



# Funding of up to \$3000 for SORO NC to Sponsor CPR/AED/First Aid Classes

**Agenda Item:** GB092018-4  
**Date:** September 20, 2018  
**Proposed By:** SORO NC Public Safety Committee

## Full Proposal

As part of an overall SORO NC Emergency Preparedness Plan and the Public Safety Committee's "Neighborhood Team Program" (NTP), it is important that stakeholders be trained in CPR, Child CPR, Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and First Aid.

In a major emergency or disaster where first responders and medical professionals may be overwhelmed, these classes would train residents to perform potentially life-saving rescue and medical care. Training and skills could also prove critical to potentially saving someone's life during non-disaster situations. A certified instructor(s) would demonstrate and train participants in basic first aid techniques, CPR for adults and infants, and proper use of an AED. Participants that complete the training course will obtain American Heart Association certification.

The Public Safety Committee would schedule 2 classes for (up to) 25 participants each, to be scheduled for fall 2018 (tentatively 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in October). SORO NC would cover the costs of instruction, certification and necessary supplies.

SORO NC has previously sponsored CPR/Child CPR/First Aid/AED classes (2012, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017) that were very successful and highly praised. Within a month of completing a class, one of the participants was able to use his skills and assist in the saving of a life.

## Proposed Motion

For the SORO NC to sponsor and fund \$3000 for 2 (two) CPR/Child CPR/AED/First Aid classes for up to 25 participants each.

## Considerations

<b>Committee review:</b> <i>(highly recommended)</i>	Votes For: 5	Against: 0
<b>Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget:</b> <i>(applies to funding motions only)</i>	\$0	

<b>Arguments for:</b>	<b>Arguments against:</b>
Classes in 2012, 2014 and 2015, 2016, 2017 were popular and well attended.	Will require outreach to attract participants.
Skills can help save a life at any time. Previous attendee helped save a life.	Limited to 50 participants.
This training is part of the 2011 NTP plan that the General Board voted to approve.	Funds can be used elsewhere.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Ken Blaker**  
Vice-President

**Jon Liberman**  
Treasurer

**Beth Hirsch**  
Secretary

**Martin Epstein**  
Corresponding Secretary

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# Motion to support zone variance at 812 S Robertson Blvd

**Agenda Item:** GB092018-5

**Date:** September 20, 2018

**Proposed By:** LUED Committee

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## Background

The project representative presented this request for zone variance to the Land Use and Economic Development (LUED) committee at their August 7, 2018 meeting. The request for zone variance would allow a change of use from a 1,385 square foot office use, on the first floor, to a jewelry store, Excalibur Estate Jewelry, to sell estate jewelry (used goods) and wholesale. The property is zoned C2; however, the Q-Condition limits the use to those permitted in the C1 zone. Both the sale of used goods and wholesale are not allowed in a C1 zone, but are allowed in a C2 zone. The request also includes a reduction in parking from the 8 total spaces required to 5 existing vehicle spaces and 8 new bicycle spaces (which replace 2 of the required vehicle spaces.) Remodel of existing building to include ADA compliance and elevator to second floor.

Neighbors were noticed for the LUED meeting and there were no neighbors in attendance to speak in opposition to or in support of the project.

## Proposed Motion

Submit a letter in support of the application to City Planning Department staff Ruben Vasquez (ruben.c.vasquez@lacity.org) to be included in the case file for the requested zone variance at 812 S Robertson Blvd.; ZA-2017-1722-ZV.

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## Considerations

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

Votes For: 6

Against: 0

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### Arguments for:

The restriction on the sale of used goods of the Q-Condition likely didn't consider the sale of estate jewelry.

### Arguments against:

Estate jewelry is technically used goods.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

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Vice-President

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Ruben Vasquez  
Department of City Planning  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

21 September 2018

Re: Case Number ZA-2017-1722-ZV

Dear Mr. Vasquez:

I am writing on behalf of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (“SORO NC”) to comment on the requested zone variance at 812 S Robertson Blvd.

At a duly-noticed meeting of the General Board on September 20, 2018, SORO NC voted 00 yes / 00 no / 00 abstain to recommend that the applicant’s zone variance request be approved. The restriction on the sale of used goods of the Q-Condition likely didn’t consider the sale of estate jewelry.

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

Sincerely,

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Ken Blaker**  
Vice-President

**Jon Liberman**  
Treasurer

**Beth Hirsch**  
Secretary

**Martin Epstein**  
Corresponding Secretary

Krystal Návar  
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council,  
Land Use and Economic Development Chair

Cc: Faisal Alserri, Office of Council Member Paul Koretz  
Doug Fitzsimmons, President, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

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# Motion to support zone variance at 9118 W Pico Blvd

**Agenda Item:** GB092018-6

**Date:** September 20, 2018

**Proposed By:** LUED Committee

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## Background

The project representatives presented this request for zone variance to the Land Use and Economic Development (LUED) committee at their August 7, 2018 meeting. The requested zone variance is to reduce parking, maintain backup distance, and co-locate loading space for change of use from retail to a 1,764 square foot Orthodox Jewish Temple, Morry's Fireplace, located at 9118 W Pico Blvd. No new construction is proposed.

