



# Motion to support a memorandum of understanding between the NC system and the Dept. of Public Works

**Agenda Item:** GB051817-1  
**Date:** 18 May 2018  
**Proposed By:** Doug Fitzsimmons / WRAC

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## Background

The NC system benefits greatly from the memorandums of understanding (MOU) we have with various City departments. They establish a direct line of communication with the department, structured meetings, and a consistent role in providing feedback on policy formation. They require commitment on both sides.

While the details would have to be negotiated, the motion seeks a generally similar relationship with the Dept. of Public Works as NCs have with the LA Dept. of Water and Power (LADWP) and others.

## Proposed Motion

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports the creation of a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Neighborhood/Community Councils and the Los Angeles Department of Public Works.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Ken Blaker**  
Vice-President

**Jon Liberman**  
Treasurer

**Beth Hirsch**  
Secretary

**Martin Epstein**  
Corresponding Secretary

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## Considerations

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

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

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### Arguments for:

Provides greater insight into the actions of Public Works.

### Arguments against:

Requires NC participation and designation of formal liaisons.

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# Motion to request extended NC notice for City measures

**Agenda Item:** GB051817-2  
**Date:** 18 May 2018  
**Proposed By:** Doug Fitzsimmons / WRAC

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## Background

Neighborhood Councils have long sought a truly transparent/public way to keep track of policy issues/measures without unduly impeding their orderly progress.

Proposals have often been floated to extend notice beyond the 72 hours required by the Brown Act. The (valid) counter-argument to extended advance notice is that government sometimes has to act quickly, and a blanket 10 or 14 or 30 day rule for public notice would stretch even basic business out beyond what is practical. Similarly, limiting extended notice to "important" measures has gotten bogged down in trying to find a comprehensive definition of what an "important" measure might be.

What if the NCs, by submitting Community Impact Statements (CISs), effectively "tag" a measure for extended notice? Once a minimum number of CISs are lodged, that measure would be subject to additional notice requirements.

Not perfect and certainly not bulletproof, but it's objective, easy to understand, is based on measurable expressions of public concern, wouldn't slow everything down, and as a benefit might spur NCs to talk to other NCs ("we need you to pass a CIS!").

A corollary idea addresses situations where a body makes significant changes to a measure in a meeting. For example, on the Sign Ordinance, the PLUM Committee made such drastic changes that it was sent back to CPC. In those cases, NCs should have a chance to review their positions and submit new statements.

## Proposed Motion

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Councils requests the following changes to City Council, Commission, and Committee rules and procedures:

- I. Once a City measure under consideration has accumulated five Community Impact Statements (CISs), Neighborhood Councils must be given a minimum of 14 days notice before a public hearing or other legislative action on that item may occur.
- II. Neighborhood Councils who have filed CISs must be notified within 72 hours if substantive changes to a measure occur in a Council committee or Commission hearing.
- III. In the event Council files are renumbered or combined, extant CISs must be transferred to the new file.

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## Considerations

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

Votes For: 0

Against:

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

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**Arguments for:**

Using CISs to flag important City measures takes advantage of a mechanism already in place and working. It also increases the value and impact of the CIS system.

Requiring five NCs to pass and file a CIS is a reasonable measure of public interest and engagement.

**Arguments against:**

The City moves too slowly already. Adding additional notice requirements means it might not be able to act quickly when it needs to. And some NCs could abuse the system.

NCs can be slow to pass CISs.



# Motion to support moving the consideration of public financing of all City of Los Angeles elections out of Rules committee to the full City Council

**Agenda Item:** GB051817-3  
**Date:** May 18, 2017  
**Proposed By:** Barry E. Levine

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## Background

### Council File 17-0058

[http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2017/17-0058\\_mot\\_01-17-2017.pdf](http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2017/17-0058_mot_01-17-2017.pdf)

Councilmember Mike Bonin has proposed the funding of all city elections be publicly financed. This will eliminate the influence of money on our city elections.

