



WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
P.O. Box 64370 Los Angeles CA 90064  
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July 12, 2021

City of Los Angeles  
City Council Redistricting Commission  
200 N. Spring Street  
Room 275  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

ATTN: Frank Cardenas, Executive Director

The attached letter and materials are respectfully submitted by the Westside Neighborhood Council (WNC), as authorized by the WNC Board at its meeting of July 8, 2021.

For the information of the Commission, background information about the WNC is included as an attachment to this letter.

Sincerely,

Terri M. Tippit  
Chair

cc: Board Members, WNC



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July 12, 2021

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

200 N. Spring Street  
Room 275  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**ATTN: Fred Ali, Chair**  
**ATTN: Frank Cardenas, Executive Director**

This letter is respectfully submitted by the Westside Neighborhood Council (WNC)<sup>1</sup>, pursuant to a motion (attached) that was adopted by the WNC at its meeting of July 8, 2021. In addition to this letter, a WNC representative will provide formal public comment at one or more of the public hearings being scheduled by the City of Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission (LACCRC) and listed on the LACCRC website<sup>2</sup>.

The background regarding the boundaries and composition of the Westside Neighborhood Council is provided in the attachment.

It is acknowledged that this letter is being submitted prior to the release of U.S. Census data that will provide the statistical data that will inform the larger city-wide issues to be evaluated by the LACCRC. Nonetheless, this letter is intended to familiarize the LACCRC with: (1) the request; and (2) suggestions of the WNC as you begin that evaluation process and, subsequently, develop the proposed new map boundaries for the city council districts for the next decade. The WNC will, of course, provide additional thoughts once those proposed boundaries have been released to the public for comments.

Please also know that, in approving the action for the submittal of this letter, the WNC was informed by the comprehensive and thoughtful letter dated December 17,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://wncla.org>

<sup>2</sup> <http://redistricting2021.lacity.org/LACCRC/index.html>

2020 (and accompanying analysis) submitted to you by the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association (SOHA) and posted on your website.<sup>3</sup> Since that letter discussed the proposed redistricting of the current Council District 5, comments from the WNC about the suggestions in that letter are appropriate.

## **LACCRC PURPOSE AND CRITERIA**

The stated purpose and criteria adopted by the LACCRC and posted on the LACCRC website are integral to the WNC statements set forth later in this letter. The three (3) criteria of specific interest to the WNC are highlighted.

### **LACCRC Core Purpose**

*To independently draw proposed Los Angeles City Council District boundaries based on census data that will allocate constituents proportionately while also accounting for the unique histories, experiences and interests of communities, such that those interests will have the highest probability of being served by elected representatives and the City of Los Angeles.*

### **LACCRC Criteria**

1. *Each district shall be substantially equal in total population to the other districts.*
2. *Districts shall comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965.*
3. *Districts shall be geographically contiguous.*
4. *The geographic integrity of neighborhoods and communities of interest shall be kept intact to the extent feasible.*
5. *Districts shall be drawn utilizing natural boundaries and streets and to encourage geographic compactness to the extent feasible.*
6. *Besides the above criteria, districts shall not be drawn for purposes of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.*

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<sup>3</sup> ([https://ens.lacity.org/cla/agendamaterial/claagendamaterial3222146354\\_12182020.pdf](https://ens.lacity.org/cla/agendamaterial/claagendamaterial3222146354_12182020.pdf)).

## WNC REQUEST—PRIORITY

**The priority request of the WNC is that the historical practice, i.e., that the entirety of the WNC neighborhood/business areas (see attachment) are all located within the same City Council district, be continued for the redistricting decision to be based on the 2020 census. This request is consistent with criteria # 3, # 4 and # 5 above.**

Referring to the historical maps available on the LACCRC website:

- The redistricting decisions made after the **1970 census** and the **1980 census** placed the entirety of the communities that now form the WNC within Council District 5, with Sepulveda Blvd. as a western boundary.
- The redistricting decision made after the **1990 census** divided our communities.<sup>4</sup> A significant portion of our community was removed from Council District 5. Instead, a small portion was located within Council District 11 (paired with the communities of Westdale, Sawtelle, Brentwood and Pacific Palisades) and a larger portion was located within Council District 6 (paired with the Palms, Mar Vista and Westchester communities to the south and southwest). The Westwood, Rancho Park and Cheviot Hill communities continued to be part of Council District 5. Those of us who lived in these communities in the 1990s remember well the periodic frustration faced when pursuing common interests with three (3) different City Council representatives and office staffs.
- The redistricting decision made after the **2000 census, concurrent with the formation of the WNC**, once again unified the entire WNC area, all within CD 5.
- The redistricting decision made after the **2010 census** continued the unification of the entire WNC area, all within CD 5. The current City Council district map is included with this letter as attachment # 3, with the WNC area outlined in **RED**.

