap Up
	1 - 1:15	1 - 1:15	1:20 - 2:05	2:15 - 3:00	3:10 - 3:55	4:05 - 4:50	5:00 - 5:45	5:45 - 6:00	
	Outside	Introductions	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Grouped by	Feedback	
Music Program	Brick Room	Rules	Group D	Group A	Group B	Group C	book chosen	Most enjoyed	
Boot Camp	Blue Room	Q&A	Group C	Group D	Group A	Group B	Leadership	Reminders	
Acting/Improv	Large Room	Assignments	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group A	2 from each	Clean Up Crew	
Wed, June 29th									
	Location	All - Check in	Groups	Groups	Groups	Groups	Math	All - Wrap Up	
	1 - 1:15	1 - 1:15	1:20 - 2:05	2:15 - 3:00	3:10 - 3:55	4:05 - 4:50	5:00 - 5:45	5:45 - 6:00	
Marital Arts	Brick Room	Introductions	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Grouped by	Feedback	
Math Games	Blue Room	Rules	Group D	Group A	Group B	Group C	proficiency	Most enjoyed	
Fitness Training	Large Room	Q&A	Group C	Group D	Group A	Group B	Leadership	Reminders	
Writing/Vocabulary	Picnic Tables	Assignments	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group A	2 from each	Clean Up Crew	
Thurs, June 30th									
	Location	All - Check in	Groups	Groups	Groups	Groups	Leadership	All - Wrap Up	
	1 - 1:15	1 - 1:15	1:20 - 2:05	2:15 - 3:00	3:10 - 3:55	4:05 - 4:50	5:00 - 5:45	5:45 - 6:00	
Basketball	Outside	Introductions	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Leaders	Feedback	
Character Building	Blue Room	Rules	Group D	Group A	Group B	Group C	choose and	Most enjoyed	
Dance - Hip Hop	Stage	Q&A	Group C	Group D	Group A	Group B	run the	Reminders	
Cooking	Kitchen/Brick	Assignments	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group A	programs	Clean Up Crew	
Friday, July 1st									
	1 - 6 PM	Field Trip Options							
Field Trip	1:00 - 1:15	Meet at Rec Center	LACMA/Peterson Automotive						
	1:15 - 1:25	Board Bus	Downtown Tour - Bradbury Bldg, Angels Flight, Olvera/Union Station, Watts Tower, etc						
	1:30 - 2:00	Travel to Site	Beach with obstacle courses and challenges						
	2:00 - 5:00	Explore	Griffith Observatory						
	5:00 - 5:15	Get into groups	Roller Skating						
	5:15 - 5:25	Load Bus	Land Fill						
	5:30 - 6:00	Travel Home	Young Artists Play @ La Mirada on August 6th - Saturday						
			Giving Back Field Trips - Senior Center, Homeless Shelter, Children's Hospital						

On the way to the field trip site, each group discusses and agrees on one "problem". It could be related to the group, the program, school, their family, friends, etc. Before arriving at the site, the group leaders present their group's problem to everyone.

On the way home, the groups will discuss solutions, resources needed, interest in working on fixing the problem and present to the whole bus before arriving home.

Summer Youth Program Draft Budget (4 days a week)

Total Cost of Ten-Week Program	\$ 53,960.00	Cost to Sponsor Students	5 Students	10 Students
Cost per Student (50 students)	\$ 1,079.20	4 days per week (50)	\$ 5,396.00	\$ 10,792.00
Cost per Day (40 days)	\$ 26.98	4 days per week (60)	\$ 4,496.65	\$ 8,993.30
Program could take as many as 60 students per group reducing the cost per student to \$899.33.				

