Bylaws updated based on City Council action

# ARTICLE IV STAKEHOLDER

Neighborhood Council membership is open to all Stakeholders. A “Stakeholder” shall be defined as any individual who:

(1) Lives, works, or owns real property within the boundaries of the neighborhood council; or

(2) Is a Community Interest Stakeholder, defined as an individual who is a member of or participates in a Community Organization within the boundaries of the neighborhood council.

A “Community Organization” is an entity that has continuously maintained a physical street address within the boundaries of the neighborhood council for not less than one year, and that performs ongoing and verifiable activities and operations that confer some benefit on the community within the boundaries of the neighborhood council. A for-profit entity shall not qualify as a Community Organization. Examples of Community Organizations may include Chambers of Commerce, houses of worship or other faith-based organizations, educational institutions, or non-profit organizations.

[The definition of “Stakeholder” and its related terms are defined by City Ordinance and cannot be changed without City Council action. See Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.801.1]

# ARTICLE V GOVERNING BOARD

All members of the Board of Governors must be stakeholders of the Tarzana neighborhood during their entire term of office. All Board members must be at least eighteen (18) years of age on the day of the day of the election. A Board member can hold only one (1) stakeholder position. No single community stakeholder group shall comprise a majority of the Board, unless extenuating circumstances are warranted and approved by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

## **Section 8: Censure.**

The purpose of the censure process is to place a Board member on notice of misconduct and to provide the Board member with an opportunity to correct the misconduct. The Neighborhood Council (“Neighborhood Council”) may censure any Board member at a regular or special meeting open to the public following a good-faith determination by the Neighborhood Council Board that the member has engaged in conduct that is contrary to rules and regulations applicable to the Board or that impedes the orderly business of Board operations. Grounds for censure include, but are not limited to, persistent disruptive conduct at meetings, violations or abuses of the Board’s bylaws or rules, violations of the Code of Conduct, acting on behalf of the Board without authorization, and misuse or abuse of the censure or removal process by acting in bad faith.

The Board shall use the following procedure when censuring a Board member:

1. A motion to censure a Board member may be initiated by any three (3) Board members. Those Board members shall not constitute a majority of the quorum of any Neighborhood Council body, such as a committee. The motion shall be delivered to any officer of the Board or a specific officer or member of the Board as may be specified in the bylaws or standing rules of the Neighborhood Council. The motion shall be in writing and provide the specific facts and grounds for the proposed censure including the date(s) and specific conduct relied upon for the motion. The motion shall not be based upon conclusions, e.g., “for alleged violations of the Code of Conduct” but shall contain factual statements that describe conduct only and is not intended to embarrass or humiliate the board member.

2. The Board member, group of Board members or committee responsible for setting the final Board agenda shall include the motion on the agenda of the next regular or special Board meeting scheduled at least thirty (30) days following the delivery of the proposed censure motion.

3. The Board member subject to censure shall be given a minimum of thirty (30) days prior-written notice, which may include email sent to the last email address on file with the Neighborhood Council, of any meeting at which the motion to censure will be considered. The notice shall provide the specific facts and grounds for the proposed censure as specified in 1 above. The Board shall also provide a copy of the notice to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which the motion to censure will be considered.

4. The Board member subject to censure shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard at the meeting, either orally or in writing, prior to the Board’s vote on a motion of censure.

5. The Board shall decide by a majority vote of those present and voting whether or not the Board member should be censured. The Board member who is the subject of the censure motion shall not be counted as part of the majority present and voting and shall not be allowed to vote. For the purpose of censure motions, abstentions shall not be counted as votes.

6. In no event shall a motion to censure a board member be heard by the Neighborhood Council within sixty (60) days of the next scheduled Board election or selection.

## **Section 9: Removal**.

Any Board member may be removed by the Neighborhood Council (“NeighborhoodCouncil”) for cause, following a good faith determination by the Board that the member has engaged in conduct that is contrary to rules and regulations applicable to the Board or that impedes the orderly business of Board operations. A Board member shall not be subject to removal under this Policy, unless the member has been censured at least once pursuant to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners’ (“Commission”) Censure Policy. Grounds for removal include, but are not limited to, persistent disruptive conduct at meetings, violations or abuses of the Board’s bylaws or standing rules, violations of the Code of Conduct, acting on behalf of the Board without authorization, and misuse or abuse of the censure or removal processes by acting in bad faith.

The Board shall use the following procedure when removing a Board member:

1. A motion to remove a Board member may be initiated by any three (3) Board members. Those Board members shall not constitute a majority of the quorum of any Neighborhood Council body, such as a committee. The proposed motion shall be delivered to any officer of the Board or a specific officer or member of the Board as may be specified in the bylaws or standing rules of the Neighborhood Council. The motion shall be in writing and provide the specific facts and grounds for the proposed removal action including the date(s) and specific conduct relied upon for the motion. The motion shall not be based upon conclusions, e.g., “for alleged violations of the Code of Conduct” but shall contain factual statements that describes conduct only and is not intended to embarrass or humiliate the board member. The motion to remove shall also include a copy of the prior censure motion and the date it was passed.

2. The Board member, group of Board members or committee responsible for setting the final Board agenda shall list and briefly describe the motion on the agenda of the next regular or special Board meeting scheduled at least thirty(30) days following the delivery of the proposed removal motion.

3. The Board member subject to removal shall be given a minimum of thirty (30) days prior written notice, which may include email sent to the last email address on file with the Neighborhood Council, of any meeting at which a motion to remove will be heard. The notice shall provide the specific facts and grounds for the proposed removal as specified in 1 above. The Board shall also provide a copy of the notice to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to any meeting at which a motion to remove will be considered.

