



Motion for recommitment to the DONE Code of Conduct and the SORO Code of Civility

Agenda Item: (Executive / GB091720-05)

Date: September 17, 2020

Proposed By: Executive Committee

Include motion in Consent Agenda? Yes

Background

All board members are required to take and pass certain training courses required by DONE, and to sign and abide by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's (DONE) Code of Conduct and the SORO NC Code of Civility.

A SORO NC standing rule passed on May 21, 2015 established a requirement for all voting members of NC committees to sign and abide by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's (DONE) Code of Conduct and the SORO NC Code of Civility. The same standing rule requires that all committee Chairs, Co-chairs, and Vice Chairs must take all training required of the Board as mandated by DONE.

This motion simply serves as a reminder of existing responsibilities related to ethics, civility and conduct. This motion is brought as a reminder to everyone actively involved with the board and its committees, in hope of improving the workings and effectiveness of the board in addressing the interests of the SORO community.

Proposed Motion

In keeping with existing DONE and Standing Rule requirements, the Executive Committee will, through an assigned board member and before the next regularly scheduled General Board meeting, send to all board members, and to all voting members of committees who are not also board members, copies of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's (DONE) Code of Conduct and the SORO NC Code of Civility, and shall require that all recipients sign and return the documents prior to their next participation in a SORO meeting.

Also, in keeping with the same Standing Rule the executive committee, through an assigned board member, will ask DONE to provide training credentials to any committee Chairs, Co-chairs, and Vice Chairs who are not also board members, and said recipients shall be required to take and pass the training prior to participating in the next earliest meeting they are scheduled to attend.

Martin Epstein
President

Ken Blaker
Vice-President

Jon Liberman
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Charlie Stein
Secretary

Vacant
Corresponding Secretary

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Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For:

Against:

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$0
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

Arguments against:

Since this motion is predicated on existing rules and requirements, it will serve to improve compliance with those rules and requirements.

Improved compliance among all active members of the SORO community will serve to improve the atmosphere in which the board conducts business.



Motion to add a Standing Rule on submission of motions for Board consideration

Agenda Item: (Executive / GB091720-06)
Date: September 17, 2020
Proposed By: Jon Liberman on behalf of the Executive Committee
Include motion in Consent Agenda? YES

Background

At our last General Board meeting some motions were submitted where the action called for required the submission of a letter or a CIS. These were not included with the motion. Under those circumstances Board Members had to vote on measures without knowing what the result of their vote would look like.

Proposed Motion

- I. The Soro NC Standing Rules have a new standing rule added which states that "All motions brought before the Board that require additional written correspondence as a result of a Board vote shall have a draft of said correspondence included with the proposed motion at the time that the motion is first considered by the Board."

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For:

Against:

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

\$ N/A

Arguments for:

Arguments against:

Board Members and the public will know what the proposed result of a motion is.

Members may prefer letting someone else figure out what to say/

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Motion to File Community Impact Statement Supporting Slow Streets

Agenda Item: (Transportation / GB091720-07)

Date: September 17, 2020

Proposed By: Transportation Committee

Include motion in Consent Agenda? (No)

Background

Cut through traffic is a constant issue within SORO, making our streets less safe and peaceful. Safe streets are all the more important during this pandemic, as many more people are walking, running, and biking our streets, and our sidewalks are not wide enough to allow people to do so while maintaining recommended social distance guidelines.

The City of Los Angeles recently implemented Slow Streets in streets near SORO, such as Palms.¹ By putting up temporary barriers at intersections asking cars to slow down and not cut through, this Slow Streets program has successfully led to many of our streets being calmer and having less cars, making them safer to walk, run, bike and scoot.²

The LA City Council has the opportunity to vote on a motion (Council File 20-0838) to make the Slow Streets program permanent. Accordingly, at least 6 other neighborhood councils have submitted to the abovementioned Council File a similar community impact statement to the one attached here.

Proposed Motion

SORO NC shall file by October 6, 2020, the attached community impact statement in Council File 20-0838.

Considerations

Arguments for:

Fatalities and injuries would be reduced by making streets safer for people to take advantage of them.

Arguments against:

Drivers may be inconvenienced for a few seconds by having to drive more safely.

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¹ See map at <https://streetsforall.org/covid19>

² <http://palmsnc.la/slowstreets/>



Council File: 20-0838

Community Impact Statement

As adopted by vote of the SORO NC governing board:

Yes: No: Abstain: Ineligible: Recuse:

Adopted:

Position: For

On May 15, 2020, Mayor Eric Garcetti announced the Slow Streets Program in Los Angeles. This program - putting up temporary barriers at intersections asking cars to slow down and not cut through - has successfully led to many of our streets being calmer and having less cars, making them safer to walk, run, bike and scoot.

