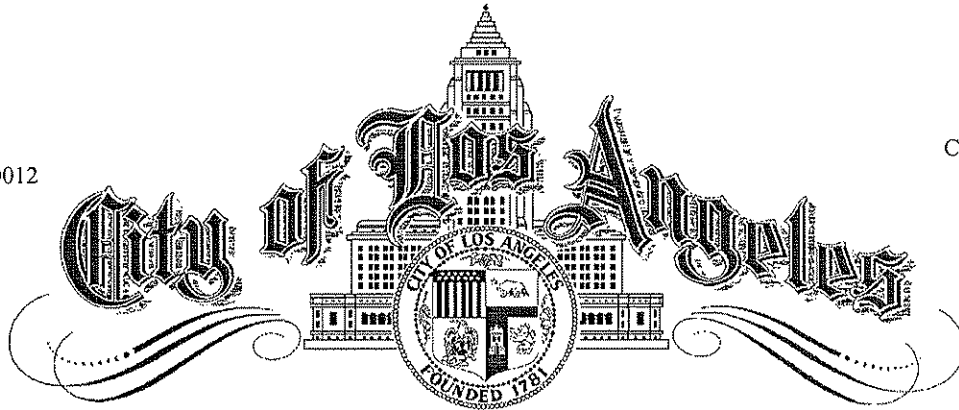


City Hall East
200 N. Main Street
Room 800
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(213) 978-8100 Tel
(213) 978-8312 Fax
CTrutanich@lacity.org
www.lacity.org/atty



CARMEN A. TRUTANICH
City Attorney

March 13, 2013

The Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Villaraigosa:

My Office has been contacted by the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates, who understand that the Mayor's budget proposal for the 2013/14 fiscal year will again recommend a reduction in the allocation to neighborhood councils. Specifically, I have been advised that the proposed annual allocation to each neighborhood council may be reduced, and that from this annual sum, each neighborhood council will be required to pay for the costs to conduct its neighborhood council elections. In short, this means that there will be a significant decline in the amount of funds provided to each neighborhood council in order to conduct their very important and essential affairs. Moreover, the possible new cuts to the neighborhood council budgets will come at a time when the City's overall financial health, based on all economic indicators, is improving.

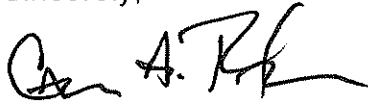
I am writing to urge you to provide full funding to all neighborhood councils that will enable them to carry out their City Charter-mandated functions, including the costs of conducting their elections. As you are aware, since 2009, there have been drastic cuts to both the budget and staffing of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, as well as to the funds provided to the neighborhood councils. Moreover, I know that you are aware of the line of legal authority that concludes that constitutionally-required activities of government cannot be so de-funded as to materially impair and render their intended duties incapable of appropriate performance. This Office believes that neighborhood councils fall squarely within that category of government activities that should be fully funded.

Mayor Villaraigosa
March 13, 2013
Page 2

At this time, I understand that the Mayor's budget for fiscal year 2013/14 has yet not been finalized. As such, the concerns that have been conveyed to me by various neighborhood councils may be premature and hopefully, may not be an issue when your final budget recommendations are issued in April 2013. I simply hope and intend that this letter informs your decisions.

I am available to meet and discuss this matter at your convenience. Thank you for your consideration of my comments and concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carmen A. Trutanich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carmen" being more prominent.

Carmen A. Trutanich
City Attorney

Cc: The Honorable Herb Wesson, President, Los Angeles City Council
The Honorable Paul Krekorian, Councilman, Chair, Budget and Finance
Miguel A. Santana, City Administrative Officer