



Grievance Determination

Grievant's Name: Baila Romm

Neighborhood Council: South Robertson Neighborhood Council

Grievance Number: 243

Complainant Alleges Violation of the Following: Any other City code, executive directive, rule or regulation applicable to Neighborhood Councils.

Date Received: July 22, 2020

Date of Department Review: August 3, 2020

GRIEVANCE-PROCESS:

The Department reviews all Grievances to determine whether the Grievance conforms to the Grievance Policy. Upon a determination that a Grievance conforms to the Policy, the Department certifies the Grievance and notifies the affected Neighborhood Council that the Grievance may proceed through the Grievance process established herein. The certification of a Grievance by the Department shall not be construed as a statement regarding the validity or invalidity of the Grievance. If a determination is made that the grievance has merit, a notification is sent to the Neighborhood Council in question describing the suggested remedy.

Dear, Mr. Romm:

Thank you for contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) via the [Grievance Portal](#) relative to your grievance against the South Robertson Neighborhood Council on July 22, 2020. The Neighborhood Council Grievance process is, in general, authorized to address alleged violations of the Neighborhood Council's rules, Los Angeles City ordinances regarding the Neighborhood Council system, Neighborhood Council funding rules from the City Clerk, or policies of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment or Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC). The jurisdiction of complaints that are reviewed under the Neighborhood Council Grievance process is limited in scope. For example, the Neighborhood Council Grievance process is prohibited from addressing allegations against individual board members or addressing violations of State or Federal law.

Your grievance alleges:

1. (A), "Brown Act Violations: Public Comment was not uniformly applied and the SORO NC Board favored those who spoke of De-funding the Police and against the CIS; During Public Comment Board Members engaged in intimidation and public ridicule by using body language and making facings demonstrating their disdain for the speakers who were in support of the CIS thus an infringement on the Speakers 1st Amendment right to free speech by creating a hostile environment for other speakers not to speak due to fear of intimidation and possible doxing; Allowing Board members to interrupt Public Comment for debate; SORO NC Board Members were making comments in the Chat on Zoom. I believe that is a violation of the Brown Act"

RESPONSE: The allegations above are considered to be outside of the jurisdiction of the grievance process. The Neighborhood Council Grievance process is prohibited from addressing violations of

State law. While the jurisdiction of your complaint under the Neighborhood Council Grievance process is limited in scope, your concerns will be forwarded to the Neighborhood Empowerment who works with the South Robertson Neighborhood Council so that the matter can be addressed with the Chair.

After carefully reviewing your grievance, the Department found that the allegations in your grievance are matters pertaining to issues outside of the jurisdiction of the Grievance process and therefore are prohibited from being addressed through the Neighborhood Council Grievance process. Accordingly, this grievance is closed.

Thank you for bringing this issue to the Department's attention. I hope the Department's description of the Neighborhood Council's Grievance process of the rules provides clarification of the circumstances in question.

Respectfully,