



Motion to provide feedback on the Century City Center Draft EIR

Agenda Item: GB041813-4
Date: April 18, 2013
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

NOTE: the complete Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed Century City Center project may be downloaded at <http://planning.lacity.org/eir/CenturyCityCenter/DEIR/>

A copy is also available at the Robertson Public Library.

Full Proposal

The development of the West Adams-Balwin Hills-Leimert Community Plan has drawn new attention to our area's traffic challenges. With hourly car limits placed on Motor Avenue, an overly-narrow Robertson Boulevard, lack of center turn lanes in the critical South Robertson corridor, pick up/drop off constrictions around the High School, and light timing dictated by past Century City developments, many people on their way to Century City opt to cut through residential neighborhoods. As it currently stands, Robertson's traffic exceeds level-of-service (LOS) capacity for much of the day and impatient drivers create unsafe conditions for children in our community. Indeed, the LOS rating of South Robertson at peak commuter hours is F(1) to F(2)—on a scale of A (Excellent) to F (Failure). (The numbers refer to how far **beyond** failure the LOS is.)

The proposed Century City Center development has the potential to make that situation worse during peak hours. As a one of the major 10 Freeway exits for and a main artery to Century City, Robertson Boulevard stands to bear much of the brunt of the additional traffic a large-scale mixed-use office and retail building will bring. The project must include provisions to significantly mitigate the traffic impact in our area.

Unfortunately—and despite the repeated urgings of the SORO Neighborhood Council—the DEIR does not include an assessment of impact on Robertson south of Pico. As such we feel the analysis is incomplete.

However, the plan does indicate increases to volume at Robertson & Pico barely under the threshold of "significant impact." While that intersection may be able to accommodate more traffic, the highly-sensitive F(1) to F(2) segments of South Robertson cannot.

Possible mitigations

In its West Adams Community Plan response, SORO NC proposed a number of traffic mitigations for South Robertson that may be useful here.

1. Increase Robertson capacity to accommodate volume
 - a. Remove on-street parallel parking spaces;
 - b. Create one or more metered parking lots/structures along the impacted area to offset the lost street parking and increase parking opportunities for local businesses; and
 - c. Once the street parking is removed, restripe Robertson to create a center turn lane and two bike lanes to reduce traffic back ups and encourage bicycle use

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2. Institute a DASH line from the Culver City Expo stop to Century City with stops along Robertson to encourage use of public transportation

Additional ideas that were not part of the West Adams CP include:

1. Re-examining the frequency and duration of traffic lights on South Robertson with the intent of calming traffic without reducing throughput
2. Creating an off-street student pick up zone around Hamilton High School (alternate idea: cell phone waiting lot)

Proposed Motion

- I. That the Century City Center DEIR be revised to include analysis of Robertson south of Pico
- II. That the final EIR include provisions for mitigating traffic impact in the SORO NC area (particularly along South Robertson) that reflect current traffic realities while encouraging alternative transportation where practicable

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: n/a

Against: 0

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

Arguments for:

Arguments against:



Motion to Organize and Host an Emergency Preparedness & Safety Fair

Agenda Item: GB041813-5

Date: April 18, 2013

Proposed By: Michael Lynn

Full Proposal

An Emergency Preparedness and Safety Fair, to be hosted by the SORO NC.

Event Details:

- October 20th, 2013 from 1-5pm
- On 3 blocks of Pico Blvd, near Robertson (TBD)
- Target Attendance: 3-4000 people
- Possible co-sponsorship opportunities with other NCs or organizations

This fair will help educate the greater community in disaster preparedness and awareness through workshops, information, and to showcase the various agencies, organizations, and apparatuses that government and private sector utilize to fulfill their mission.

Agencies/ Organizations that will be invited include LAFD, LAPD, CHP, CERT, LA County Sheriff, DWP, SoCal Gas, LA County Dept. Of Health, LA County Coroner, Local Hospitals (Olympia, Cedars, UCLA etc.), LA Emergency Management Dept., Seat belt/ Car seat safety, Hatzolah, Shmira, Chaverim, FEMA, and more.....

