

January 19, 2023

Dear Raquel Beltran, DONE General Manager, BONC, Deputy City Attorney Ayelet Feiman, and City Councilmember John Lee:

The NHWNC Bylaws were approved by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) on June 7, 2022. The North Hills West Neighborhood Council (NHWNC) is currently defending itself against a Grievance because DONE says that the NHWNC did not do something which is not in the NHWNC Bylaws. The NHWNC Bylaws require that three NHWNC Board Members request that a censure consideration be agendized so that it may be discussed and voted upon. DONE says that the "movant(s)" of a censure motion must be named in the agendized censure item. However, nowhere in the Bylaws does it state that the identity of those three Board Members must be disclosed to agendize the matter. In fact, the word "movant" is non-existent in the DONE-approved NHWNC Bylaws and also non-existent in the BONC Censure policy provided to the NHWNC following the initiation of a Censure process. This caused controversy, confusion, and frustration and contributed to the NHWNC having to respond to a Grievance that might otherwise have been avoided. The NHWNC acted in good faith regarding the censure motion considered at its October 20, 2022, Board meeting precisely because DONE approved the NHWNC Bylaws. DONE retroactively created or applied a rule that is not in the Bylaws they themselves approved.

DONE erred in revisions it made to the NHWNC Bylaws that it approved on June 7, 2022, and should remedy this situation by holding the NHWNC harmless from defending itself from any procedural Grievance arising from its reliance on its DONE-approved Bylaws. We respectfully request that DONE dismiss the Grievance lodged against the NHWNC.

If the Grievance is allowed, the NHWNC does not believe it is possible to convene a fair and unbiased Grievance panel, given the unfavorable light that has been placed on the NHWNC at such citywide meetings as the BONC meetings of November 1st and 21st, 2022, whereby a number of people made public accusations against the NHWNC in an apparent attempt to try this Grievance in the court of public opinion.