



Motion to submit CIS in support of Council File 20-1225 re: Healthy Soils Strategy

Agenda Item: GB021821-03
Date: February 18, 2021
Proposed By: Land Use Committee
Include motion in Consent Agenda? Yes

Background

LA's Green New Deal commits to piloting healthy soil projects by 2021 that will support carbon sequestration and increase water capture. It also commits to developing a Healthy Soils Strategy for the City that can support urban agriculture and other sustainable practices. There is an opportunity to improve and protect biodiversity, reduce maintenance of landscaped medians, and support state efforts to convert organic waste into compost.

Proposed Motion

Submit a CIS in support of Council File 20-1225.

Considerations

Committee review: Votes For: 7 Against: 0

Arguments for:

Many people are unaware of issues of soil quality in Los Angeles, nor how individual composting behavior impacts soil quality.

Arguments against:

Many people might be reluctant to change individual behaviors re: composting.



February 18, 2021

Re: Council File: 20-1225

Title: Healthy Soils Strategy

Position: Support

Statement:

We, the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council, applaud the City council's initiative to explore ways to sequester carbon, increase water capture, and support biodiversity by rebuilding healthy soil through urban agriculture. We are thrilled to hear that, if passed, Council File 20-1225 would also explore adding green jobs to our economy, may result in the use of fewer harmful chemicals in landscaping by the city, and may unpave underutilized space to be used for composting or mulching operations.

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Motion to submit CIS in support of Council File 20-1360 re: Homelessness Funding

Agenda Item: GB021821-04
Date: February 18, 2021
Proposed By: Land Use Committee
Include motion in Consent Agenda? Yes

Background

The LA Alliance for Human Rights case against the City and County of Los Angeles requires the government to adequately address the homelessness crisis facing this region. The County made a payment in the amount of \$17.66 million to the city, but only \$8.36 million of these funds have been allocated. This motion aims to expedite the allocation of the remaining \$9.32 million in County funds in order to support widespread homelessness services, interim housing, and safe parking.

Proposed Motion

Submit a CIS in support of Council File 20-1360.

Considerations

Committee review: Votes For: 7 Against: 0

Arguments for:

Homelessness has skyrocketed during the pandemic and this money should be used as it is already earmarked for this specific use.

Arguments against:

This motion will likely pass even without support from the NC.



February 18, 2021

Re: Council File: 20-1360

Title: Homelessness Funding

Position: Support

Statement:

We, the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council, support the allocation of remaining County funds into Homelessness Efforts expeditiously in order to meet the housing requirements of the LA Alliance for Human Rights lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles, and to ensure unhoused individuals are placed into adequate and substantial housing. The size of our unhoused population will only increase as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to batter the economy, and limited resources are available to SORO stakeholders experiencing homelessness.

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Motion to Move \$2000 from the Public Safety Committee Budget to the Elections Committee Budget

Agenda Item: GB021821-07
Date: February 18, 2021
Proposed By: Public Safety Committee
Include motion in Consent Agenda? NO

Background

Over the past 8 years, the SORO NC has sponsored CPR/AED/First Aid Certification classes available to Stakeholders at reduced cost or free of charge. These classes were extremely popular and successful, resulting in a number of participants using their learned skills to render aid.

At the beginning of the current fiscal year, the SORO NC had allocated \$2000 of its budget to the Public Safety Committee to fund another such CPR/AED/First Aid class. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is highly unlikely that any live class (or any other Public Safety events) will be able to be held before the Summer.

The Public Safety Committee feels that these funds would be best used towards the Elections related outreach activities of the SORO NC, and recommends officially moving the allocation over to the Elections Committee.

Proposed Motion

- I. To reallocate \$2000 of the SORO NC Budget from the Public Safety Committee (for a CPR Class) to the Elections Committee.

Considerations

Committee review: Votes For: 4 Against: 3
(highly recommended)

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

Arguments for:	Arguments against:
Elections outreach can enhance Stakeholder awareness of Public Safety activities and events.	There might be other Public Safety uses that become available.