Requests will go out to each agency to provide a large array of apparatus for static display. As part of the educational focus of the event, we will have various Demonstrations throughout the day including a Jaws of Life demonstration on a car.

Proposed Motion

To organize and host a SORO NC sponsored Emergency Preparedness and Safety Fair for October 20, 2013 on Pico Blvd, pending any future funding and permit approval that may be necessary.

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 4

Against: 0

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

Arguments for:

Promotes disaster awareness to the community.

Arguments against:

A big event requires a big undertaking of planning, time and effort.

Great Outreach/PR exposure opportunity. Requires city permit for closure of Pico.

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Movies in the Park 2013 (\$1000)

Agenda Item: GB041813-6
Date: 18 April 2013
Proposed By: Marjan Safinia

Full Proposal

This is the sixth year of CD-10's very successful Movies in the Park summer series. CD-10 has chosen once again to bring one of the evenings to SORO and host a community movie screening at Reynier Park. The date of the event will be in late July/early August TBD.

In the past, this event has attracted upwards of 800 people to the park, making it one of the largest Outreach opportunities we support in the community. It's a great family night out, and offers us significant outreach into the Latino community, who usually attend in great numbers and who we could benefit from reaching out to more.

This also offers us an opportunity to continue our close collaboration with the CD-10 office.

Our portion of the funds will be used to purchase food items for the event including candy, hot dogs, buns, popcorn and associated service items.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Beth Ryan
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Proposed Motion

- I. That SORO NC funds \$1000 towards the purchase of food, beverage and associated service items for CD10's Movies in the Park Event in Reynier Park for 2013

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 8

Against: 0

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$1000
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

Large outreach opportunity that people have come to expect in the community

Funding now allows us to use the balance of this year's funds for benefit to our community, in case funds are swept by the budget committee.

Arguments against:

Cost

Movies in the Park is a CD-10 branded event which occurs in several locations, so it's not specifically a SORO NC branded event.

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Printing for SoRo Festival Outreach (up to \$700)

Agenda Item: GB041813-7
Date: 18 April 2013
Proposed By: Marjan Safinia

Full Proposal

The SoRo Festival remains our single largest outreach opportunity as Neighborhood Council. With a large, centrally located booth, SORO NC has high visibility during the festival and we reach many hundreds of our stakeholders each year.

This motion would allow us to fund large-format printing for the Festival, to help attract stakeholder interest in our work. Large prints may include posters outlining some of our accomplishments in the past year, our committee schedule and structure and highlights of the KCET/Departures work (text and images only).

Experience has shown that large format posters often attract stakeholders to stop at our booth and engage in conversation. They also serve a function beyond the day of the festival, since we are able to use the materials at public meetings etc. In the case of the KCET/Departures posters, we can use these to create a small moving exhibit that we can offer for display to various partners throughout our community such as the schools, rec center, library etc. It's a low-cost, valuable way to take the stories of the community back out into the community, creating further engagement between ourselves, our stakeholders and our stories.

SORO NC funded \$500 towards the cost of the 2012 Town Hall back in November 2012. Those funds were never spent, so we propose using those funds to fund the bulk of this motion.

Proposed Motion

- I. That SORO NC funds up to \$700 towards the costs of large-format printing for display at the SoRo Festival 2013 and beyond.

Considerations

Committee review: Votes For: 4 Against: 0
(highly recommended)

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$500 (Town Hall budget never spent)
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for: **Arguments against:**

SoRo Festival is our largest outreach opportunity. Cost

Allows us to extend the reach of our work into various locations in the community Not all the funds form part of the committee's existing budget

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Motion to fund up to \$4000 for updates to soronc.org

Agenda Item: GB041813-8
Date: 18 April 2013
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Full Proposal

The SORO NC website, soronc.org, remains one of our most vital communication channels with our community. As such, it forms the heart of our outreach efforts. Over the years, much work has gone into creating a highly usable website, with strong, recognizable brand value and deep information about our current work, as well as an archive of our past work.