4. The Board member subject to removal shall be given reasonable time to be heard at the meeting, either orally or in writing, prior to the Board’s vote on a motion for removal.

5. The Board shall decide whether or not the Board member should be removed by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the currently sitting Board members. The Board member who is the subject of the removal motion shall not be allowed to vote and shall not be counted when determining the two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. For the purpose of the removal motion, abstentions shall not be counted as votes.

6. In no event shall a motion to remove a Board member be heard by the Neighborhood Council within sixty (60) days of the next election or selection.

7. The Commission may review a Neighborhood Council’s removal decision if requested to do so by the affected Board member. Once the request is made for the Commission to review the decision to remove, the Neighborhood Council voting to remove the board member may not fill the vacancy created by the removal until the Commission has made a decision on whether the removal was proper or the Commission declines to review the matter. The Commission’s decision whether to hear or decline to hear the removal review request shall be sent in writing to the requestor and the Neighborhood Council within 30 days after the request for review is delivered.

8. A request for the Commission to review a Neighborhood Council’s removal decision shall proceed as follows:

a. The request must in writing and must be delivered to the Executive Assistant of the Commission or, in the absence of an Executive Assistant, to the President of the Commission within thirty (30) days of the date of the action by the Neighborhood Council to remove the Board member.

b. The request must state the basis for the review. The request shall not cite or present any evidence not considered by the Neighborhood Council but must address only procedural deficiencies.

c. If the Commission determines the request for review raises sufficient questions regarding procedural deficiencies and agrees to hear the review, it will be placed on the agenda of a regular or special meeting of the Commission within sixty (60) days of receipt of the request for review.

d. At the review the Commission will determine if the facts as presented support the removal motion and if the procedures set out in this policy were correctly applied.

e. If the Commission determines that there were either factual or procedural deficiencies, the Commission may either reinstate the Board member or return the matter to the Neighborhood Council for further consideration.

f. If the Commission returns the matter for further consideration and the Neighborhood Council does not act within sixty (60) days of the Commission’s decision the Board member will be considered reinstated.

g. During the period of appeal the Board member shall not be counted as part of the Board for any quorum and shall not participate in any Board actions.

h. If the matter is returned to the Neighborhood Council for further consideration the Board member shall not be counted as part of the Board for any quorum and shall not participate in any Board actions until the Board takes action as requested by the Commission or until the expiration of the sixty (60) day time period.

9. This policy is not intended to restrict or eliminate a Neighborhood Council’s ability to remove or render ineligible to serve, Board members who fail to attend meetings, join committees, maintain their stakeholder status, or perform other duties as may be described in the Neighborhood Council’s bylaws and/or standing rules. Nor is it intended to limit a Neighborhood Councils ability to remove committee chairs or committee members according to the Neighborhood Council’s bylaws and/or standing rules.

# ARTICLE X ELECTIONS

## **Section 3: Minimum Voting Age**.

Except with respect to a Youth Board Seat, a stakeholder must be at least 16 years of age on the day of the election or selection to be eligible to vote. [See Admin. Code §§ 22.814(a) and 22.814(c)]

# ATTACHMENT B – Governing Board Structure and Voting Tarzana Neighborhood Council – 21 Board Seats

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **BOARD POSITION** | **# OF SEATS** | **ELECTED OR**  **APPOINTED?** | **ELIGIBILITY TO RUN**  **FOR THE SEAT** | **ELIGIBILITY TO**  **VOTE FOR THE SEAT** |
| North Area Representatives  Term: 2 Years | 3 | Elected | Any stakeholder, who is at least 18 years of age on the day of the election and lives, works or owns property north of the Ventura Freeway. | Any stakeholder, who is at least 16 years of age on the day of the election who lives, works or owns property north of the Ventura Freeway. |
| South Area Representatives  Term: 2 Years | 3 | Elected | Any stakeholder, who is at least 18 years of age on the day of the election and lives, works or owns property south of the Ventura Freeway. | Any stakeholder, who is at least 16 years of age on the day of the election who lives, works or owns property south of the Ventura Freeway. |
| Residential Renters  Term: 2 Years | 2 | Elected | Any stakeholder, who is at least 18 years of age on the day of the election who is a residential renter within the TNC boundaries. | Any stakeholder, who is at least 16 years of age on the day of the election who lives, works or owns property within the TNC boundaries. |
| Homeowners  Term: 2 Years | 4 | Elected | Any stakeholder, who is at least 18 years of age on the day of the election who owns a home within the TNC boundaries. | Any stakeholder, who is at least 16 years of age on the day of the election who lives, works or owns property within the TNC boundaries. |
| Business Representatives  Term: 2 Years | 3 | Elected | Any stakeholder, who is at least 18 years of age on the day of the election who owns a business or is employed within the TNC boundaries. | Any stakeholder, who is at least 16 years of age on the day of the election who lives, works or owns property within the TNC boundaries. |
| At-Large Representatives  Term: 2 Years | 4 | Elected | Any stakeholder, who is at least 18 years of age on the day of the election who lives, works or owns property within the TNC boundaries. | Any stakeholder, who is at least 16 years of age on the day of the election who lives, works or owns property within the TNC boundaries. |
| Reserved At-Large Representatives Term: 2 Years | 2 | Elected | Any stakeholder who is at least 18 years of age on the day of the election who live, work, own real property, or declare a stake in the neighborhood as a community interest stakeholder | Any stakeholder who is at least 16 years of age on the day of the election |