The placement of the entire WNC area within the same Council district is not only consistent with criteria # 3, # 4 and # 5 but also with the decisions made after the 2000 census that recognized the unity of interests served by the single WNC. The historical fact is that the core sections of the WNC area were established in the

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<sup>4</sup> See: <http://redistricting2021.lacity.org/LACCRC/maps/CD1993.pdf>

1920s-1940s period as the anchor to the north – UCLA – began its evolution. Many of the residents in the WNC area have had direct connections to UCLA (as faculty, staff and alumni/ae). Due to that common bond, the WNC area is known for having a cohesive and holistic approach to its common interests -- economic, commercial, cultural, educational and more. Consequently, placing all of the WNC area in the same council district would be fully consistent with criteria # 4.

## **WNC OBSERVATION – OVERALL REDISTRICTING**

The WNC acknowledges the enormity of the task assigned to the LACCRC to decide upon the boundary lines for 15 Council Districts to serve a citywide population of more than 4.0 million, with an approximate allocation of perhaps 275,000 residents per council district.

Having reviewed the aforementioned letter of December 17, 2020 to the LACCRC from the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association, the WNC agrees fully that the interests of our neighbors in that region of the City of Los Angeles deserve significant changes from the redistricting decisions made after the 2010 census that, for the SOHA, unfortunately mirrored the unkind decisions made for our communities after the 1990 census, as described above.

The SOHOA letter also suggests a continuation of interests, particularly transportation-related concerns, between it and the communities immediately south of the Santa Monica Mountains.

The WNC acknowledges the importance of these transportation-related concerns but the WNC also believes that the LACCRC should look at the entirety and similarity of the concerns facing our westside communities, including the communities of West Los Angeles, Westdale, Sawtelle, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades as well as Westwood/North Westwood, Holmby Hills and Bel-Air. A single City Council district being established to serve as an umbrella of these communities may be a more logical approach, with our neighbors north of the Santa Monica Mountains being served by a separate council district located completely north of Mulholland Drive. This sentiment, in our opinion, would fulfill criteria # 4 and # 5 above.

Specifically, the WNC believes that the Santa Monica Mountains and Mulholland Drive provide a natural northern boundary, consistent with your criteria # 5 above. The coupling of the entire WNC area with the Westwood/North Westwood areas in one district would also recognize the historical fact that these areas have evolved together during the past nine decades.

The southern boundary of the district could be the southern boundary of the WNC (National Blvd./Santa Monica Freeway) instead of the current southern boundary of Venice Blvd. (city limit with Culver City).

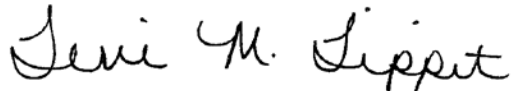
At the same time, one might debate whether the communities of Westchester, Mar Vista, and Palms might find more commonality of interest with communities further east. Certainly, differing views are likely to ensue regarding the specific streets for boundary lines, particularly once the population statistics and demographic factors are applied to your efforts.

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As noted earlier, this letter is being submitted prior to the availability of U.S. census data that will be integral to the LACCRC discussions. We look forward to having the opportunity in the future to provide further comments once that the population and mapping datasets are publicly available and, further, once proposed boundaries have been suggested by the LACCRC for the council districts.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this letter.

Sincerely,



Terri M. Tippit  
Chair, Westside Neighborhood Council

cc: Board Members, Westside Neighborhood Council

**Attachments (3):**

- WNC Motion of July 8, 2021
- WNC Background/Description
- Current Los Angeles City Council District Map / Outline of WNC Area



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## MOTION REGARDING REDISTRICTING

**WHEREAS** four different public entities are currently engaged in redistricting efforts following the completion of the 2020 U.S. Census;

**WHEREAS** the **Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission** is considering new boundaries for the 15 City Council districts;

**WHEREAS** the **Los Angeles Unified School District Redistricting Commission** is considering new boundaries for the seven (7) districts of the Los Angeles Unified School system;

**WHEREAS** the **Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission** is considering new boundaries for the five (5) County supervisorial districts; and