Effective websites continue to be developed and improved as technology and usability expand. Some of the key proposed upgrades include updating to the most recent version of Drupal (website content management system that holds the site together), easier styling for non-technical users, better structured press releases, ability for stakeholders to subscribe to the SORO NC calendar, upgrades to the photo gallery system and other back-end improvements to make the site more robust and efficient.

The work will be done by SASNet (who have built the site thus far) and SORO NC will have to enter into a contract with them for these upgrades via DONE.

Proposed Motion

- I. That SORO NC funds up to \$4000 towards the costs of important website upgrades to soronc.org

Considerations

Committee review: Votes For: 4 Against: 0
(highly recommended)

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$1000
(applies to funding motions only) (general outreach)

Arguments for:

Soronc.org is the first stop for all information about the council

Keeping our content management system up to date is critical for the site to keep functioning reliably as other technologies advance

Arguments against:

Cost

Our website is already very robust compared to other NC sites.

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Motion to approve up to \$700 to be used for an NC laptop

Agenda Item: GB041813-9
Date: April 18, 2013
Proposed By: Beth Ryan

Full Proposal

Each month, SORO board members meet for a minimum of two hours to hear from the public, receive updates from city officials and to discuss and vote on various motions and submit amendments.

The SORO minutes act as a permanent record of the work of the South Robertson Neighborhood Council board and the more accurate and detailed they can be the more helpful the minutes are to community members – and neighboring council members - interested in the work of the board.

In addition, it is important that the vote counts are available immediately after the meeting so anyone submitting a motion requiring a resolution has the information they need to complete the paperwork.

A laptop would allow the Secretary to enter the data during the meeting which would be a great deal more efficient.

Proposed Motion

Motion to approve up to \$700 to purchase a laptop, bag and needed software.

Considerations

Executive Committee: Votes For: 4 Against: 0

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

Arguments for:

The minutes of SORO act as a permanent record available to all members of the community and need to be accurate and as complete as possible. Providing a laptop will ensure that the minutes can be typed in as they are spoken rather than perhaps mistranslated at a later time.

The time spent by the secretary to typing in and formatting the notes after each board meeting, special meeting and retreat could be better spent on other duties assigned to the position.

Arguments against:

Purchasing a laptop does not benefit the community as a whole as much as other more critical programs.

The secretary could possibly use their own personal equipment for this purpose.

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Motion to allocate \$500 to help fund the 2013 NC Congress

Agenda Item: GB041813-10

Date: April 18, 2013

Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Full Proposal

Each year, a dedicated group of volunteers organizes the NC Congress, a full-day event featuring training topics and opportunities to network with other NC members and City staff.

SORO NC has participated in this valuable event in past years, but has not contributed to its funding in recent memory.

Proposed Motion

I. To allocate \$500 towards funding the 2013 Neighborhood Council Congress.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Beth Ryan
Secretary

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 4

Against: 0

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

Arguments for:

The Congress is an important opportunity to share ideas and best practices

Arguments against:

At \$500, we'd be one of the larger sponsors of the event

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Motion to reallocate current fiscal year budget as needed and request increase of purchase card spending limit

Agenda Item: GB041813-11
Date: April 18, 2013
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Full Proposal

Because of DONE's May 15th deadline for funding paperwork in Fiscal Year 2012-13, a number of motions passed by SORO NC cannot be completed in time. By reallocating the unspent money, we can use the funds for other projects.