Neighbors were noticed for the LUED meeting. Many community stakeholders were in attendance to voice their support for the project.

## Proposed Motion

Submit a letter in support of the application to City Planning Department staff Julia Duncan ([julia.duncan@lacity.org](mailto:julia.duncan@lacity.org)) to be included in the case file for the requested zone variance at 9118 W Pico Blvd.; ZA-2018-1666-ZV.

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## Considerations

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

Votes For: 6

Against: 0

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### Arguments for:

The demand for parking for an Orthodox Jewish Temple is low compared to a retail use.

### Arguments against:

It is occasionally difficult to find parking along Pico and in the surrounding neighborhoods.

There is strong community support for this request and project.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

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Vice-President

**Jon Liberman**  
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Julia Duncan  
Department of City Planning  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

21 September 2018

Re: Case Number ZA-2018-1666-ZV

Dear Ms. Duncan:

I am writing on behalf of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council ("SORO NC") to comment on the requested zone variance at 9118 W Pico Blvd.

At a duly-noticed meeting of the General Board on September 20, 2018, SORO NC voted 00 yes / 00 no / 00 abstain to recommend that the applicant's zone variance request be approved. The applicants demonstrated strong community support. Morry's Fireplace will be a welcome addition to the community.

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

Sincerely,

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Ken Blaker**  
Vice-President

**Jon Liberman**  
Treasurer

**Beth Hirsch**  
Secretary

**Martin Epstein**  
Corresponding Secretary

Krystal Návar  
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council,  
Land Use and Economic Development Chair

Cc: Faisal Alserri, Office of Council Member Paul Koretz  
Doug Fitzsimmons, President, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

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# Motion to recommend additional NC system reforms

**Agenda Item:** GB092018-7  
**Date:** 20 September 2018  
**Proposed By:** Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

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## Background

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils is recommending the following additions to Councilmember Ryu's package of NC reforms. SORO NC has previously passed the first two items, but not in the context of the proposed reforms.

In the SORO NC Executive Committee, some members expressed concern that "qualified" Community Councils were not defined, and that it should exclude Community Councils that overlap the boundaries of a certified Neighborhood Council.

The definition of "qualified" was left intentionally vague so that the City could come up with suitable legal language about representation, size, public meetings, etc. The overlap issue is admittedly a point of real concern—you don't want to create competing organizations or dilute an NC's authority—and may be something that could be addressed via Board amendment.

## Proposed Motion

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council recommends that the Neighborhood Council reforms proposed by Councilmember Ryu (CF-18-0467) include the following:

- I. That the City Administrative Code be amended to revise the current definition of Neighborhood Council stakeholders (including removing the "community impact stakeholders") as follows:  
*"Stakeholders shall be defined as those who live, work, or own real property within the Neighborhood Council boundaries. With the approval of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, Neighborhood Councils may—and are encouraged to—expand this definition within their bylaws to include other defined groups of stakeholders."*
- II. That in the interest of ensuring that local constituencies represented by Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils are heard, City Administrative Code (Section 22.819) be amended to require that seating be reserved at City departmental hearings, commission meetings, and Council meetings for members of Neighborhood and Community Councils.
- III. That provision be made for qualified Community Councils to be officially recognized as independent City community advisory bodies, and afforded the same courtesies, notice, and access provided to Neighborhood Councils.

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## Considerations

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

Votes For: 5

Against: 0

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

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**Arguments for:**

A number of westside areas are ably served by community councils, rather than NCs. CCs retain a measure of political and financial independence from the City that NCs have given up.

This creates a supplementary class of independent community advisory bodies that have some, but not all, of the privileges of an NC so that more areas receive timely notice from City Council and City departments.

**Arguments against:**

If they want NC perks, CCs should become NCs.

Could be a threat to NC political clout. Should HOAs be given official City status?

## Neighborhood Council System Reforms

This past year, the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council System turned fifteen years old. This one-of-a-kind civic experiment has fostered grassroots activism, civic innovation, and provided a stronger voice to communities that otherwise would have less influence at City Hall.

Fifteen years of evolution has also uncovered areas where the system can be improved. Some of these improvements are fundamental, stemming from the charter section that empowers Neighborhood Councils, and others are simpler matters of policy change that can be implemented by city departments or by ordinance.