Expenses	Quantity	# of Days	Per Day Cost	Total	Student Cost Per Day
5 Staff	5	238	\$ 167.30	\$ 39,760.00	
Director, Coordinator and 3 Counselors	2	60	\$ -	\$ -	
Volunteers and Instructors				<u>\$ 39,760.00</u>	

Food/Snacks	Number of Students	# of Days	Per Day Cost	Total	Student Cost Per Day
Tuesday	50	10	\$ 20.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.40
Wednesday	50	10	\$ 20.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.40
Thursday	50	10	\$ 20.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.40
Friday - bagged lunches	50	10	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 5.00
Food/Snacks Cost				<u>\$ 2,600.00</u>	

Field Trips - Fridays	Number of Students	# of Days	Per Day Cost	Total	Student Cost Per Day
Admission Fees	50	7	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 5.00
Giving Back Field Trips	50	3	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Buses	50	10	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 4.00
Field Trip Costs				<u>\$ 3,750.00</u>	

Activity Instructors	Number of Students	# of Days	Per Day Cost	Total	Student Cost Per Day
Acting/Improv	50	15	\$ 50.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 1.00
Art/Drawing/Pottery	50	15	\$ 50.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 1.00
Basketball - Counselor	50	10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Book Club - Counselor	50	10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Character Building - Counselor	50	10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Dance Instructor - Hip Hop	50	20	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1.00
Educational Games - Counselor	50	20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Summer Youth Program Draft Budget (4 days a week)

Activity Instructors	Number of Students	# of Days	Per Day Cost	Total	Student Cost Per Day
Fitness Training	50	20	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1.00
Gardening - Counselor/Volunteer	50	10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Life Skills - Counselor	50	10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Martial Arts/Yoga/Pilates	50	10	\$ 50.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1.00
Math Tutors - Counselor	50	10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Music Program	50	20	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1.00
Photography Program	50	10	\$ 50.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1.00
SAT Tutors - Counselor	50	10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sports - Counselor	50	20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Volunteering - Counselor	50	10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Writing Instructor - Counselor	50	10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Activity Instructor Cost				\$ 5,500.00	

Supplies	Number of Students	# of Days	Per Day Cost	Total	Per Student Cost
T-Shirts	70			\$ 350.00	\$ 5.00
Office Supplies	50			\$ 200.00	\$ -
Book Club Supplies	50			\$ 400.00	\$ 8.00
Copying/Flyers	50			\$ 250.00	\$ 5.00
Supplies Cost				\$ 1,200.00	

Outreach	Number of Students	# of Days	Per Day Cost	Total	Per Student Cost
Marketing to Donors		60		\$ 400.00	
Recruitment of students and volunteers		30		\$ 250.00	
Final Party	150	1		\$ 500.00	\$ 3.33
Outreach Costs				\$ 1,150.00	



Motion to approve \$1000 for Phase I website enhancements

Agenda Item: GB040711-13
Date: 7 April 2011
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Funds initial high-priority enhancements to soronc.org

Full Proposal

The design and functionality of soronc.org was finalized in late 2009 and development of the robust, content-driven site began. In the meantime, a temporary site was created to make basic NC information available to the public.

During that development process, the temporary site continued to evolve as new uses for the website were discovered. When the permanent site was finally launched in March 2011, it was clear (and expected) that the NC needed additional functionality not anticipated in 2009. For example, social media, email communications and standards, and committee posting requirements all evolved over that period.

The work will be done by SASNet, the company that developed the site, as they are most familiar with the extensive custom development used in soronc.org. It should be noted that any delays in launching soronc.org were due to the NC's ability to oversee the many interconnected aspects of the project, rather than to any issues with SASNet's performance. Indeed, they performed admirably given the circumstances.

This motion seeks to fund a round of quick, high-priority changes to the site. Additional phases are planned in FY 11-12 to extend the site further.

Proposed Motion

- I. That SORO NC fund \$1000 for an initial round of high-priority enhancements to soronc.org by SASNet.

Considerations

Pro	Con
Helps soronc.org better meet the needs of its stakeholders and Board members	Cost.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

**South Robertson
Neighborhoods Council**

PO Box 35836
Los Angeles, CA 90035

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

soronc.org

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Motion to approve \$220 to extend Hamilton High Safety phones through July 2011

Agenda Item: GB040711-14

Date: 7 April 2011

Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Funding for Hamilton security staff phones will run out in May

Full Proposal

In March 2008, the SORO NC Board approved purchase of up to four cell phones with walkie-talkie features and two years of cell phone service, to be used by the Hamilton High School security patrol and administrative staff. When groups of students are observed doing something that requires intervention by the school, the community can call a number (distributed to nearby residents and posted in local business) and immediately be connected to the school security patrol or administration.

