



Grievance Determination

Grievant's Name: Anne-Marie Johnson

Neighborhood Council: Silver Lake

Grievance Number: 274

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

Date Received: December 21, 2020

Date of Department Review: January 6, 2020

Dear, Ms. Johnson:

Thank you for contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) via the Grievance Portal relative to your grievance against the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council on December 21, 2020

OVERVIEW OF 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 meets the eligibility requirements as prescribed in the ordinance, a notification will be sent to the Neighborhood Council in question describing the next steps and suggested remedy.

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:

"The December 20, 2020 SLNC Governing board meeting agenda was posted as a "Special Board Meeting". Under the Brown Act and Empower LA., "Special Meetings are held to deal with specific business so urgent it cannot wait until the next regularly scheduled meeting. The Brown Act requires that Special Meeting agendas be posted 24 hours in advance. Special meetings are not a safety net for regular meetings that did not get posted on time"

RESPONSE: The allegation above is 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 Advocate who works with the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council so that the matter can be addressed with the Chair and with the City Attorney

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,