



WILMINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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LA's 1st Certified Neighborhood Council



Valerie Contreras, Chair
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City Clerk Funding Department
President of LA City Council, Wesson,
Councilman Joe Buscaino CD15

October 22, 2019

Honorable Herb Wesson,

The Wilmington Neighborhood Council is working with our Council office to help improve Wilmington for our current and future stakeholders.

We are writing to express our concern with regards to access to our office at our local municipal building. On October 22, 2019 our board held a brown act meeting and voted to send this letter.

It is our understanding that currently, no one from our neighborhood council has a key to the building or to our NC office. Not having access to our office hinders our ability to engage our stakeholders. As you are well aware many and most of our meetings and events take place on weekday evenings or on the weekends during a time when the municipal building is not open. Normal business hours are 7am to 5pm. M-F. It is further our understanding that the other offices in our municipal building such as (LADOT and Council Office CD15) both have access to their offices and the main building with a key. It is further our understanding that both the Wilmington Chamber which is not a city department has access to their offices and they have access to the entire building with a key of their own. I am curious why the Wilmington Neighborhood Council, which is an elected body, duly recognized and provisioned by the City Charter is not provided this same privilege?

The Wilmington Neighborhood Council is fully aware that we are tasked with maintaining and securing our inventory under policy 2.0.11. This has become an impossible task as we do not have access to our office. The concern is exasperated because other agencies somehow are being given access to our office and are storing their items in our office without our knowledge or consent.

Over the past 3-4 months, items such as shovels that do not belong to the NC have been appeared in our office, as have a fire extinguisher, no parking signs, and posters for one of the Councilman's events. Also, items that were previously in our office are no longer there such as a brand-new timer that has never been used and a other office supplies.

This council is being given an impossible task to protect these assets when unknown characters who are not part of the Wilmington Neighborhood Council are granted unfettered access, but we are not.

We are formally requesting that we are given 2 sets of keys to the Wilmington Municipal Building and to our office for our executive officers. We also would like to request that LAPD Harbor Division be tasked with the security of the building not a security agency as is the case with all other Municipal Buildings. Given the fact that our Municipal building is in an area with extremely high crime, we feel our requests are extremely reasonable. We are not asking for anything more than what any other Neighborhood Councils are given or what any other Municipal Building is provided. We are only asking to be treated fairly.

It is our desire to function at full capacity and engage our stakeholder with evening meetings, and engage them in weekend activities/events. How is this possible when we don't have access to all our supplies? Meeting supplies, tables, chairs, computer, copy machine, outreach material such as banners are all there in our office. The building does not have a security camera or an alarm. We showed up one day and the locks on our NC officer had been changed. We respectfully, ask that you take official action to ensure that we have full access to our municipal building and NC office with all our supplies.

Best Regards,

Valerie Contreras, Chair

Valerie Contreras

On behalf of the Wilmington Neighborhood Council