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Motion to approve up to \$7000 for the SORONC 2021 Elections

Agenda Item: GB021821-08
Date: February 18, 2021
Proposed By: Election Ad-hoc Committee
Include motion in Consent Agenda? No

Background

Due to the Global Pandemic, the 2021 SORO NC Board elections will be the largest outreach event for the Board in 2021. Also because of the events of 2020, the SORO NC needs to do a better job of targeting services and communications to our underserved areas. The committee asks the SORO NC Board to fund the following items for the 2021 election. The mailers will target our underrepresented areas.

SORONC Proposed Election Budget 2021			
Proposed Date	Item	Vendor	Cost
April 30-June	Mailers	C&M Printing	\$3,200.00
Mar-Jun 2021	Bus Bench Ads	Insite	\$600.00
Mar-Jun 2021	Bus Bench Ads	Martin	\$600.00
Mar-Jun 2021	Bus Shelter Ads	Outfront	\$300.00
Mar-Jun 2021	Social Media	Facebook	\$1,000.00
Feb-June 2021	Banners	Phantom Printing	\$1,200.00
		Total	\$6,900.00

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Proposed Motion

- I. The SORO NC to fund up to \$7,000 for the 2021 SORO NC Board elections. The outreach items will include bus bench ads, bus shelter ads, social media boosting, mailers to our underserved areas, and banners to be displayed at our local schools through a partnership with the LAUSD Superintendents Office.

Considerations

Committee review: Votes For: 3 Against: 0
(highly recommended)

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

Arguments for:

We need to encourage people to vote

We are using the limited resources to get the word out to the most people

Arguments against:

Money can be spent elsewhere

Social media is better marketing than mailers

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Motion to submit CIS in support of Council File 20-0382 re: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Joint Development Policy

Agenda Item: GB021821-09
Date: February 18, 2021
Proposed By: Land Use Committee
Include motion in Consent Agenda? No

Background

Joint Development is the real estate development program through which Metro collaborates with qualified developers to build transit-oriented developments on Metro-owned properties. Metro's Joint Development sites are a gateway to the Metro transit system and hold unique potential to advance community development goals while attracting new riders to the Metro system. Metro is considering changes to the Joint Development program around affordable housing allotments.

Proposed Motion

Submit a CIS in support of Council File 20-0382.

Considerations

Committee review:	Votes For: 5	Against: 1
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Arguments for:

we should take an active role in shaping this program as we are in a major public transit hub with many transit-oriented projects

Arguments against:

Affordable housing requirements may disincentivize developers.



February 18, 2021

Re: Council File: 20-0382

Title: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Joint
Development Policy Update

Position: Support

Statement:

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports LA Metro's efforts to update its Joint Development Policy, and its goals to strengthen Metro's response to the regional housing crisis. Los Angeles County is facing a severe affordable housing shortage, with a pre-pandemic shortage of over 500,000 income restricted units. LA Metro is in a unique position through the Joint Development Team to leverage its position to address this with little to low additional public costs.

We support the overall goals of the policy changes, and have identified feedback on specific policy tools identified in Board File 2020-0382:

Any new policy should maintain guidelines for units reserved for households earning up to 30% AMI and 50% AMI, with units reserved for households making up to 80% AMI created as a subsequent goal. While it is admirable to ensure the development of workforce or moderate housing units, this should not come at the expense of extremely-low or very-low income units.

A per-project minimum for affordable units should be enacted, as this would ensure that projects through Los Angeles County contribute their fair share to addressing the affordable housing crisis, and provide low-income households with access to high quality transit.

Joint Development should enact a portfolio-wide goal for permanent supportive housing units reserved for those experiencing homelessness. Los Angeles County faces an acute homelessness crisis, and Joint Development is in a unique position to help address this. Utilizing Metro-owned land could leverage other state and county resources such as AHSC, IIG, and TCAC, and could be accomplished with no additional costs to Metro.