Within the boundaries of South Robertson Neighborhood Council, cut through traffic is a constant issue, making our streets less safe and peaceful. Furthermore, during the COVID-19 stay at home order, many more people are walking, running, and biking our streets, and our sidewalks are not wide enough to allow people to do so while maintaining recommended social distance guidelines. To be clear, we support making the Slow Streets Program permanent, not any particular street.

Therefore, South Robertson Neighborhood Council expresses its support for Council File 20-0838, and asks the City to make slow streets permanent. We believe that using permanent materials will have a positive impact on the safety of our streets, the peacefulness of our community, and quality of life in Los Angeles.

Submitted by:

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Motion to establish standing rule regarding appointment of replacement members with ballots of more than 10 people

Agenda Item: Executive / GB091720-09
Date: September 17, 2020
Proposed By: Executive Committee
Include motion in Consent Agenda? No

Background

The Bylaws state that if there are more than two candidates running for an office, if no one obtains a majority of the vote, the top two vote getters advance to a run-off. While this system may work with only a few candidates or in a city where there are millions of people voting, this system may lack justice and equity in our Neighborhood Council where there are maximum of 24 voters when replacing a councilmember.

In the upcoming election of an At-Large Representative, there are over 20 candidates. As such, it is likely that the vote will be spread among a number of parties such that including only 2 in a run-off may come as a result of only 4 potential members voting for those two candidates.

In the interest of fairness, the Executive Committee has proposed the following addition to the standing rules in circumstances where more than 10 candidates are running for an appointment as a councilmember following the resignation, withdrawal, or removal of a prior councilmember.

Proposed Motion

To add the following to the SORO NC standing rules:

1. When more than 10 candidates are applying, the first round of voting will consist of all voting members casting a vote of one candidate and any candidate receiving at least 2 votes will advance to the second round.
2. If more than 10 candidates remain, a second round vote will allow the top 3 vote getters to the 3rd round of voting. Thereafter, the procedures will continue as stated in the Bylaws whereby the top 2 vote getters advance to the final round.
3. If less than 10 candidates remain after the initial vote, only the top two vote getters will advance to the final round whereby the vote will continue as stated in the Bylaws.
4. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if one candidate obtains a majority of votes in any round, that candidate shall immediately be deemed the winner.

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Considerations

Committee review: Votes For: 4 Against:
(highly recommended)

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$0
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

The Bylaws do not consider a situation where over 20 people are running for an office.

This proposal will result in an outcome that is more equitable since the number of candidates can be cut down to a more manageable number in each subsequent round.

Arguments against:

The Bylaws already have a process set for conducting these types of elections.

This system will cause an inequity to the top two vote getters in the initial election.

According to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, a Neighborhood Council may set its rules when establishing appointment of replacement members.



Motion to remove Martin Epstein from the role of President

Agenda Item: Executive / GB091720-13

Date: September 17, 2020

Proposed By: Executive Committee

Include motion in Consent Agenda? No

Background

During the current time of heightened individual stresses, fueled by the Covid-19 pandemic, by adverse societal events and by other factors, the duties of the top SORO NC Board executive are also heightened. One President has resigned during this time. The current President has worked to manage the many job duties, but has unfortunately failed to keep up with the immense workload and to control the lively meeting environment of the Zoom platform.

With due respect and affection for the President, and for his skills and enthusiasm, it is time to remove him from his current executive position.

Proposed Motion

The SORO Board hereby removes Martin Epstein from the board presidency. Upon approval of this motion the board shall immediately move, in the current meeting, to appoint a new President.

Martin Epstein
President

Ken Blaker
Vice-President

Jon Liberman
Treasurer

Charlie Stein
Secretary

Vacant
Corresponding Secretary

Considerations

Committee review: <i>(highly recommended)</i>	Votes For:	3	Against:
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Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: <i>(applies to funding motions only)</i>	\$0
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Arguments for:

After several months, the President has not acclimated to the role.

The President has failed to adhere to the standards set by previous presidents in generating and posting meeting agendas and other posted materials.

The President has failed to achieve the standards set by previous presidents in managing meetings, to the detriment of stakeholder sentiments regarding SORO.

Arguments against:

Perhaps the President will grow into the role if given enough time.