CM Bonin's motion directs the City Ethics Commission, City Administrative Officer, and Chief Legislative Analyst to develop a Clean Money Public Campaign Financing System measure for all elected offices in the City, including a projected cost estimate and potential funding streams outside of the General Fund. (His motion suggests considering additional fees on development and a severance tax on oil and gas production in Los Angeles.)

Bonin's motion merely asks for a report on proposed language. Once the report is prepared, the City Council would have to vote again to put it on the ballot. Ultimately, the final measure would have to be approved by voters.

His motion is currently in the Rules committee and we are suggesting to our Councilmember, President of the City Council, and Chair of the Rules committee, Herb Wesson, that he pass it out of the Rules committee and support its consideration by the full City Council.

## Proposed Motion

- I. The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council urges Council President Herb Wesson to move Councilmember Bonin's request for a report on potential public financing of City elections (Council File 17-0058) to the full City Council for consideration.
- II. SORO NC further requests Council President Wesson and Councilmember Koretz support the passage of this important first step towards public City election financing.

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## Considerations

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

Votes For: 0

Against:

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

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**Arguments for:**

Eliminate the influence of money on our city political system.

It will free up our elected officials time to do the job for which they are elected instead of dialing for dollars many hours every day.

**Arguments against:**

It will cost the taxpayers money up front

Lobbyist should be able to express themselves through their contributions

**MOTION**

*“Clean Money Elections for Los Angeles”*

The influence of money in our political system casts a long, heavy shadow over our democracy. Candidates are forced to spend inordinate amounts of time seeking out donors instead of voters, creating a widespread perception of influence peddling and corruption, undermining the electorate’s faith in candidates and elected officials, and discouraging voter participation.

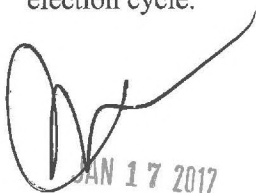
Los Angeles has a long and strong tradition of campaign finance reform. It has a robust public matching funds system, tight contribution limits, strong disclosure and transparency requirements, and a prohibition of donations from lobbyists and fundraising by city commissioners. Yet even Los Angeles’ strong system can be made stronger, increasing voter faith in the process.

In 2005, Councilmember Bill Rosendahl co-authored a motion (CF 05-1536) with then-Councilmembers Eric Garcetti and Wendy Greuel calling for a full public financing system for all elected offices in Los Angeles. That legislation was studied and debated, but no reforms were implemented and the Council File expired in 2011. Subsequent attempts were made to revive such a proposal with no success, often because of the potentially high cost of such a program and the anticipated impacts on the City’s General Fund and its competing priorities: public safety and essential city services.

The concept of “Clean Money,” as it has been called in jurisdictions such as Maine and Arizona, where such programs are in effect, is simple: a level playing field for all candidates is created through a voluntary public financing system. Candidates demonstrate viability by collecting a certain number of low-dollar donations from a large number of constituents, agree to forgo corporate donations, special interest money, further donations from other individuals, or significant self-financing, and in exchange receive a statutorily established amount of money sufficient to run an aggressive and well-financed campaign. Maine and Arizona both have successful versions of public financing that have: led to lowered overall campaign spending; freed candidates from fundraising; increased voter turnout; and encouraged more qualified people to run, including people of color and women.

Tremendous work has been done in recent years to educate the public about this issue, and to move toward a system of publicly-financed elections, including statewide efforts by organizations like “Money Out, Voters In” and the California Clean Money Campaign. The issue of money in elections at all levels of government was also a major theme in the presidential campaign of Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, which ignited a movement of people throughout the country who want elections to be more fair and transparent.

With the demand to get money out of politics so strong, with the appetite for reform so prevalent, and with city elections scheduled to move to a new even-year cycle in 2020, the time has come to establish a “Clean Money” system of full public financing of Los Angeles municipal elections. Such a proposal should be submitted to the voters, with a dedicated revenue stream to fully pay for it, in the 2018 election cycle.



