

MOTION

BUDGET & FINANCE

The City of Los Angeles' ninety-nine Neighborhood Councils are an integral part of the City's government. They advocate for their communities on important issues like development, homelessness, and emergency preparedness. We must empower them to continue their work where possible during the COVID-19 Pandemic and ensure they are able to fully provide their much-needed services to their constituents once the State of Emergency is over.

On March 14, 2020, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment announced that all Neighborhood Council board, committee, alliance, and liaison meetings are currently suspended in keeping with the social distancing guidelines set by the City and State. Neighborhood Councils have, therefore, not been able to conduct business and have had to cancel or postpone many of the activities relied-upon by their constituents. In order to ensure they are able to fully provide these services after the pandemic emergency ends, the Neighborhood Councils should be able to retain funds that they were not able to spend during this time and roll those funds over to the next fiscal year. We should also allow Neighborhood Councils to fund local COVID-19 relief organizations.

In addition, Neighborhood Councils should be given the opportunity to meet safely via teleconferencing during the State of Emergency in accordance with Executive Order N-25-20. On March 4, Governor Newsom authorized local legislative bodies to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and waived all requirements in both the Bagley-Keene Act and the Brown Act requiring the physical presence of members as a condition of participation in or quorum for a public meeting. The ability to meet should be extended to Neighborhood Councils.


I THEREFORE MOVE that that the City Council instruct the City Clerk and Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to allow Neighborhood Councils to roll-over the entire remaining balance on June 30, 2020 of each Neighborhood Council's funds into Fiscal Year 2020-2021, without a corresponding reduction to the regular budget allocation of funds to each Neighborhood Council for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.


I FURTHER MOVE that the Council direct the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to expedite authorizing Neighborhood Councils to meet via teleconference and provide necessary assistance to do so.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council direct the City Clerk to expedite processing of Neighborhood Council grants to local COVID-19 related relief organizations, including, as feasible, in advance of receipt of Neighborhood Purpose Grant applications, during the Local State of Emergency and required that Neighborhood Councils report on the grants made with an explanation, including the relationship to COVID-19 relief.

PRESENTED BY:

  
MIKE BONIN  
Councilmember, 11th  
District

  
DAVID RYU  
Councilmember, 4th  
District

  
PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, 5th  
District



SECONDED BY: 

APR 7 2020

ORIGINAL