

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1866 (In Historic Solano Canyon) opposes the proposed subdivision of the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council. As representatives of Solano Canyon, we believe that this application is replete with falsehoods, misrepresentations, and cynical attempts to divide the historic core of Los Angeles. It is entirely inconsistent with the founding principals of the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council as founded in 2003 by the community leaders of the Arts District, Little Tokyo, Historic El Pueblo, Solano Canyon, Victor Heights and Chinatown. Originally, we understood that some members of the Chinatown caucus within the HCNC wanted to consider a separate neighborhood council for Chinatown; then we were informed the subdivision would be taking three adjacent communities, to the detriment of the smaller, adjoining residential communities of Solano Canyon, Victor Heights and El Pueblo. Allow us to clarify the issue;

- The Solano Canyon community does not want, and never has wanted, to be a part of the proposed subdivision of the HCNC. The board members of these small communities see this as a power grab by the members of the Chinatown formation committee, which will result in delivering disproportionate political power into the hands of certain Chinatown groups and leaders.
- The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), which is a City-charted entity, does not have clear rules for subdivision of an existing NC, and what rules there are in place have been bent, broken, or revised repeatedly in order to support the proposal to subdivide the HCNC. This could not have been done without collusion between DONE and the Historic Cultural North Formation Committee (HCNNCF).
- The subdivision was done in complete secrecy; HCNC board members were only made aware of the proposal when the Echo Park Neighborhood Council notified us via email that they wanted our input.
- The subdivision proposal, as well as nearly all of the support for the subdivision, is based in Chinatown, which has expressed its desire to become its own neighborhood council (NC). Even that support is suspect, since there is evidence that many of the signatures in support of the subdivision proposal were obtained fraudulently.
- The proposed subdivision, if it is approved, will divide an established NC and create animosity among established neighborhood caucuses.
- The proposed subdivision destroys long-standing alliances between those communities.
- The proposed subdivision application creates segregated communities instead of unified ones
- There was little-to-no outreach in any neighborhood of the HCNC but Chinatown.
- The majority of the signatures in support came from the community of Chinatown.
- Nearly half of the signatures in support of the proposed subdivision were submitted after the deadline.

- Nearly half the signatures came from one building located at 600 N. Broadway in Chinatown.
- A large majority of the signatures in support of the proposed subdivision were the names of Chinese-language speaking stakeholders who claim to require translation services, even though the proposed subdivision application and petition was not translated into any language but English.
- The proposed subdivision, in fact, denied any semblance of due process to all but the Chinatown community.
- Board members and stakeholders of the communities of Solano Canyon and Victor Heights were purposely excluded from conversations of the proposed subdivision.
- In the case of Solano Canyon, there were exactly two signatures of support of the subdivision application from the Solano Canyon community, one of which has since been rescinded. On the other hand, the HCNNC committee secured many, many signatures from addresses on Cottage Home and Savoy Street, both areas of which are within the 'Solano Canyon' boundary of the HCNC, but which are not — and never have been — a part of the historic Solano Canyon community. Both Cottage Home and Savoy identify with Chinatown as a community.
- In the case of the posted location in Solano Canyon of 929 Academy Road, the occupant responded to the city attorney that no posting has ever appeared.
- Solano Avenue Elementary has not been informed of the subdivision.
- San Conrado Mission in Solano Canyon has not been informed of the subdivision.
- Saint Peters Italian Church was not notified of the subdivision.
- Cathedral High School opposes the subdivision. Cathedral High president states they were notified of the subdivision one week prior to election date.
- The subdivision proposal is the result of efforts by outside interests; in fact, of the five signatories on the subdivision proposal, only one of the five lives within the boundary of the proposed subdivision.
- Despite repeated attempts to involve the City Attorney's office throughout what we view as a fraudulent and flawed application, the advising Deputy City Attorneys have turned a blind eye to the inconsistencies and improprieties that have occurred during this process.

In short, the proposal to subdivide the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council possesses no legitimacy whatsoever. If the Department of neighborhood empowerment want to retain its credibility and claim to being part of the democratic process in our city, this proposed division must be rejected at face value and not be submitted for vote.