



Grievance Determination

Grievant's Name: Valerie Hanley

Neighborhood Council: Historic Cultural North Neighborhood Council

Grievance Number: 261

Complainant Alleges Violation of the Following: Neighborhood Council Bylaw; Article VIII: Section 1A

Date Received: October 16, 2020

Date of Department Review: October 23, 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, Ms. Hanley:

Thank you for contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) via the [Grievance Portal](#) relative to your grievance against the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council on October 16, 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. "Regular Meetings – Regular HCNNC meetings shall be held throughout each calendar year. Each calendar year should hold at least nine (9) meetings and may be held more frequently as determined by the Board."

"As of September 16, 2020, HCNNC held only 2 regular meetings during the calendar year: on January and February 2020. Four regular meetings in a row were canceled: June, July, August, and September of 2020. (Note: On September 15, 2020, the board failed to provide notice of the regular meeting scheduled for September 18, 2020, effectively cancelling that regular meeting.) This is in addition to the meetings in the spring that were canceled due to COVID. It has been 8 months since the board has held a regular meeting. HCNNC is clearly in violation of the requirement to hold regular meetings "throughout each calendar year."

RESPONSE: The allegations above are considered to be within the jurisdiction of the grievance process. The Neighborhood Council will be made aware of this matter and pursuant to the Grievance Process Policy; the grievance will bypass consideration by the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council Board. The Department will convene a Regional Grievance Panel and forward the grievance to a Regional Grievance Panel for consideration.

Notices related to your grievance will be sent to you via email to the email address that you provided to us in your grievance,

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,