

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE WESTWOOD FORWARD COALITION
CAMPAIGN TO PETITION THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES TO RECOGNIZE A NEW
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL FOR THE NORTH WESTWOOD REGION**

sponsored by

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WHEREAS, Westwood has the most expensive apartment rental rates in the city of Los Angeles, with the average price of a two-bed apartment soaring to nearly \$4,200,¹

WHEREAS, the city of Los Angeles declared a “state of emergency” on homelessness in September 2015 and homelessness rates in the Westwood area increased by 22-27% from 2016 to 2017,²

WHEREAS, UCLA enrolled an additional 750 freshman students for the 2016-2017 school year and is projected to increase enrollment by approximately 1,500 new undergraduates between 2016 and 2019,³

WHEREAS, UCLA currently has nearly 45,000 undergraduate and graduate students,⁴ all of whom are stakeholders and constituents of the current Westwood Neighborhood Council (WWNC),

WHEREAS, neighborhood councils in the city of Los Angeles serve in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and City Council on budgetary and policy issues impacting their district, such as homelessness, housing, traffic, transportation, community health, and business development,⁵

WHEREAS, the WWNC has opposed the construction of new student housing to accommodate increased student enrollment on the basis that dormitory buildings would degrade the “aesthetic” value of Westwood Village,⁶

¹ Daily Bruin, “Westwood Rent Prices Highest in Los Angeles,” (April 2016)
<http://dailybruin.com/2016/04/08/westwood-rent-prices-highest-in-los-angeles/>

² Daily Bruin, “Homeless count increases from 2016 in City of LA, Westwood,” (June 2017)
<http://dailybruin.com/2017/06/02/homeless-count-increases-from-2016-in-city-of-la-westwood/>

³ UCLA Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, “Planning for Undergraduate Enrollment Increases,” (February 2016), <https://evc.ucla.edu/announcements/planning-undergraduate-enrollment-increases>

⁴ UCLA Office of Undergraduate Admission, “Quick Facts About UCLA” <http://admission.ucla.edu/campusprofile.htm>

⁵ City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, “About Neighborhood Councils,”
<http://empowerla.org/about-neighborhood-councils/>

⁶ Daily Bruin, “Westwood Neighborhood Council recap – Sept. 14,” (September 2017)
<http://dailybruin.com/2017/09/16/westwood-neighborhood-council-recap-sept-14-2/>

WHEREAS, the WWNC has repeatedly prioritized the “aesthetics” of the Village over the need for housing by opposing several previous attempts by UCLA and private developers to construct more housing in the area,⁷⁸⁹

WHEREAS, the WWNC has stifled business in the Village by impeding the ability of new businesses to access necessary permits, including targeting an Iranian immigrant for his supposed lack of English proficiency,¹⁰

WHEREAS, the WWNC has operated in an undemocratic manner by previously voting to extend their own term lengths from two to four years, even though this would make it almost impossible for UCLA students to run for a WWNC seat,¹¹

WHEREAS, the WWNC has displayed a lack of constituent engagement by choosing a polling location that is south of Wilshire and therefore inaccessible to students; only 496 people voted in the 2016 WWNC elections, with 5 members getting elected with 10 or less votes,¹²

WHEREAS, the WWNC has consistently displayed disrespectful behavior towards students, including shouting them down during public comment,

WHEREAS, the WWNC has displayed classist tendencies by stating that student and renter opinions do not matter as much as those of homeowners who own “\$4 million” properties,¹³

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles City Council implemented Ordinance 12-1681 in September 2016 such that residents of the city of Los Angeles have the right to petition for a neighborhood subdivision and establish a new neighborhood council for their area,¹⁴

⁷ Westwood Neighborhood Council, “June 15, 2011 Meeting Minutes,” (June 2011)
<http://wwnc.org/assets/agenda-minutes/Minutes-06152011.pdf>

⁸ Westwood Neighborhood Council, “April 13, 2016 Meeting Minutes,” (April 2016)
<http://wwnc.org/assets/agenda-minutes/Minutes-04132016.pdf>

⁹ Westwood Neighborhood Council, “December 10, 2014 Meeting Minutes,” (December 2014)
<http://wwnc.org/assets/agenda-minutes/Minutes-12102014.pdf>

¹⁰ Daily Bruin, “Westwood business owners struggle to obtain liquor licenses,” (January 2017)
<http://dailybruin.com/2017/01/22/westwood-business-owners-struggle-to-obtain-liquor-licenses/>

¹¹ Westwood Neighborhood Council, “November 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes,” (November 2016)
<http://wwnc.org/assets/agenda-minutes/Minutes-11092016.pdf>

¹² City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, “2016 Neighborhood Council Elections Westwood – Canvass of Votes,”
<https://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/WWNC-2016-Official-Canvass-of-Votes.pdf>

¹³ Daily Bruin, “Westwood community polarized over improving Village nightlife,” (June 2017),
<http://dailybruin.com/2017/06/11/westwood-community-polarized-over-improving-village-nightlife/>

¹⁴ City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, “Neighborhood Council Subdivisions,”
<http://empowerla.org/subdivision/>

WHEREAS, any stakeholder can apply for neighborhood subdivision as long as the boundaries for the new neighborhood council include at least 20,000 stakeholders, a minimum of 200-500 signatures are gathered, and a formal application is submitted,¹⁵

WHEREAS, the Westwood Forward coalition has already established a proposal that includes the aforementioned requirements,

WHEREAS, the Westwood Forward coalition held a community town hall attended by over 45 people on November 16, 2017, and held a second community town hall on November 27, 2017 attended by over 70 community members to solicit further feedback,¹⁶

WHEREAS, the formation of a new neighborhood council would allow students and other community members to have more democratic representation to advocate on issues impacted by local governance.

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) supports Westwood Forward's coalition campaign to petition the city of Los Angeles for a neighborhood subdivision in order to form a new neighborhood council.

Resolution passed January 9, 2018.

¹⁵ City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, "Neighborhood Council Subdivisions," <http://empowerla.org/subdivision/>

¹⁶ Daily Bruin, "Westwood Forward talks proposed new neighborhood council at town hall," (November 2017) <http://dailybruin.com/2017/11/17/westwood-forward-talks-proposed-new-neighborhood-council-at-town-hall/>