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HARBOR GATEWAY NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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September 14, 2022

Councilmember Joe Buscaino
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson
City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 22-0560 (Municipal Lobbying Ordinance/Updates)

Dear Councilmembers Buscaino and Harris-Dawson:

On August 9, 2022, our Board voted x-x-x to support Council File 22-0560, which would update the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance to include the same disclosure when a lobbyist makes an oral presentation or public comment to “City personnel” (which would also include Neighborhood Councils) as is presently required for written communications. The Municipal Lobbying Ordinance 48.08.8 has not been comprehensively updated since 1994 and the suggested updates have been reviewed and recommended for approval by the City’s Ethics Commission on April 20, 2022. We ask that you urge City Council President Nury Martinez to schedule this item in the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee for a hearing as soon as possible. The update would form section 48.11 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code and would require the lobbyist to make a spoken disclaimer at the beginning of verbal communications or a conspicuously printed disclaimer for written communications when attempting to influence City matters.

In addition, we would also like to suggest a similar lobbying disclosure for City Council and City Council committee meetings. This announcement could either be done by the lobbyist or by the presiding officer of the meeting in order to ensure that the public is fully aware of the associations of all speakers who are paid lobbyists. Neighborhood Council members frequently listen to or attend City Council meetings or recordings of the meetings and we strongly feel that this addition would bring greater transparency to Council deliberations. We urge the City Council to adopt this minor change.

We also would like to see the City Council adopt a lower dollar amount for exempting non-profits who lobby Neighborhood Councils and suggest exempting those with no more than \$200,000 in revenue or \$500,000 in assets instead of the proposed \$2,000,000. This change would reflect the current San Francisco ethics ordinance. The current recommendation of \$2,000,000 in revenue is far too high and would exempt the vast majority of nonprofits based in Southern California.

Sincerely,

Miguel Vazquez, Chairperson
Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council

cc: Councilmember Nury Martinez, President of the City Council
Laura Hill, Senior Legislative and Transportation Deputy – Council District 15