Proposed Motion

- I. That funds previously allocated by the NC for the following motions be reduced as indicated:

Motion number	Description	Original Allocation	Revised Allocation
	General Operations	\$5500.00	\$4900.00
GB111512-6	2012 Town Hall	500.00	\$0.00
GB011714-9	Board Retreat	500.00	250.00
Total		\$6500.00	\$5150.00

- II. That SORO NC requests that its Q4 FY 12-13 purchase card limit be raised to \$_____ and that its single-purchase limit for that period be raised to \$_____ to accommodate approved NC purchases.

Considerations

Committee review: Votes For: n/a Against: 0
(highly recommended)

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

Arguments for:

Frees up committed funds that wouldn't be otherwise used for more efficient spending

Arguments against:

This would be better accomplished by restoring the NC rollover.

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Motion to request changes to the NC system definition of “stakeholder”

Agenda Item: GB041813-12

Date: April 18, 2013

Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Full Proposal

Some years ago, the original definition of who qualified as a stakeholder in the Neighborhood Council system was changed by the City Council at the suggestion of the Neighborhood Council Review Commission (NCRC), a group chartered in 2007 to fine-tune the NC system.

The thinking was that the original “live, work or own property” definition tended to limit NC participation. In their final report, the NCRC said: “...because the neighborhood council democracy model is meant to reach more deeply into the community than traditional outreach models, the goal of diversity must be pursued aggressively.” They therefore recommended that it also include “those who declare a stake in the neighborhood and affirm the factual basis for it.”

Problems with the very broad “factual basis” definition became quickly apparent. Suddenly, *anyone* could vote in an NC election with as little proof as a receipt from a local coffee shop. Some NCs were taken over by outside groups who, in at least one case, bussed people in to vote for candidates who favored a particular development project.

It’s debatable whether the definition change was needed. Before this, most NCs had expanded the basic stakeholder definition on their own, tailoring it to their community: in fact, a study before the definition change showed that 88% of NCs had broader-than-required stakeholder definitions. Our own NC had created special seats for schools and community organizations.

Now, a new NC reform initiative is proposing that the definition be amended once again in the City’s Administrative Code to remove factual basis stakeholders and allow each NC to once again have a hand in defining their own stakeholders. (Note that if adopted by the City Council, this would require SORO NC to modify its bylaws).

Proposed Motion

- I. To join with the Neighborhood Council Plan Review and Reform Initiative and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners to recommend to the Los Angeles City Council that the City administrative code be amended to:
 - a. Further define “own property” in the Neighborhood Council stakeholder definition as meaning real property;
 - b. Remove the requirement that neighborhood councils provide governing board positions for factual basis stakeholders;
 - c. Allow each neighborhood council to determine the number, if any, of governing board seats that be allocated to factual basis stakeholders;
 - d. Remove the current definition of factual basis stakeholder; and
 - e. Allow each neighborhood council to adopt its own definition of factual basis stakeholder.

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Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: n/a

Against: 0

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

\$

Arguments for:

Allows individual NCs to tailor an expanded stakeholder definition that best reflects their community

Preserves the baseline “live, work, own property” definition—and so protects against any attempt to be too restrictive.

Provides clarity on who constitutes a stakeholder and avoids undue outside influence on NC elections.

Arguments against:

NCs are intended to be more inclusive. If you view “stakeholder” as someone who contributes to and benefits from the character of a community, a very broad definition makes sense.

Some NCs may only use the basic definition and thereby fail to reach important neighborhood constituencies.

While election abuses may exist, they are not as widespread or common as some suggest. Changing the definition for edge cases is overkill.



MOTION to include non-voting members of the Neighborhood Councils on City Committees and Commissions

Agenda Item: GB041813-13
Date: 18 April 2013
Proposed By: Terrence Gomes

Summary

To send a letter to the City Council and the Mayor's Office to include Neighborhood Council members on City Committees and commissions

Full Proposal

In the last 3 years, Neighborhood Councils and Los Angeles neighborhood Council Coalition have been asking for a "seat at the table." Various groups have now been granted presentations at the Mayor's Regional Budget Day (Spring 2011), NCBA Presentations before City Council and, lately, the Audits Committee and B&F Committee. This move would be a real recognition of the Mayor and City Council of the relevance of the Neighborhood Councils to our City's Governance. This would provide the NCs with the "real time" Early Notification, guaranteed in the Charter and Plan, and participation in the development and timely dissemination of information on "important issues."

