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City of Los Angeles Certified  
Neighborhood Council

# Motion to add a standing rule clarifying duties of SORO NC liaisons

**Agenda Item:** To Be Filled in by Exec Committee

**Date:** Date motion will be considered

**Proposed By:** Your name

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## Full Proposal

The SORO Board appoints a number of representatives to act as liaisons to other bodies: one to the Westside Alliance of Councils, one to the Department of Water and Power Memorandum of Understanding committee, etc. The roles of these liaisons have been poorly defined.

Article V, Section 5, Item 3 of the SORO NC bylaws states:

No individual member of the Board shall speak for the Board or otherwise publicly represent a Board position unless authorized to do so by official action of the Board. The Board may, by official action, appoint official representatives to other public bodies with the authority to present a standing Council position previously adopted by the Board or a statement that the Council has had insufficient time to develop a position or recommendation on a matter before that body. Such authority may be revoked at any time by the Board.

We define duties of the Board's officers in the bylaws, but haven't done so with these public representatives of the Board.

Note that additions to the standing rules require a simple majority vote.

## Proposed Motion

To add the following standing rule:

Board-appointed Liaisons to other public bodies are expected to regularly and proactively report to the SORO NC Board on activities and issues pertaining to both organizations; help keep communication between the two organizations open and transparent; actively identify issues of mutual concern and develop proposals for Board action; and be a vigorous advocate for official Board positions and recommendations. The Liaison may not vote to endorse or otherwise publicly represent a position on an issue without prior Board authorization.

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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:**

**Arguments against:**

First argument in favor. Use these points

First argument against the motion. Try



# Motion to add ethics training requirement for Board votes

**Agenda Item:** To Be Filled in by Exec Committee

**Date:** Date motion will be considered

**Proposed By:** Your name

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## Full Proposal

While the Board is required by law to complete ethics training every two years, many Board members allow their certification to lapse or fail to complete it at all. This creates potential issues with financial and land use decisions made by the Board.

The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment strongly recommend limiting the voting ability of Board members who are not in compliance with the ethics training requirement.

## Proposed Motion

To add the following standing rule (could also be a Bylaws amendment):

Board members must complete State-mandated Ethics training within one month of election/selection/appointment and every two years after that. Board members who have not taken Ethics training or whose certification has lapsed are prohibited from voting on all financial and land use matters before the Board.

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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:

First argument in favor. Use these points to help frame the debate.

Second argument in favor. This bottom part is created with a table in Word. It's easier to use if you display Gridlines (under the Table menu in Word).

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### Arguments against:

First argument against the motion. Try to be fair.

Another argument against. Add more rows to the table if you have more arguments pro or con.

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# Motion to clarify term expiration for Board-appointed officers, chairs, and representatives

**Agenda Item:** To Be Filled in by Exec Committee

**Date:** Date motion will be considered

**Proposed By:** Your name

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## Full Proposal

Each newly-elected Board should be able to choose their own leadership. The SORO NC bylaws reflect that, specifying that the election of officers should happen as soon as the new Board is seated, and that those terms are for two years.

It does not address the issue of partial terms, however. In the case where an officer resigns early, it's not clear in the bylaws that the person who replaces him/her would be serving whatever remains of the original two-year term.

Nor do the bylaws address the length of terms for our committee chairs or representative positions (DWP rep, CPAB rep, etc.). The same principle of new Board/new leadership should apply.

The last issue is that the Bylaws specify a two-year term for officers. As we see this year, changes to the election schedule can mean that the actual length of the term could be longer or shorter than 24 months--which is why the motion sets an end condition, rather than a fixed term length.

## Proposed Motion

To add the following standing rules:

- I. Terms (including partial terms) for all executive officer, committee chair and other Board-appointed NC representative positions shall end prior to the first official General Board meeting following a public Board election or selection.

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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:

First argument in favor. Use these points to help frame the debate.

Second argument in favor. This bottom part is created with a table in Word. It's easier to use if you display Gridlines

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### Arguments against:

First argument against the motion. Try to be fair.

Another argument against. Add more rows to the table if you have more arguments pro or con.

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