



December 15, 2022

Councilman John S. Lee  
9207 Oakdale Avenue, Suite 200  
Chatsworth, CA 91311

REQUEST to Open Council File

SUBJECT: Council File to Reform City Charter / Neighborhood Councils / Department of  
Neighborhood Empowerment

Dear Councilman Lee:

The North Hills West Neighborhood Council is requesting that you open a Council File to include the Neighborhood Council System as part of the Charter reform movement now taking place within our City. We also request that any commission or body devised to reform the Neighborhood Council System be composed of Board Members from as many of the Neighborhood Councils as respond to at least two invitations to designate at least one representative each ensure that the voice and the will of the Board Members and stakeholders are heard.

Our Neighborhood Council specifically, and other Neighborhood Councils generally, have raised concerns at the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC), Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) and other meetings regarding their dissatisfaction with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) vis- a-vis Neighborhood Councils. DONE has consistently and persistently thwarted the efforts of Neighborhood Councils to obtain timely and pertinent information to advance the mission of Neighborhood Councils as community representatives and advocates. In short, DONE has acted to impose its will upon Neighborhood Councils, which is contrary to its established role according to the current City Charter. Therefore, any Charter reform must analyze and evaluate the role, if any, that DONE plays in the future of the Neighborhood Council System.

The North Hills West Neighborhood Council approved this request by a vote of \*\* Yeas, \*\* Nays, and \*\* Abstain at its December 15, 2022 General Board Meeting as duly posted in accordance with the Brown Act.

Sincerely,  
North Hills West Neighborhood Council