

## **Draft Motion on Request for Increased NC Funding**

WHEREAS, when our Neighborhood Council started, the Mayor's LA City Budget for 2003-2004 was 5.14 billion dollars and the last adopted City Budget for 2022-2023 is 11.8 billion dollars, which is 2.3 times as much or a 130% increase in the city budget over 19 years; and,

WHEREAS, in the 2003-2004 city budget Neighborhood Councils were allocated 50 thousand dollars and were allowed to rollover unused funds for 2 years; and,

WHEREAS, today, the 2023 equivalent in dollars, accounting for inflation, would be 81.3 thousand dollars per NC, which is only 1.63 times as much as in 2003-2004 and, if past actions were fair NC's should have seen a 63% increase in budget, which is only half of what the increase in the City budget; and,

WHEREAS, for 2022-2023, the Neighborhood Councils have only a budget of 32 thousand dollars, with limited rollover from the previous year, which is actually a 36% decrease of the starting budget 19 years ago but that is also a decrease of 60% in equivalent dollar spending power instead of a 63% increase NCs should have seen; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of Neighborhood Councils is to engage the community to participate in City Government so that it functions better to serve the community. To achieve that purpose requires communication in multiple ways, many more than when the Neighborhood Councils started.

WHEREAS, to some, communication media may appear less expensive today, the costs of implementing the various means of Neighborhood Council communications are increasing because of the skills and technical services needed, training, platforms used, equipment and services increase in cost with inflation.

WHEREAS, postal mailing still can be a more viable means of communication at a time when stakeholders are bombarded with electronic communication; and,

WHEREAS, conducting physical events is becoming more expensive, while requirements for better-access facilities reduce the options for meetings, plus facility leasing/rents are skyrocketing; and,

WHEREAS, in 2003 First Class postage was 37¢, which after inflation would be equivalent to 61¢ today and the actual cost is 63¢, which is a 70% increase in postage cost over 19 years, while the general inflation was a little less at 63%; and,

WHEREAS, there is Form 700 from the Fair Political Practices Commission in California that for Los Angeles must be completed by members of Boards and Commissions that spend \$70,000 or more and this threshold has not been increased with inflation;

THEREFORE, the Woodland Hills Issues and Policies Committee recommends that the Board of the Woodland Hills – Warner Center Neighborhood Council resolve to formally request that Council Member Bob Blumenfeld, as Chair of the City Council's Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee to advocate and work with other members of the City Council for restoration of budget parity for neighborhood councils as part of the City Budget and work to increase the

threshold for waiving the filing of Form 700 to accommodate neighborhood council members, who are only volunteers.