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Resolution on Separate Legal Representation  
for DONE and Neighborhood Councils (agenda item 15 c ii)  
Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council  
May 12, 2020 Board Meeting

While the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's interests should be to support Neighborhood Councils, in practice, DONE pursues interests that often differ substantially from those of specific Neighborhood Councils and NCs generally.

DONE's interests are often in direct conflict with those of a Neighborhood Council, particularly when the point of conflict escalates to the point of requiring attorney involvement. Therefore, having the same attorneys represent both parties may pose an irreconcilable conflict of interest.

At the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council, matters of conflict have included such issues as

- Brown Act enforcement;
- data security and privacy standards;
- website accessibility and responsible password usage;
- vendor standards and compliance with Council resolutions;
- methods of handling potential conflicts of interest;
- labor and employment policies, fairness, and transparency;
- appropriate institution and execution of pre-exhaustive efforts;
- methods of addressing theft of Council funds or property; and more.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council that:

No city attorney may provide counsel to DONE and a Neighborhood Council simultaneously. A given attorney may represent one party or the other, but not both. There should be a one-year cooling off period.

We further request that a Council File be created to address this issue.

**YES: 7**

**NO: 4**

**ABSTENTION: 1**

**INELIGIBLE: 1**

**ABSENT: 3**