

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



**DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES
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To Whom It May Concern:

In a twenty-four hour special meeting of the Board of Directors held on October 11th, 2022, the DLANC board voted to write a letter asking for the resigning or removal of the following Councilmembers: Councilmember Nury Martinez, Councilmember Kevin de León, and Councilmember Gil Cedillo.

Deplorable racist and gerrymandering comments were made by the above Councilmembers during a private redistricting meeting, audibly recorded, and later released by several media outlets. Communities, NGOs, and city/state/federal elected officials have since expressed that such actions do not reflect the spirit of Los Angeles and our goals for a more inclusive city. We believe the incident reported misaligned with the Los Angeles City Charter and Administration Code as well as the Los Angeles Municipal code. Our findings are as follow:

- Los Angeles Charter and Administration Code Volume 1 Article II sec. 209 Code of Conduct of Elected Officials; Censure.

“All elected officials of the City are expected to conform to the highest standards of personal and professional conduct. The Council shall have the power to adopt, by a two-thirds vote, a resolution of censure with respect to any member of the Council whose actions constitute a gross failure to meet such high standards, even if the action does not constitute a ground for removal from office under the Charter.”

- Los Angeles Municipal Code Chapter IV, Article 9.5 SEC. 49.5.1.
 - B (2)

“One of the best ways to attract talented people to public service is to assure that the government is respected for its honesty and integrity; that its decisions are made on the merits, untainted by any consideration of private gain; and that the rules governing their conduct during and after leaving government service are as clear and complete as possible.”

- C (2) “To assure that the governmental process itself promotes fairness and equity for all residents of the City regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.”
- C (4) “To help restore public trust in governmental and electoral institutions.”

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council suffered after the removal of Councilmember Huizar in June of 2020 and functioned without a caretaker or any representation on the city level for multiple months. In that period of time, our neighborhood relied on Councilmember Buscaíno’s goodwill to submit motions for our area and advocate to save one of our pocket parks. Because of this previous experience, our board understands what’s at stake for our community by asking for the removal of two of our representatives, but we furthermore understand what’s at stake for the City of Los Angeles and for the future of our society if we don’t.

Our constituency is made up of many ethnicities of residents, workers, and business owners, including African Americans, people of Oaxacan descent, and Armenians. Neighborhood Councils are the most inclusive form of government, and DLANC in particular has promoted a safe space for our stakeholders and board members where bullying and discrimination are not tolerated.

The City of Los Angeles needs to address not only the actions of our Councilmembers but what it means to be a public servant. A tree cannot grow if the soil is unhealthy and the soil of our society must contain integrity, honesty, equity, morality, transparency, acceptance, and respect if we want our policies to have strong roots and the fruits of our labor to result in a city where everyone feels a sense of belonging, where all are welcome.

Therefore, the DLANC board respectfully advises the involved parties to resign or for the remaining members of the City Council to introduce a motion for removal.

*** Draft letter subjected to approval on October 11, 2022 by the DLANC board of directors***

Sincerely,

Claudia Oliveira
President
DLANC