Joint Development should establish a goal for the construction of new publicly-accessible green space, either through exact square footage or as a percent of overall developed land. Los Angeles County has some of the lowest rates of public green space per capita in the country, and utilizing publicly-owned land could help alleviate this shortcoming.

We oppose potential restrictions on unsolicited proposals, as this could greatly disadvantage the development of affordable housing or permanent supportive housing by nonprofit organizations. We request that changes or restrictions to the Unsolicited Proposals Policy include an exemption for any proposal(s) that consist of either 100% affordable housing or permanent supportive housing for those experiencing homelessness.

We also welcome the Joint Development Team to present its proposed updated policy to the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council, and hope to provide additional feedback as the policy is rolled out.

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Motion to write a letter to CMs Koretz and Blumenfield about the CDE's Ethnic Studies Curriculum

Agenda Item: GB021820-10

Date: February 18, 2021

Proposed By: Charlie Stein

Include motion in Consent Agenda? No

Background

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council is concerned about the direction of the Ethic Studies Curriculum by a committee of the California Department of Education. Although we support the merits of [AB 2016](#) (1) which mandates the state's Department of Education (CDE) to develop a model ethnic studies curriculum for use in high school ethnic studies courses, we object to the labeling of Jewish American's as "white" and "racially privileged". Such claims are untrue and antisemitic and does a disservice to the ethnically diverse population of Jewish Americans. This is of profound concern to the Jewish community whom many are represented by this Neighborhood Council. While both revisions of the draft include lessons on Jewish Americans, the portrayal of the Jewish people, as filtered through the lens of Critical Ethnic Studies, clearly misrepresents Jewish Americans as the oppressor on the side of the race-class divide. Jewish Americans are a multi-ethnic people including Ashkenizim (Eastern European), Sephardim (Mediterranean, Iberia and Spanish), Mizrahim (Middle East and North Africa) and Ethiopian Jews and includes all levels of the social economic ladder with a shared Jewish history, rituals, laws, and values unifying them as an international Jewish community. The current language of the proposed curriculum is no different than the propaganda of the Third Reich. It is also disturbing to note that the list of 154 influential people of color does not include Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., John Lewis, or Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, but instead included many revolutionary figures. There is even a flattering description of Pol Pot, the communist leader of Cambodia's Khmer Rouge, who was responsible for the murder of a quarter of the Cambodian population during the 1970s. We ask that the City Council create a resolution not to support the current and final draft of California's Department of Education's Ethnic Studies Curriculum and

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request Governor Newsom to disband the current committee as they seem to be unable to create a curriculum that is inclusive and unbiased.

Proposed Motion

- I. The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council to write a letter to Councilmembers Koretz and Blumenfield to strongly request that they create a resolution to oppose the California Department of Education’s Ethnic Studies Curriculum in state high schools final draft and for Governor Newsom to disband the current committee as they seem to be unable to create a curriculum that is inclusive and unbiased and to select a new committee.

Considerations

Votes For: 5

Against: 0

Arguments for:

Jewish Americans are a minority group and have suffered anti-semitism throughout history.

The inclusion of certain types of minorities does not mean that the curriculum needs to exclude another minority group

The curriculum mischaracterizes and disenfranchises a substantial population of the SORO community

Arguments against:

The proposed ethnic studies curriculum is primarily directed at non-white groups who have suffered a different form of struggle for which the curriculum is meant to address.



Councilmember Paul Koretz
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
200 North Spring Street, Room 430
Los Angeles, CA 90012

February 18, 2021

Re: Ethnic Studies Curriculum

Dear Councilmembers Koretz and Blumenfield:

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council is concerned about the direction of the Ethnic Studies Curriculum by a committee of the California Department of Education. Although we support the merits of AB 2016 which mandates the state's Department of Education (CDE) to develop a model ethnic studies curriculum for use in high school ethnic studies courses, we object to the labeling of Jewish American's as "white" and "racially privileged". Such claims are untrue and antisemitic and does a disservice to the ethnically diverse population of Jewish Americans.