**WHEREAS** the **California Citizens Redistricting Commission** is considering new boundaries for: (a) the 50+ U.S. House of Representative districts in California; (b) the 40 California State Senate districts; (c) the 80 California State Assembly districts; and (d) the four (4) California State Board of Equalization districts.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the **Westside Neighborhood Council** hereby approves the following motion in regard to these efforts:

1. THAT the highest priority request to be submitted by the Westside Neighborhood Council to each of the aforementioned entities is that the entirety of each and every residential neighborhood and business area within the Westside Neighborhood Council should be assigned on an integrated basis to the same, i.e., single, district, with no subdivision of any portion of the Westside Neighborhood Council between two or more districts being considered by the entity;

2. THAT an additional priority of the Westside Neighborhood Council be also to request that each entity, in its deliberations regarding boundaries to be established, consider the common interests of the area covered by the Westside Neighborhood Council with other neighborhoods to the north, including Westwood/North Westwood, Westwood Village, Bel-Air and Holmby Hills, as well as the neighborhoods located to the west, including, but not necessarily limited to, the Westside Village/Westdale/West Los Angeles, Sawtelle, Brentwood and Pacific Palisades communities;

3. THAT each of the four redistricting entities listed above be asked, in its deliberation regarding boundaries, to recognize the importance of maintaining a cohesive and holistic approach for the common interests – economic, commercial, cultural, educational -- of the aforementioned communities, acknowledging that these communities have in large part been influenced by the faculty, staff, students and alumni/ae of UCLA (and their families) wishing to live in close proximity to the Westwood campus since its opening in 1929; and

4. THAT the Chair of the Westside Neighborhood Council be authorized to: (a) transmit this motion, together with a specific description of the residential communities and business areas that comprise the Westside Neighborhood Council, to each of the forementioned redistricting entities by formal communication; and (b) provide additional public comment on behalf of the Westside Neighborhood Council at any public outreach session or public comment meeting conducted by any or all of such entities.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Westside Neighborhood Council at its regular meeting of July 8, 2021.**



## Background re The Westside Neighborhood Council

The Westside Neighborhood Council is a City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council established pursuant to City of Los Angeles Charter Measure 1 that was approved in the City election of June 1999. The most recent bylaws for the WNC were approved on February 2, 2021.

The boundaries of the WNC are defined in Section 1 of the bylaws:

- I. **NORTH** by Santa Monica Boulevard;
- II. **EAST** by a border including the properties fronting on the eastern side Century Park East from Santa Monica Boulevard to Pico Boulevard then westerly along Pico Boulevard then southerly along Motor Avenue then along Monte Mar Drive southeasterly then southerly along Anchor Avenue extending past Anchor Avenue's cul-de-sac to connect with Club Drive until Club Drive connects with National Boulevard;
- III. **SOUTH** by a border of National Boulevard extending from the San Diego Freeway (405) to Overland Boulevard, then southerly along Overland Boulevard to the Santa Monica Freeway (10), then easterly along the Santa Monica Freeway (10) to the National Boulevard exit; and
- IV. **WEST** by the San Diego Freeway (405).

The **residential** interests of households located within the WNC boundaries are represented by WNC seats filled by representatives of the following seven (7) homeowner associations, approximately shown on the first of the two attached City of Los Angeles maps:

### **North of Pico Blvd:**

1. Westwood South of Santa Monica Blvd. HOA (WNC seats 7, 18)
2. Overland Avenue Community HOA (WNC seats 7,18)
3. Century Glen HOA (WNC seat 10)
4. Century City Residential areas (WNC seat 11)

### **South of Pico Blvd.:**

1. West of Westwood HOA (WNC seat 8)
2. Westwood Gardens Civic Association (WNC seat 9)
3. Cheviot Hills HOA (WNC seat 12)
4. California Country Club Homes Association HOA (WNC seat 13)

The interests of **for-profit business** entities located within the WNC boundaries are represented by seven WNC seats filled by representatives from the areas shown on the second of the two attached maps (WNC seats 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 19).

The interests of **non-profit and other entities** located within the WNC boundaries are represented by four WNC seats filled by representatives appointed by local religious institutions (WNC seat 14), schools (WNC seat 15), other non-profit organizations (WNC seat 16) and at-large concerns (WNC seat 17).