By all accounts, the program has worked exceptionally well.

In February 2010, SORO NC voted to extend the contract for the phones for two years (i.e., through March 2012). At that time, the Board allocated \$1600. However, the monthly bill averages \$112, and the money will only cover through May 2011. This motion is a stop-gap measure; it is designed to allow the NC to fully consider the refunding of the program in FY 2011-12.

Proposed Motion

- I. To allocate an additional \$220 to the Hamilton High security phone funding (original motion: GB021810-7) to cover monthly fees, payable to Sprint, for four cell phones with walkie-talkie features used by Hamilton High School security patrol and administrative staff to enhance security.

Considerations

Pro	Con
Buy us time	Board still needs to debate its on-going commitment to the program in FY 11-12

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Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Motion to approve \$5000 for a Neighborhood Purposes Grant for the 2011 SoRo Festival

Agenda Item: GB040711-15

Date: 7 April 2011

Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Approves the NPG application from SoRo, Inc. for the 2011 Fest

Full Proposal

In the FY 2010-11 SORO NC budget, the Board approved a \$9000 line item for the 2011 SoRo Festival.

This motion is one of two to spend that money. NPG application attached.

Proposed Motion

- I. To approve a \$5000 Neighborhood Purposes Grant to SoRo, Inc., for the purposes of putting on the 2011 SoRo Festival.

Considerations

Pro

The NPG is a great way to fund the Festival.

Con

None with regards to the funding mechanism.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:

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City of Los Angeles, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
 Neighborhood Council Funding Program

APPLICATION for Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG)

Invoice No. 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, upon approval of the application, shall submit the approved application along with all required documentation to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

Name of Neighborhood Council you are seeking the grant from: South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORO NC)
Neighborhood Council Name

SECTION I - APPLICANT VERIFICATION INFORMATION

1A) <u>SoRo, Inc.</u> Organization Name	<u>95-4756212</u> Federal I.D. # (EIN#)	<u>California</u> State of Incorporation	<u>08/10/2000</u> Date of 501(c)(3) Status (if applicable)
1B) <u>1836 1/2 S. Robertson Blvd.</u> Organization Mailing Address	<u>Los Angeles</u> City	<u>CA</u> State	<u>90035</u> Zip Code
1C) <u>N/A</u> Business Address (if different)	<u></u> City	<u></u> State	<u></u> Zip Code
1D) <u>N/A</u> Address of Affiliated Organization (if applicable)	<u></u> City	<u></u> State	<u></u> Zip Code
Name and address of person designated to receive official/legal notices:		Name: <u>Christel Wilson</u>	
2) <u>2730 S. Robertson Blvd.</u> Street	<u>Los Angeles</u> City	<u>CA</u> State	<u>90034</u> Zip Code
3) Type of Organization- Please select one: (Organizations must be located within the City of Los Angeles)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Public School (not to include private schools) or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(3) Non-profits (other than religious institutions)			
Attach Letterhead		Attach IRS Determination Letter	

SECTION II - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

4) Please describe the Neighborhood Improvement Project for which the grant is intended.

See Attachment 1.

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

See Attachment 1.

City of Los Angeles, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
Neighborhood Council Funding Program

APPLICATION for Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG)

SoRo, Inc.

4) Please describe the Neighborhood Improvement Project for which the grant is intended.

This grant is intended to support an event: the 14th Annual South Robertson Community Festival will be held on June 5, 2011, 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 of unity 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, Inc. (South Robertson Neighborhoods Council, Inc. – a name that pre-dates the founding of the Neighborhood Council system), a non-profit 501c3 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, 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, Inc., the South Robertson Neighborhood Council (SORO NC), the local community, and staff of the offices of Councilmembers 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, 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, 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 non-discriminatory, 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.

City of Los Angeles, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
 Neighborhood Council Funding Program

APPLICATION for Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG)

SoRo, Inc.