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**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council request that the City Ethics Commission consider and submit to City Council for potential voter approval in the 2018 election cycle a Clean Money Public Campaign Financing System for all elected offices in the City of Los Angeles.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst work with the City Ethics Commission and staff to develop a cost estimate for a Clean Money Public Campaign Financing System for all elected offices in the City of Los Angeles.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council direct the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Administrative Officer to report to the Council with potential dedicated funding streams for a Clean Money Public Campaign Financing System that does not impact the General Fund. Specific funding sources to consider should include fees on development, and a severance tax for all oil and gas produced within the City of Los Angeles.

**PRESENTED BY:**



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**MIKE BONIN**

*Councilmember, 11<sup>th</sup> District*

**SECONDED BY:**



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**ORIGINAL**



# Autonomous Driving Study CIS

**Agenda Item:** GB051817-4

**Date:** 18 May 2017

**Proposed By:** Adam Richeimer (Transportation Committee)

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## Background

Autonomous vehicles, also known as self-driving cars, are a technology being worked on currently by many companies. The technology could be ready for general use in a few years.

The technology may cause many changes. It could cause a decrease in car accidents as most are due to driver error. It could also allow cars to drive more efficiently in ways humans could not.

The cost of transportation might decline as would the cost of goods (by reducing delivery costs). There may also be larger changes to society as individuals with cars are replaced by a system of low cost self-driving taxis. Ultimately this would mean less traffic and the many benefits that come with that: faster emergency response times, less pollution, the ability for workers to commute to jobs that are further away, the ability for businesses to pull from a larger pool of workers, less city space wasted on parking lots, less noise, and in general better quality of life.

There is a motion before the city council (Council File 16-1066) which would have the Department of Transportation study how best the city could prepare for this future.

## Proposed Motion

SORO NC should file the attached Community Impact Statement and letter in favor of the motion to do a study. However, we are also request that the motion be amended to specifically direct several requirements for the study:

- I. The study should identify things that the city could do to prepare for autonomous vehicles that could also have an immediate benefit even before autonomous vehicles are ready for use.
- II. The city should coordinate its proposed actions with other cities. This would avoid many cities taking different contradictory actions.
- III. The city should try to identify negative consequences of autonomous vehicles and create mitigation strategies for them.

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## Considerations

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**Committee review:** Votes For: 5 Against: 0  
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**Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget:** N/A

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**Arguments for:**

Autonomous vehicles can have huge benefits to our community, we should do whatever we can to make them come sooner.

Autonomous vehicles are coming whether we like them or not, we should study how best to prepare.

The technology might not be ready for a while, or ever. If we prioritize actions that have immediate benefits those actions won't be wasted if the technology never arrives.

We have seen problems arise in the past when the city did not work with its neighbors (e.g. bike sharing). If we work together we could avoid future problems.

It's best to prepare for problems before they arise. Autonomous cars will bring problems, we should try to anticipate the problems and fix them as soon as possible.

**Arguments against:**

Autonomous vehicles will cost jobs and cause safety issues and are ultimately bad for society.

Prioritization is premature at this point, we need to figure out what needs to be done. After that we can figure out what order things should be done in.

Working with other cities may delay any study. It may be time consuming and difficult to get many cities to agree on policy. Coordinating at this stage may be difficult or impossible.

It is difficult to anticipate problems before that arise.



**Council File: 16-1066**

## **Community Impact Statement**

**As adopted by vote of the full SORO NC governing board**

<b>Yes:</b>	<b>No:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>Ineligible:</b>	<b>Recuse:</b>
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**Adopted:**

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**Position:** For if amended

We support the motion to study how to prepare for autonomous vehicles. Autonomous vehicles are a promising new technology that can benefit our community. We'd like to see the motion amended to specifically request that the study identify things that the city can do to prepare for this technology that we could benefit from immediately. Secondly, we'd like the motion to specifically ask the department to work with other city governments to best coordinate our efforts. Lastly, we'd like the motion to ask the department to consider potential negative consequences of the technologies and how best to mitigate them.

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**Submitted by:**

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## Community Impact Statement for Council File 16-1066

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council applauds Councilmember Mike Bonin and Councilmember David Ryu's motion to begin a study on what steps to take to prepare for a future with autonomous vehicles and call for the swift passage of the motion. We believe that a future with autonomous vehicles is one with fewer cars and less traffic. It therefore could have tremendous economic, health, and quality of life benefits for our community.