This is of profound concern to the Jewish community whom many are represented by this Neighborhood Council. While both revisions of the draft include lessons on Jewish Americans, the portrayal of the Jewish people, as filtered through the lens of Critical Ethnic Studies, clearly misrepresents Jewish Americans as the oppressor on the side of the race-class divide. Jewish Americans are a multi-ethnic people including Ashkenizim (Eastern European), Sephardim (Mediterranean, Iberia and Spanish), Mizrahim (Middle East and North Africa) and Ethiopian Jews and includes all levels of the social economic ladder with a shared Jewish history, rituals, laws, and values unifying them as an international Jewish community.

The current language of the proposed curriculum is no different than the propaganda of the Third Reich. It is also disturbing to note that the list of 154 influential people of color does not include Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., John Lewis, or Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, but instead included many revolutionary figures. There is even a flattering description of Pol Pot, the communist leader of Cambodia's Khmer Rouge, who was responsible for the murder of a quarter of the Cambodian population during the 1970s.

The Ethnic Studies Curriculum AB 2016, as written, labels Jewish American's as "white" and "racially privileged". The curriculum includes lessons on Jewish Americans that is clearly anti-Semitic and misrepresents Jewish Americans as the oppressor on the side of the race-class divide.

California is the litmus test for this country. If this Ethnic Studies Curriculum, as it is currently written, young, high school students will be indoctrinated in Jew hatred and other ideologies that embrace and legitimize brutal regimes to high school students all paid for with our tax dollars.

Los Angeles is the largest city in the state of California. Los Angeles has the ability to reject this proposed curriculum and demand a new committee be seated to come up with a new Ethnic Studies Curriculum that is what the bill was envisioned to be:

"culturally meaningful and relevant curriculum," educational standards guided by "equity, inclusiveness and universally high expectations," and an "objective of

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preparing pupils to be global citizens with an appreciation for the contributions of multiple cultures.”

We need our City Council elected officials to oppose this in Sacramento in the strongest possible terms.

We strongly request that the City Council create a resolution not to support the current and final draft of California’s Department of Education’s Ethnic Studies Curriculum and request Governor Newsom to disband the current committee as they seem to be unable to create a curriculum that is inclusive and unbiased and to select a new committee to complete the task per the vision of AB 2016.

Sincerely,

Charlie Stein
President, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

DRAFT



Motion to Establish Administrative Roles for the SORO NC Website, Mailchimp, and Social Media Accounts

Agenda Item: GB021821-11
Date: February 18, 2021
Proposed By: Outreach Committee
Include motion in Consent Agenda? NO

Background

For several years, the SORO NC has maintained a Website, an Email Marketing Platform (Mailchimp), and several Social Media accounts (NextDoor, FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter, etc...) However, there was never any definition of the administrative controls, roles, or protocols for any of the platforms. This led to confusion and/or lack of knowledge as to who was responsible for physically disseminating information on each of these platforms, often resulting in very low levels of usage.

As electronic communication and social media have evolved to become even more prevalent functions in today's society, it is important for the NC Board and Committees to use them as major outreach tools to Stakeholders.

Establishing Standing Rules for administrative roles for these platforms is the first step towards developing a Communications and Social Media Policy that is easily understood by Board Members and Stakeholders alike. A well-defined process and policy should help facilitate an increase in overall outreach.

Proposed Motion

To Establish the following Standing Rules that define the Administrative Roles for the SORO NC Website, Mail Chimp, and Social Media Accounts:

1. The General Board shall appoint a Board Member to fill the role of Webmaster. The Webmaster shall be responsible for administering Roles and Privileges on the SORO NC Website account, in accordance with Board Guidance.
2. The Corresponding Secretary shall hold the primary responsibility for mass distribution to the Subscribed Email List (via Mailchimp), with the Outreach Chair(s) also maintaining access to the Mailchimp account, in accordance with Board Guidance.
3. The Outreach Chair(s) shall hold primary responsibility for distribution of information through SORO NC Social Media Accounts, as well as assigning additional editorial/posting roles, in accordance with Board Guidance.

