



Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Chuck Reed
Councilmember Judy Chirco
Councilmember Nancy Pyle

**SUBJECT: NEIGHBORHOODS
COMMISSION**

DATE: 09-20-07

Approved

Chuck Reed

Date

Judy Chirco

Nancy Pyle

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the staff recommendation to create a new Neighborhoods Commission as a two-year pilot project subject to approval of the commission work plan and with the following conditions:

1. The Neighborhoods Commission will not duplicate the mission or work of any existing commission, including the Planning Commission, Library Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, or Historic Landmarks Commission;
2. The Neighborhoods Commission is not to be another level of review for land use projects;
3. Until the Neighborhoods Commission annual work plan is completed and approved by Council, no decisions will be made about staffing and budget requirements;
4. Staff is directed to return with an analysis of all existing boards, commissions, and other public bodies, and the costs to staff each, looking at redundancies and opportunities for consolidation, efficiency, and elimination.

BACKGROUND

This concept came from the community and is in keeping with the Council initiated community engagement process for priority setting. The successful work of the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Project Area Committee has led to a desire for an ongoing means for neighborhoods to have a formal voice within City Hall.

Currently, the City has more than 20 boards, commissions, task forces, advisory committees, and other public bodies. We must ensure that a new Neighborhoods Commission does not duplicate existing commissions.

Additionally, each commission or other policy bodies requires committed volunteers, staff time and City funding to operate. The establishment of a new commission provides an opportunity to

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review all of them to analyze whether redundancies exist, missions are outdated, or inefficiencies can be eliminated.

Funding and staffing the new Neighborhoods Commission must be reviewed carefully. The existing mechanisms that have been used to fund the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Project Area Committee may not be available wholly to fund a citywide Neighborhoods Commission.