**WEST AREA**  
COUNCIL DISTRICT 5  
**WESTSIDE NC**  
**RESIDENTIAL**

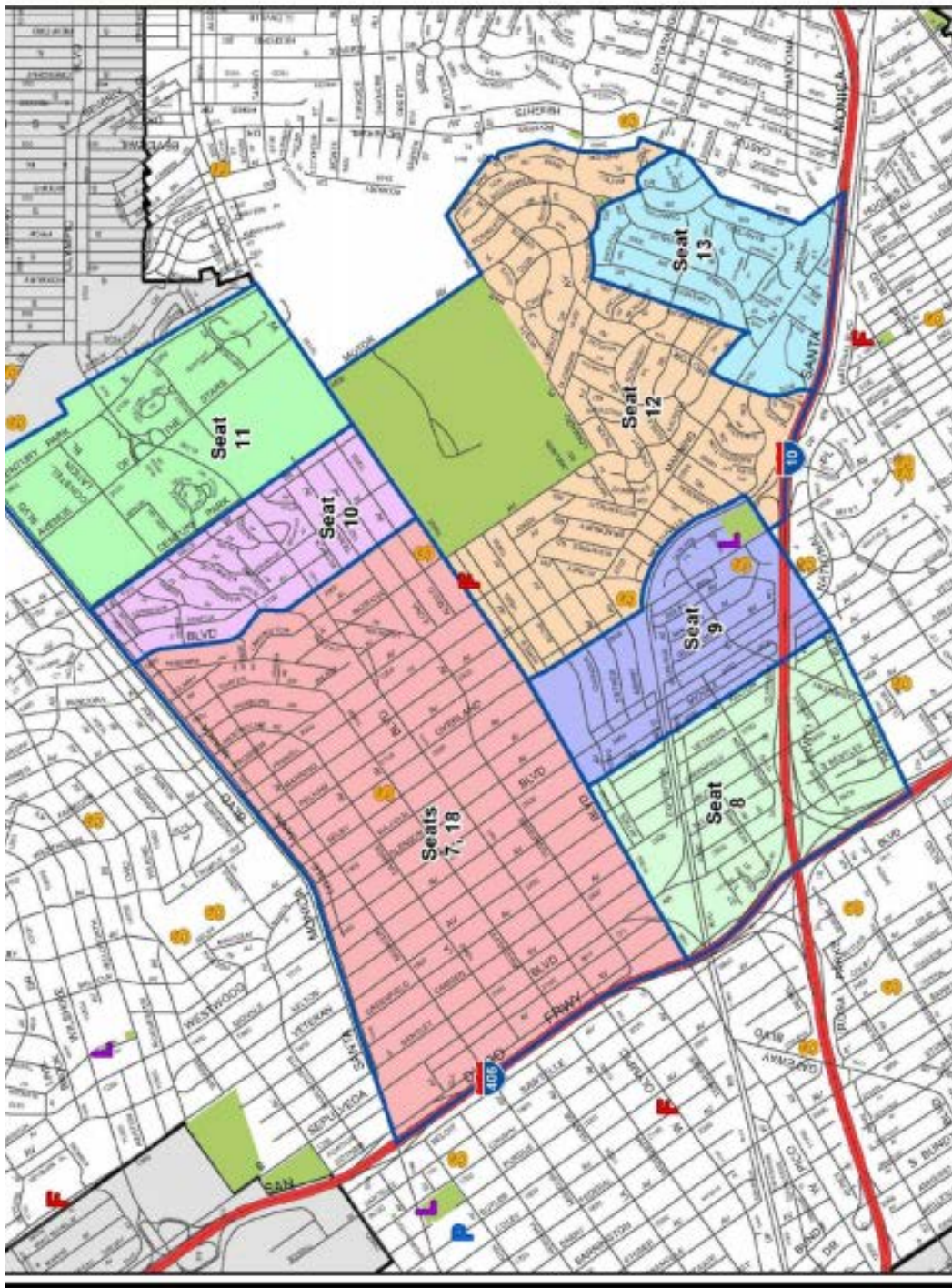
Certified: 06/04/2002  
Department of  
Neighborhood Empowerment  
(213) 778-3551 or Dial 311  
[www.Engpower.org](http://www.Engpower.org)  
(811) [www.Engpower.org](http://www.Engpower.org)

- Residential Districts**
- Seat 10
  - Seat 11
  - Seat 12
  - Seat 13
  - Seat 7, 18
  - Seat 8
  - Seat 8
  - Seat 8

- School
- Library
- Fire Station
- Police Station
- Street
- Freeway
- Parks
- Water
- City Boundary



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**WESTSIDE - RESIDENTIAL**  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES