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Considerations

Committee review: <i>(highly recommended)</i>	Votes For: 2	Against: 0
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Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: <i>(applies to funding motions only)</i>	\$ N/A
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Arguments for:

Defining communication and social media roles can encourage more NC outreach to Stakeholders

Role definitions allow for easier flow of information

Arguments against:

Having an Administrator does not address what content is distributed, or when

Only a small percentage of SORO Stakeholders subscribe or follow the SORO NC Communications and Social Media accounts



Motion to submit CIS in support of Council File 20-0197 re: Social Housing

Agenda Item: GB021821-12
Date: February 18, 2021
Proposed By: Land Use Committee
Include motion in Consent Agenda? No

Background

Many families pay more than 50% of their income towards rent. According to a recent study, LA County needs to add more than 500,000 units of affordable housing just to meet existing demand from low-income renters. That means LA needs a dramatic increase in low income housing, not just market rate housing. The private sector has not stepped up to accommodate this demand. Social housing is a potential solution that has worked in many other countries.

Proposed Motion

Submit a CIS in support of Council File 20-0197.

Considerations

Committee review:	Votes For: 7	Against: 0
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Arguments for:

Los Angeles has a deficit of housing and exploring ways to increase that stock could help create solutions to the housing crisis.

Arguments against:

Many Americans are wary of European style social housing.



February 18, 2021

Re: Council File: 20-0197

Title: Social Housing

Position: Support

Statement:

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports this Motion because Los Angeles needs a dramatic increase in low-income, affordable, and mid-range work-force housing. A potential solution is social housing -- built and owned by the government and managed by entities like nonprofits. Social housing is generally mixed income, adequately served by public transportation, has access to amenities and shops, is regulated to deter discrimination, and is self-financed after the initial public investment, with tenants paying rent on a sliding scale. There is an urgent need for stable and affordable housing for thousands who pay more than 50% of their income on rent in our city. In addition to those being forced onto the streets due to high rents, there are thousands more who are housing-insecure due to the COVID pandemic.

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Motion to submit CIS in support of Council File 20-0200 re: Allowable Rent Increases

Agenda Item: GB021821-13
Date: February 18, 2021
Proposed By: Land Use Committee
Include motion in Consent Agenda? No

Background

Los Angeles renters are among the most rent burdened in the country. More than half of LA renters spend more than 30% of their income on rent. To make rent, people are forced to sacrifice food, medicine, and other essentials. A huge impediment to rent relief is the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act of 1995, which severely limits the ability of municipalities to establish or expand rent controls. But under Costa Hawkins, LA can take a step to protect renters by adjusting the formula by which rents are allowed to increase annually for units covered by the city's Rent Stabilization Ordinance (about 600,000 rental units, more than 40% of total units and about 70% of all city rental housing).

Proposed Motion

Submit a CIS in support of Council File 20-0200.

Considerations

Committee review: Votes For: 4 Against: 2

Arguments for:

Renters would receive immense relief.
Cost of living increases can't keep up with annual rental increases.

Arguments against:

Many units are considerably below market rent.
This cap fails to account for most landlords that pay for some amount of utilities that don't have an increase cap from the City even if a rental cap is in place.



February 18, 2021

Re: Council File: 20-0200

Title: Allowable Rent Increases

Position: Support

Statement:

We the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council support this motion. As Los Angeles is among the most rent-burdened cities in the country, and as almost 2/3 of LA households rent, this motion will help keep renters in their homes, make rent increases fairer, and bring them more in line with changes in other costs of living. In the last three decades, rent has been allowed to rise faster than other prices in most years. Taking these steps to modify our allowable rent increases for rent stabilized units would put Los Angeles in line with other cities in California and the rest of the country with similar policies, while balancing the interests of both landlords and tenants. Passing this motion is all the more urgent during the current pandemic and economic downturn.

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