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Anti-Corruption and Transparency Committee Special Meeting Minutes

Saturday, October 17, 2020 @ 10:30am

Zoom Virtual Meeting

1. Discussion of the Committee, its intended mission, values, goals, and scope
Student attendees: Mariana Garcia, Adriana Perez, and Ejazulhaq Hossaini.
Goals: Transparency, discussion, and understanding. Government accountability and responsiveness
Scope: recognition that these are sensitive topics. Focus on city, budget, and neighborhood
Committee Tools: Freedom of Information requests, filing Community Impact Statements (CIS)
2. Committee member signup: Lou Caravella, Matthew Quiocho
3. Selection of Committee chair: Lou Caravella
4. Discussion of Committee's transparency policy and public availability of meeting agendas and minutes
Post minutes to centralsanpedronc.org. Free distribution of press releases when needed.
5. Issues for understanding, discussion, and possible future action:
 - a. The ongoing federal corruption probe of City Hall and the 34-count indictment against the former District 14 Councilmember
 - b. Efforts to reform pay-for-play real estate deals between developers and City Hall
How many people are on LA City Council PLUM Committee? Do we need minimum number of members?
Consider campaign finance or election reform.
Review the current Council Files on corruption: 20-0608, 20-0980, and 20-1044
Follow up on City Council's establishment of Anti-Corruption and Transparency Committee
 - c. Vendor/labor issues arising from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's termination of Neighborhood Council minute-takers
Transparency into the process of terminating a vendor
Process of termination. Written warnings. New training.
Research if there have been similar terminations. Research SF Valley minute-taker.
Review what we've done so far and what other NCs have done.
Broader labor rights issues in play. Focus on fairness and due process and policies rather than personalities or particular individuals. Was termination fair and based on cause?

Research fair employment policies used by similar government bodies.
Whose employee is a vendor? Under what circumstances can DONE interfere and fire vendors?

d. The judgment fining the City \$2.5 million for abuse of discovery by the City Attorney's Office in its Department of Water and Power lawsuit

What responses have been made to this issue? Have there been any terminations or sanctions?

What are the City Attorney's Office policies on hiring outside counsel?

How common is it for a City Attorney's Office to be fined?

Is the CAO appealing the fine?

6. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Review and research CISs proposed by our colleagues at the Coastal San Pedro NC.

DRAFT CIS in support of council file 20-0608

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council supports the development of an Office of Anti-Corruption and Transparency. This would help discourage any corruption from elected officials and to promote transparency in government. Because most of these actions happen with land use, the motion would allow better oversight of land use, development, and construction processes in the city of Los Angeles and help restore confidence in our planning process.

DRAFT CIS in support of council file 20-0980

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council supports the addition of Article 1.3 to Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code. This would rectify already committed corruption and/or fraud. The motion would provide tools to the City Council to revoke approvals and terminate planning applications that have been affected by corruption or fraud. This would help restore trust in the government.

7. Adjourn