**ENGINEERING**  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
GARY LEE MOORE, P.  
CITY ENGINEER



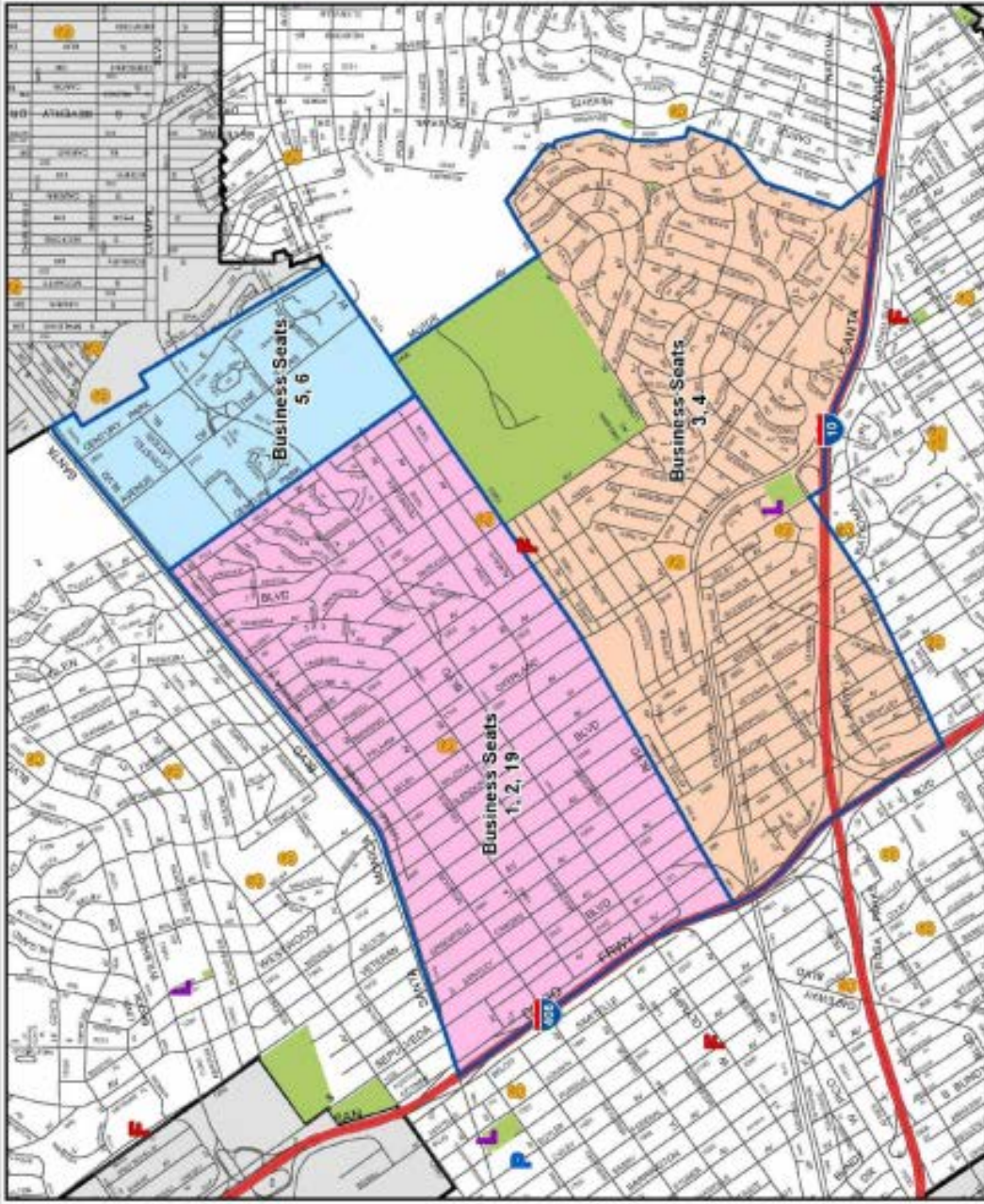
**WEST AREA**  
COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

**WESTSIDE NC  
BUSINESS**

Certified: 06/04/2002  
Department of  
Neighborhood Improvement  
(313) 973-1551 or dial 311  
www.Improvement.La.org  
(Map/Service2/Improved.La.org)

- Business Districts**
- Seats 1, 2, 19
  - Seats 3, 4
  - Seats 5, 6
  - School
  - Library
  - Fire Station
  - Police Station
  - Street
  - Freeway
  - Parks
  - Water
  - City Boundary

NOT TO SCALE  
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**WESTSIDE - BUSINESS**  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES



CURRENT CITY COUNCIL MAP – WNC AREA OUTLINED IN RED