Autonomous vehicles would greatly benefit from having instant electronic access to city information including: detailed maps of every street, traffic and parking rules and when and where they apply, traffic light timing, and temporary changes to all of the above because of construction, emergencies, etc. At the same time the city would benefit from having data collected from autonomous vehicles like average road speeds and traffic patterns. The creation of a data exchange system is likely to be a prerequisite to any autonomous vehicle program.

The data exchange program and other steps required for autonomous vehicles are both things that we could benefit from today. More accurate navigation apps could use this data to help people better navigate our city.

We are not the only city that looks forward to a future with autonomous vehicles. Other cities large and small will need to take the same steps to enable this technology to function. If we develop a set of universal best practices and standards it could greatly speed up the adoption of this technology. Conversely, if cities do not coordinate their efforts with other cities, multiple competing standards could emerge greatly delaying the technology.

While we expect autonomous vehicles to ultimately be a positive development, we are concerned about potential negative consequences. For example, there may be safety issues and an impact on the jobs of people who drive professionally. The city should try to anticipate negative consequences and mitigate them.

We would like to see the motion amended to instruct the Department of Transportation to focus on prioritizing steps which both enable autonomous vehicles in the future while still giving us benefits today. We would also like to see the motion direct the Department of Transportation to see how the city could coordinate its efforts with other cities in the region and throughout the state. Finally, the motion should instruct the Department to research any negative consequences of autonomous driving and how the city can best avoid those problems.



# Motion to fund up to \$400 for SORO Festival printing

**Agenda Item:** GB051817-7  
**Date:** 18 May 2018  
**Proposed By:** Doug Fitzsimmons

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## Background

We have a number of printing needs for the SORO Festival. We're almost out of black and yellow toner (\$85/color) for our printer, and we usually professionally print certificates for the Green Citizenship award and other honorees at Kinkos. If there's money left, we should also update our "What we are working on" mounted sign.

## Proposed Motion

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council approves up to \$400 for printing (toner and third-party print services) for the 2017 SORO Festival.

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## Considerations

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

Votes For: 0

Against:

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

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### Arguments for:

It's our major outreach event.

### Arguments against:

We could use the money for other things.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
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# Motion to fund \$1000 for promotional items

**Agenda Item:** GB051817-8  
**Date:** 18 May 2018  
**Proposed By:** Doug Fitzsimmons

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## Background

We often give away branded items at events, often as a draw to talk to Boardmembers, collect contact information, or fill out a survey. They also help get our name out in the community. Generally speaking, we try to keep costs in the range of \$1-\$1.50 per item.

## Proposed Motion

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council approves \$1000 for promotional items.

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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:** \$  
*(applies to funding motions only)*

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### Arguments for:

Benefits our outreach events.

### Arguments against:

We could use the money for other things.

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# Motion to Support Neighborhood Councils

**Agenda Item:** GB051817-9

**Date:** May 18 2017

**Proposed By:** Jon Liberman

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## Background

Last month the Board approved Board Motion GB 042017-16 to amend the current budget for FY 2016-2017 and to adopt a proposed budget for FY 2017-2018. A portion of the amendment for FY 2016-2017 was financial support of Neighborhood Councils by supporting the following items:

1. Congress of Neighborhood Councils
2. Awards Dinner
3. Budget Advocates

The Executive Committee met and recommends that we fund a total of \$2000 to be allocated \$750 Congress of Neighborhood Councils, \$500 Awards Dinner and \$750 to Budget Advocates.

## Proposed Motion

- I. The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council concurs with the recommendation of the Executive Committee and authorizes payment of \$2000 to support the Neighborhood Council movement. This amount will be allocated as follows: \$750 Congress of Neighborhood Councils, \$500 Awards Dinner and \$750 to Budget Advocates.

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## Considerations

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

Votes For: -4-

Against: -0-

**Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget:** \$2000  
*(applies to funding motions only)*

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### Arguments for:

1. The proposed funding reflects our values as to the requirement that the 96 NC's support one another.

### Arguments against:

1, These funds could be spent on items in Soro.

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