2011 SoRo Festival Budget

EXPENSES

Advertising	\$ 4,000
Equipment Rental	11,200
Office Supplies/Postage	300
Decorating & Setup	1,000
Kids Camp	4,000
Music & Stage	4,500
Kids Arts & Crafts	2,000
Insurance & Permits	1,700
Supplies	300
DOT and other LA City fees	6,000
Total Expenses	\$ 35,000

REVENUES

CD-5 and CD-10	\$ 1,000
LA DCA and SORO NC grants	10,200
Direct Public Support (donations)	6,800
Participant and vendor fees	9,000
Collections from events	4,000
Other income SORO NC	4,000
Total Revenues	\$ 35,000



Motion to approve a \$4000 interdepartmental transfer to Street Services for 2011 SoRo Festival fees

Agenda Item: GB040711-16

Date: 7 April 2011

Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Approves funds for Robertson street closure and other fees for the 2011 Fest

Full Proposal

In the FY 2010-11 SORO NC budget, the Board approved a \$9000 line item for the 2011 SoRo Festival.

This motion is the second of two to spend that money. Since NPGs are effectively capped at \$5000, the remainder the Board allocated (\$4000) will be spent to pay for the bulk of the street closure and other fees for the Festival via an interdepartmental transfer to Street Services

Proposed Motion

- I. To approve \$4000 to LA City Street Services for fees due for the 2011 SoRo Festival.

Considerations

Pro

This is a simple, single item that we can fund--avoiding the NC having to disburse funds to multiple vendors.

Con

None with regards to the funding mechanism.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

**South Robertson
Neighborhoods Council**

PO Box 35836
Los Angeles, CA 90035

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

soronc.org





Motion to approve resolution for April funding motions

Agenda Item: GB040711-17

Date: 7 April 2011

Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

The resolution allows the NC to submit funding paperwork without having to wait for approved minutes

Full Proposal

Authorizes letters to DONE's funding program for each motion passed at the 7 April 2011 meeting that will say:

The undersigned hereby **resolve and affirm** that the following motion was duly passed at the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council meeting of 7 April 2011: [motion description and number]

Proposed Motion

- I. That SORO NC issue resolutions affirming the funding motions passed at the General Board meeting of April 7, 2011.

Considerations

Pro

Speeds funding process so that SORO NC can hit the April 15 funding cut off without having to call a special meeting.

Con

Slightly complicates our ability to reconsider passed funding motions at our May Board meeting.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

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Motion to endorse recommendations from the Budget Advocate committee (sponsored by WRAC)

Agenda Item: GB040711-18

Date: 7 April 2011

Proposed By: Terrence Gomes

NC Budget Advocates have proposed a funding structure for Neighborhood Councils in FY 2011-12

Full Proposal

In 2010, the City Clerk was allocated more than \$1,900,000.00 to fully run the NC elections. It was originally anticipated that the Clerks office would do all outreach as well as administer the elections.

In order to have the NC system participate in the reduction of the budget gap, it is proposed that each neighborhood council would administer its own election, with the help of the City Clerks office which would appoint one person as the independent election administrator at each election site. It is anticipated that the cost per election would not exceed \$1,500.00 per neighborhood council.

Each Neighborhood Council would be responsible to hold its own elections. A citywide system of ballots would be put into place, and a committee set up to formulate how the elections are to run and be administered.

In the 2011 budget, it is anticipated that the election costs would not exceed \$800,000.00. The balance of the requested funds would be used to fund the charter-mandated annual congress (\$20,000.00). It may be an additional recommendation to postpone elections for no more than one year (per elections task force report) to allow NCs to work with the city to develop a sustainable election system. This would save the city the \$800,000.00 recommended by this group below.

This represents a net savings to the City of \$ 990,000.00; a significant contribution that also empowers the NC system to take back and administer its own elections and to fully fund the charter mandated NC Congress.

In addition, in the past 12 months, the NC system has come to the table with:

- 1) By Laws Committee volunteers charged with working directly with NC's for By Laws issues
- 2) Peer Mentoring Committee: NC members whose charge is to work with NC's who have questions or issues within their councils, thereby supplementing DONE staff with peers.
- 3) Volunteer Committee: A committee of NC volunteers who will work with the NC's for their volunteer needs. In addition, the volunteer committee will be taking the lead in holding the 2011 Neighborhood Congress.
- 4) An election task force was assembled and recommendations are forthcoming to the City
- 5) Congress committee: Charged with organizing and implementing the 2011 NC Congress, as mandated by the Charter.
- 6) Volunteer treasurer committee working with DONE to ensure proper financial reporting and accountability by all NC's.