The President's difficulties managing agendas and meeting have been someone else's fault.

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The President has failed to achieve the standards set by previous presidents in managing meetings, leading to some board members feeling ill-treated.

In the days after this motion was originally drafted, the President failed to act in a timely manner to respond to expressions of outrage against SORO due to the boulders issue. His failure to take immediate action led to a severe blemish on the SORO board, and perhaps even the whole NC system, as evidenced by damning media coverage. His failure is further compounded by the fact that internal help and support were offered to the President in a timely manner by other members of the executive committee, and those offers were never responded to.



Motion to support California Senate Bill SB-1120

Agenda Item: GB 082020 - 6
Date: August 20, 2020
Proposed By: Land Use Committee
Include motion in Consent Agenda? No

Background

At the beginning of 2020, Los Angeles residents were discussing the biggest crisis the city had faced in more than a decade: the homelessness crisis. Of course, the Covid-19 pandemic has dominated our conversations since March. But we are keenly aware that the current pandemic will only contribute to the number of homeless individuals in this city, the extent of which is not yet known. Senate Bill 1120 is part of a series of legislative proposals, the Senate Housing Production Package, intended to increase the construction of additional residences. SB-1120 aims to increase housing by allowing the construction of additional residential units in traditionally single-family neighborhoods. As written, SB-1120 would accomplish this through 2 changes to the rules governing single-family properties.

- Existing single-family homes can be converted into duplexes
- Existing single-family lots can be subdivided into 2 separate, fee-simple lots. A new, 2-unit building can be constructed on the newly formed lot.

SB-1120 allows for local agencies to require up to one parking spot per unit, unless the lot is located within a half mile of a "high-quality transit corridor, a major transit stop, or within one block of a car share service.

Although the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) bills passed in 2017-2019 did result in the creation of additional units throughout Los Angeles, the majority of the ADUs built were in more affluent areas of LA. (Existing ADU regulations do not allow an ADU to be sold separate from the sale of the main house.)

Of all of the land zoned for residential use in the city of Los Angeles, more than 75 percent is zoned single-family. SB-1120 will not only encourage the construction of additional residential units during a time of extreme shortage, but it will also provide more opportunities for home ownership in single-family neighborhoods across LA with varying levels of economic opportunity.

Proposed Motion

Submit a letter in support of SB-1120 to Senators Holly J. Mitchell and Benjamin Allen and Assembly Members Sydney Kamlager and Richard Bloom.

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Considerations

Committee review:

Votes For: 6

Against: 2

Arguments for:

Encourages the construction of duplexes, three-plexes, and four-plexes.

Would allow for the creation of 1.2 million new housing units in California.ⁱⁱ

Creates new opportunity for affordable home ownership.

Arguments against:

Single-family neighborhoods should remain 2 families per lot (ADUs are already allowed).

Local agencies should have more control.

ⁱ SB-1120:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB1120

ⁱⁱ http://turnercenter.berkeley.edu/uploads/Single-Family_Zoning_Reform_An_Analysis_of_SB_1120.pdf

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Los Angeles, CA 90037

Senator Benjamin Allen
District Office
2512 Artesia Blvd, Suite 320
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Assembly Member Sydney Kamlager
District Office
5601 W Slauson Ave, Suite 200
Culver City, CA 90230

Assembly Member Richard Bloom
District Office
2800 28th Street, Suite 105
Santa Monica, CA 90405

21 August 2020

Re: Senate Bill 1120

Dear Senator Holly J. Mitchell, Senator Benjamin Allen, Assembly Member Sydney Kamlager, and Assembly Member Richard Bloom:

I am writing on behalf of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council ("SORO NC") to express support for Senate Bill 1120.

At a duly-noticed meeting of the General Board on August 20, 2020, SORO NC voted 00 yes / 00 no / 00 abstain to recommend that the proposed bill be approved. Of all of the land zoned for residential use in the city of Los Angeles, more than 75 percent is zoned single-family. SB-1120 will not only encourage the construction of additional residential units during a time of extreme shortage, but it will also provide more opportunities for home ownership in single-family neighborhoods across LA with varying levels of economic opportunity.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this comment letter.

