

MOTION EDUCATION & NEIGHBORHOODS

FEB 20 2009

On January 13, 2009, the City Council acted to require all individual Neighborhood Council board members who initiate a Neighborhood Council File to fill out a financial disclosure document Form 54. However, it is important to note that the Ethics Commission, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, or its staffs, were not provided a copy of Form 54 to review prior to its submission and approval by City Council on January 13, 2009, and thus had no opportunity to comment.

Prior to this date, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, working in tandem with the Ethics Commission and its staff, was asked to review Form 52 and Form 53, which were submitted to the Ethics Commission for consideration.

Over a period of three months, in response to this request, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners held public hearings, conducted four Town Hall Meetings, and implemented a Neighborhood Council system-wide survey regarding the pros and cons of Forms 52 and 53.

A report issued by the Ethics Commission comparing Form 54 with Form 700, raises legitimate concerns in that Form 54 has the potential to inject severe morale problems into the entire Neighborhood Council system by demanding broad and onerous financial disclosure before a neighborhood council can submit a Neighborhood Council File to the City Council.

While there is a need for appropriate financial disclosure to prevent conflicts of interest, it may be that the Form 54, as adopted, is not the best tool to achieve this purpose.

On February 3, 2009, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners unanimously requested that the City Council revisit its decision and direct the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners to collaborate with the Ethics Commission to replace Form 54 with a form that meets City Ethics Commission guidelines in order to achieve the twin goals of ensuring transparency and fostering public participation.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Ethics Commission be requested to report on the feasibility of replacing the recently adopted Form 54 financial disclosure document with an alternate form that meets City Council and City Ethics Commission guidelines for all individual Neighborhood Council board members who initiate a Neighborhood Council File.

PRESENTED BY *Janice Hahn*
JANICE HAHN
Councilwoman, 15th District

SECONDED BY *[Signature]*

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