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- 7) 70 percent of NC board members have complied with the ethics requirement (more than 250 percent increase over two years), demonstrating that NCs are being more accountable.

In addition, the NC's have worked together with BONC and the Department by lobbying the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners to create policy on the following items:

- 1) Financial oversight - NC Treasurers must present an up-to-date financial statement (including P-card expenditures) at each NC Board meeting for approval by the Board before reporting it to DONE. This removes the ability of a single individual to create and submit financial reports and makes the entire Board fiscally responsible. **APPROVED**
- 2) Bylaws - the creation of a city-wide Table of Contents to be used for all Neighborhood Council bylaws. This will make it easier for DONE and City Attorney review. **APPROVED**
- 3) Ethics - creating consequences if NC Board members fail to complete the mandated Ethics Training. If a Board member fails to complete the training within 60 days of being elected - they lose their right to vote until they get in compliance. **APPROVED**
- 4) Election Fundraising - if candidates for NC Board positions are allowed to fundraise for their campaigns, there must be guidelines for disclosure.
- 5) Grievances - the creation of a city-wide Grievance Procedure that all NCs will adhere to. It will create regional panels to hear grievances against NCs, rather than NCs being able to hear them in-house (which usually creates a conflict-of-interest situation).
- 6) Factual Basis Language - strategies to guide NCs on how to prevent Special Interests from using the current factual basis language to "take over" NCs by soliciting voters who don't have a real stake in the neighborhood. It's becoming known as the "buy-a-cup-of-coffee" rule.

In addition to the above, it is estimated that there is a volunteer pool supplementing, in many cases, city council office staff, working for the city for free, for a better quality of life.

Below is the estimate of number of volunteers and the hours estimated overall, along with a "Living Wage" calculation to show how many hours and how much labor is expended on behalf of the city, all at no cost to the city:

Of Board Members: 1800
 # Of Volunteers: 1200
 Estimated Hours per: 10 month
 Total Estimated Hours: 360,000
 Living Wage per hour \$ 11.55
 Total donated dollars \$ 4,158,000.00

Total Donated Dollars by median wage of a city worker (\$24.00/hour):
 \$8,640,000.00**

** *Does not include benefits and pension*



Proposed Motion

Whereas the City of Los Angeles is in financial crisis

Whereas the Neighborhood Council System as a whole constitutes a small percentage of the City Budget

Whereas the Neighborhood Council System encompasses more than 1600 volunteers for the City

Whereas the Neighborhood Council System represents more than 4,000,000 constituents as prescribed by the City Charter,

1. Therefore, SORO NC supports the following Budget Advocates proposal for the Neighborhood Councils budget for fiscal year 2011-2012:

<i>Item</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>
Elections	\$1,900,000.00	\$800,000.00
NC Funds	\$4,095,000.00	\$4,185,000.00
Congress	000.00	\$20,000.00
Total	\$5,995,000.00	\$5,005,000.00

Net Savings: \$990,000.00 or \$ 10,645.16 per NC: a 23.6% savings

Roll Over Funds:

Recommended Policy: Roll over funds that are **allocated** but unspent (No Demand Warrant yet issued) should remain with the neighborhood council. Any funds not allocated or spent should be used to hire additional support staff at DONE for the purpose of hiring a grant writer to supplement the NC funding system.

2. Furthermore, SORO NC will send a letter to Council members Wesson and Koretz endorsing the Budget Advocates' plan.

Considerations

Pro

Recommendation saves the City almost a million dollars without reducing the yearly NC allocation

Funds the Charter-mandated NC Congress, which was not held in 2010

Con

Places the financial and organizational burden for executing elections on the NCs

Sweeping unallocated rollover funds into a grant-writing fund has no guaranteed benefit to individual NCs, and sweeping rollovers in general deprives NCs of the ability to fund large, ambitious projects.