In July of 2017, I assumed chairpersonship of the City Council Committee that oversees the Neighborhood Council System, the Health, Education and Neighborhood Councils Committee. Having previously served on a Neighborhood Council, I have a strong interest in ensuring their continued viability.

To determine what changes may be needed in the system going forwards, I embarked on a listening tour to many of the Neighborhood Council Alliances. Additionally, my office sent a survey to all Neighborhood Council listservs soliciting feedback from Neighborhood Council members and the interested public. Over 160 Neighborhood Council stakeholders responded. Reviewing these submissions, evaluating the information presented in the committee hearings I have held over the past nine months on pending Neighborhood Council policy matters, and meeting with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the City Clerk, I have developed a list of policy ideas for the Neighborhood Council System that should be reviewed.

As these ideas will need substantial input from Neighborhood Council members and stakeholders before determining which should move forward. To ensure enough time is provided to develop that input, this motion will not be heard in committee until at least 90 days after it is introduced in order to provide Neighborhood Councils time to deliberate on the proposals and submit Community Impact Statements.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment be INSTRUCTED, with assistance as needed from the CLA, CAO, City Clerk and City Attorney, to report back within 60 days on the following:

- Recommendations and next steps for amending City Charter Article IX to change the name of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) to the Neighborhood Councils Department (NCD), the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) to the Neighborhood Councils Commission (NCC), and phasing out the use of the term/branding 'EmpowerLA' due to the confusion reported by the public and the perception of Neighborhood Council members that DONE's role should be primarily to support Neighborhood Councils, which the name Neighborhood Councils Department would better reflect.
- Recommendations and next steps for amending the Los Angeles Administrative Code to remove the "Community Impact Stakeholder," which has caused substantial confusion and disputed elections, and recommendations and next steps for including specific additional definitions by ordinance of eligible voters and board members of Neighborhood Councils, such as student or parent/guardian of a student.
- Recommendations and next steps for amending City Charter Article IX Section 901.d and 904.f to remove any reference to "selections" and clarify that Neighborhood Council board members will be elected. Neighborhood Council "selection" processes are utilized by a limited and decreasing number of councils and are not viewed by the public as being as democratic as elections as they do not provide for a secret ballot or equitable participation.
- Recommendations and next steps for creating a one-time review process, overseen by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, to evaluate Neighborhood Council bylaws to determine if board seats

are equitably allocated amongst stakeholder types and provide formal suggestions to Neighborhood Councils on ways to adjust board seats as needed to increase equity.

- Recommendations and next steps for adopting regulations to provide a uniform minimum voting age and board member age to allow consistent participation across the City, and what that age should be.
- Recommendations and next steps for developing and adopting a planning and land use training required for all Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Neighborhood Council planning and land use committees.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Clerk be INSTRUCTED, with assistance as needed from the CLA, CAO, DONE and City Attorney, to report back within 60 days on the following:

- Recommendations and next steps on a process for Neighborhood Councils to be able to roll-over a non-cumulative maximum of \$10,000 in any given fiscal year.
- Recommendations and next steps for removing Section 5.485.h of Chapter 88 of Division 5 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code (Ordinance 179545; see Council File 03-1260), and recommendations for other amendments to that Chapter, in order to remove the expiration of the ability for Neighborhood Councils to accept in-kind or monetary donations.
- On the costs and other implications of holding all Neighborhood Council elections on the same day in order to provide for a uniform citywide advertising and outreach campaign.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, and all relevant departments denoted below, be INSTRUCTED to:

- Develop a process, with the assistance of GSD and the City Clerk, to assist Neighborhood Councils with accessing shared space in City facilities, as envisioned in Council File 16-0298.
- Develop an ongoing compendium of best practices generated from Neighborhood Councils and share those on a periodic basis with all Neighborhood Councils and include 'how-to guides' for accomplishing those best practices.
- Develop point of contact lists for key city departments and agencies, including DCP, DOT, Public Works' Bureaus, Aging, Disability, HCID, DCA, LADWP, Port, Airport, Cannabis Regulation, Emergency Management, Animal Services, LAPD, LAFD, Recreation and Parks, Zoo, Finance, Library, Economic and Workforce Development and BIDs, with assistance from those listed departments and agencies, and share those lists with Neighborhood Councils, facilitate the training of those points of contact at those relevant departments on the most fruitful ways to assist and communicate with Neighborhood Council members, and coordinate with Neighborhood Councils to formally appoint a point of contact at each NC to communicate between each NC and the point of contact at each department, thus creating a single line of communication.

I FURTHER MOVE that Neighborhood Councils and Neighborhood Council Alliances be REQUESTED to provide feedback and/or Community Impact Statements (CISs) to the Health, Education, and Neighborhood Councils Committee within 90 days.

ORIGINAL

MAY 25 2018

PRESENTED BY:

  
DAVID E. RYU  
Councilmember, 4<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

  
  
  