Proposed Motion

Whereas the City Council continues to ignore the Neighborhood Councils in decision making,

Whereas the City Council has NOT devised a credible system to inform the Neighborhood Council System on items of concern, in a timely manner,

Whereas the City Council continues to deride Neighborhood Councils for not weighing in on issue

Therefore, the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council demands that the City Council and the Mayor Immediately open a non-voting seat for a Neighborhood Council member on all City Council (Regular and Ad Hoc) Committees and Commissions to be elected by the Neighborhood Councils. A letter will be sent to the City Council and the Mayor's office.

Considerations

Pro

First argument in favor.

Second argument in favor.

Con

First argument against the motion. Try to be fair.

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MOTION to include an NC member on the LA2020 Commission

Agenda Item: GB041813-14

Date: April 18, 2013

Proposed By: Terrence Gomes

Full Proposal

The LA2020 Commission is an Ad Hoc Committee proposed by Council President Herb Wesson to investigate the City's financial issues. The twelve member commission is comprised of a group as very "downtown-centric" with "too many lawyers" and people who (both) "rely on the City's Purse" and "provide the bulk of Candidate campaign donations." We demand that a member of the Neighborhood Council be on the committee to represent the stakeholders of Los Angeles.

Proposed Motion

Whereas the City of Los Angeles is facing a financial crisis as a result of a continuing Structural Deficit, a projected \$1.1 billion budget deficit over the next four years, unfunded pension liabilities of \$11.5 billion, and a deferred maintenance requirement of over \$10 billion;

Whereas LA 2020 (is an Ad Hoc Commission, created by City Council, CF #xx-xxxx, and) was established as an independent commission to "review how the City of Los Angeles can help grow the economy and jobs, attract business investment and industry, and create fiscal stability for the City...";

Whereas the twelve appointed members (and one alternate) do not represent a cross section of the City;

Whereas the charter authorized 95 Neighborhood Councils to represent a vast cross section of the City, its many communities, and its voters; (replace with following Charter-specific language (red).

Whereas the Charter, in order to "...promote more citizen participation in government..." (Article IX, Section #900), "...created a citywide system of NCs" (Article IX, Section #900) whose members (stakeholders) are (at a minimum) "...everyone who lives, works or owns property in the area ..." (Article IX, Section #906a(2)) ... and that these NCs must "...reflect the diverse interests within the area (Article IX, Section #906a(3). These NCs are intended to serve all areas of the City and they "...present to the Mayor and Council a... list of priorities for the City budget..." (Article IX, Section #909).

Whereas the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates have been advising the Mayor on budget priorities for the last seven years and have developed a thorough working knowledge of the City's budget and financial needs;

Whereas the Neighborhood Councils are an excellent vehicle to communicate with the citizens of Los Angeles;

Therefore, the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council demands that a representative of the Neighborhood Councils be appointed as a full member to the independent LA 2020 commission.

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Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: n/a

Against: 0

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

\$

Arguments for:

Allows individual NCs to tailor an expanded stakeholder definition that best reflects their community

Preserves the baseline “live, work, own property” definition—and so protects against any attempt to be too restrictive.

Provides clarity on who constitutes a stakeholder and avoids undue outside influence on NC elections.

Arguments against:

NCs are intended to be more inclusive. If you view “stakeholder” as someone who contributes to and benefits from the character of a community, a very broad definition makes sense.

Some NCs may only use the basic definition and thereby fail to reach important neighborhood constituencies.

While election abuses may exist, they are not as widespread or common as some suggest. Changing the definition for edge cases is overkill.