

## CODE OF CONDUCT OBJECTION – FIRST DRAFT – ANDRE STOJKA

The Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council objects to the proposed DONE Code of Conduct because:

1. This proposed code of conduct invests disciplinary authority in an unelected City bureaucrat rather than in the authority of the Presidents of the respective Neighborhood Council Boards, duly elected by the citizens of the community. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment has no legal authority over the proceedings of Neighborhood Council except as in an advisory, educational administrative or training position.
2. This proposed scheme does not solve the problem it purports to solve. Stakeholders are Citizens of the community. To require a Stakeholder to agree to any code of conduct as a condition of being allowed to express an opinion or make a comment flies in the face of any form of democracy. Accordingly, if a stakeholder cannot be held to this proposed agreement, but the Board members can be, the proposed agreement does not have equal impact on both parties and will not resolve any conflicts between stakeholders and a Board.
3. The proposed code of conduct is redundant. Board members have already pledged themselves to follow City of Los Angeles Workplace Equity Policy. Any further code of conduct will require more of Neighborhood Councils than any other City agency, even though the purpose of the Neighborhood council is to be independent of the City so as to be able to advise the city independently.
4. By its own admission DONE has evolved this proposed flawed policy without the input of independent Neighborhood Councils, relying only on commissioners and committees. In short, DONE has eliminated from the development process the Neighborhood Councils who are on the frontlines and who can provide first hand practical rather than theoretical advice.
5. If the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment wishes to place itself in a protective position at Neighborhood Council meetings, it must be at the invitation of each individual Neighborhood Council President and DONE should not be able to assert itself without invitation.
6. The proposed Code of Conduct might be easily construed by some as an attempt by DONE to control what takes place during Neighborhood Council meetings – an overreach by City officials which would damage the integrity of the Neighborhood Council system.
6. If DONE wishes to assist Neighborhood Councils from unruly stakeholders, Protection should include Police Department support in case of violence and lessons in conflict resolution.

For these reasons, the Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council objects to this imposition and interference with its mandated independence.