November 7, 2022

**Re: Community Impact Statement on CF 22-1189: Elected Officials / Offensive Misconducts / Immediate Resignation Demand / Censure**

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 resignation or removal of the following

Councilmembers: Councilmember Nury Martinez, Councilmember Kevin de León, and

Councilmember Gil Cedillo. At the time the letter was written there was no Council File existing to show our stance, however, since our special meeting Council File 22-1189: Elected Officials / Offensive Misconducts / Immediate Resignation Demand / Censure was approved by City Council.

At our regularly held public meeting on November 7, 2022 the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) voted to attach the original drafted letter from October 11th, 2022 which is below:

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council submits this Community Impact Statement

**in support** of Council File 22-1189: Elected Officials / Offensive Misconducts / Immediate Resignation Demand / Censure was approved by City Council.

This week, we learned of the deplorable racist comments and gerrymandering strategies made

by the Councilmembers listed above during a private redistricting meeting, which was captured

by audio recording, and later posted on the news aggregation website Reddit. 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 was misaligned with the Los Angeles City Charter and Administration Code as well as

the Los Angeles Municipal Code. Our findings are as follows:

● 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 and functioned without a caretaker

or any representation on the city level for multiple months previously. 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 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.

Sincerely,

Claudia Oliveira

President

DLANC

\* SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY DLANC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON November 7, 2022\*

Sincerely,

Claudia Oliveira Jehan Reagan,

President, Chair,

DLANC Government Liaison Committee

Cc: Council District 14 (via email)