Sincerely,

Martin Epstein
President, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

Cc: Mayor Eric Garcetti
Council Member Paul Koretz
Council President Emeritus Herb Wesson
Krystal Navar, SORO NC Land Use Committee Chair



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City of Los Angeles Certified
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Motion to Request that the City Council Create a New Council File to Develop and Support Alternatives to Armed Crisis Response and Revamping 911 Services

Agenda Item: SB082020-2
Date: August 20, 2020
Proposed By: Public Safety Committee
Include motion in Consent Agenda? NO

Background

A recent DONE survey (Survey) explored methods to develop and support alternatives to armed crisis response. Additionally, the California Assembly passed AB-2054 "Emergency services: Community Response: Grant Program" (Assembly Bill).

The creation of a City Council file would discuss those alternatives, including revamping the City of Los Angeles 911 system. The 911 system should have a call option so that there are three options: Option 1 police, Option 2 fire/ems, and Option 3 Community Assistance Liaison Team. Option 3 would be created to meet the demands for an alternative to arm crisis response for homelessness, domestic violence, neighbor disputes, and other quality of life issues.

Proposed Motion

- I. For the SORO NC strongly urge Councilmembers Koretz and Wesson to have the City Council create a new Council File to develop and support alternatives to Armed Crisis Response, as recommended in a recent DONE survey and AB-2054, including revamping the City of Los Angeles 911 System.

Considerations

Committee review: Votes For: 5 Against: 0
(highly recommended)

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

Arguments for: Arguments against:

1. Decrease response times for EMS
1. Increased costs to the taxpayer



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City of Los Angeles Certified
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Motion to Fund Up to \$300 to Purchase Brochure Box with Stake and Pay for Photocopying Expenses for Tenant Notification Project

Agenda Item: (Outreach / GB091720-15)

Date: Thursday, September 17

Proposed By: Outreach Committee

**Include motion in No
Consent Agenda?**

Background

At the general board meeting on July 16, 2020, the board voted 15-Y, 2-N to support the tenant-notification project. This project aims to send notifications by mail to tenants of buildings that are subject to demolition or redevelopment and that come before the Land Use Committee and General Board. Because many tenants are unaware of such projects—or are made aware too late—many are not able to share their perspectives about projects that directly impact them with the committee and the board. This notification projects hopes to fill that important gap in communication.

Coordination with the Land Use Committee has been challenging because, on the most part, presenters confirm with the committee roughly a week in advance of the meeting. Additionally, service delays with the U.S. Postal Service are an issue because tenants must be notified in a timely manner, especially if letters are sent within a week's notice. As a result, the Outreach Committee, at its August 31 meeting, proposed a different solution to notify residents: Post flyers in front of subject property that will presented before the Land Use Committee as soon as the meeting agenda is posted 72 hours in advance.

This shift in communication method will require the purchase of a brochure box with a stake to hold the flyers and funding to print the flyers at a copy center. The flyer will loosely summarize the notice letter that the Outreach Committee approved at its meeting on July 27 (draft copy is attached to this motion).

Proposed Motion

- I. That SORO NC fund up to \$300 for the costs to purchase a staked brochure box and photocopying costs for the tenant-notification project.

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 3

Against: 0



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

Arguments for:

In lieu of mailing out flyers, affected tenants will be able pick up a flyer immediately outside their residence.

U.S. mail will most like result in delays, so distributing flyers may be more effective in quickly communicating important information to tenants.

In recent meetings, tenants and stakeholders have notified us of their knowledge of presentations *after* they occurred. Providing flyers may reduce the gap in communication.

Flyers offer a redundancy to what developers are asked to send by the NC to notify tenants and others within a 500' radius.

Arguments against:

Every month, one person will be assigned to make copies and place stakes. This requires some coordination and volunteer time, which might not be available.

The brochure box might be destroyed if left out in the public for three days/72 hours.

Mailing is easier.

[DATE]

South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Outreach Committee
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Dear Resident,

This letter is to inform you that a developer has proposed a new project that may replace your building, located at [ADDRESS]. The project **may affect your unit, dwelling, tenancy, or all of the above.**

Because you live in a building that will directly be impacted by the proposed project, **we encourage you to share your opinion about the plans with elected officials who represent your neighborhood.**

Project representatives are presenting their plans before the community at a South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORONC) Land Use Committee on

[DATE]

[TIME]

[LOCATION].

As part of the permit-approval process, developers are encouraged by the City of Los Angeles to engage with the neighborhood council about their plans. Based on the merits of the project and community feedback, the board may decide to **support or oppose** the project.

We hope you can attend the meeting so your opinion can be heard.

To get updates about this project and other development in the neighborhood, be sure to follow SORONC on:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/soronc>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/SORONC>

And sign up for SORONC's newsletter: <http://www.soronc.org/contact>

Sincerely,

Outreach Committee members
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

