



DTLA Town Square

Public Group

Join Group

Discussion Members Events Videos Photos

Search this group

Join this group to post and comment.

+ Join Group



Josh Albrektsen

March 23 at 7:01pm

So my one part post is becoming 4 parts.

You can save links, videos and posts to look at later

This post is what the Skid Row NC is. If you live in the Historic Core, Little Tokyo, and the Fashion District, this will absolutely affect you and you might actually be in the new NC if approved.

It has come to my attention that people don't even know that there is a possibility of the Neighborhood Council breaking up and that they might be affected. The head of the Fashion District BID just found out last week that parts of the BID is in the possible new NC. There was supposed to be outreach about this kind of thing before it gets approved, but that outreach was very selective. There is also a huge failure by the leadership in DLANC to even let people know that there is an election on April 7th to possibly split the NC.

The Skid Row NC has proposed boundaries of Main to 3rd to 7th to Alameda. So if you live in the Mercantile Lofts, Pacific electric lofts, and San Fernando lofts, you will be in the New Neighborhood Council. And all decisions about businesses and buildings on Main and Los Angeles will be made by this new neighborhood council. The Nickel Diner, Coles, Las Perlas, the Regent, and any new place planning to open along with teh Little Tokyo Galleria will be under the control of the SRNC.

The Bylaws of this new NC is specifically written so that the people who created it will always have power. There are 11 total seats. 5 of them are residents but only 2 of the resident seats are allowed to be people who live in market rate housing. The other 3 are reserved for low income or homeless residents. There is only one seat for business and it can be for someone who owns or works in the district. The remaining seats are for a Arts and Culture Member, At-Large Member, Social Service Provider/Faith Based Member (2) and Community Advocate/Social Justice Board Member.

There is also a special carve out for General Jeff: "Founder Emeritus: General Jeff is acknowledged to be the Founder Emeritus of the Skid Row Neighborhood Council and is authorized to speak on all issues affecting the SRNC, recognizing that the Executive Committee will have the final word on all policy issues and also recognizing that the Board President is the official spokesperson for the Council."

I encourage everybody in the Fashion District and Historic core to read the bylaws (link below). In order for the Skid Row NC to form, it needs to get 50% in the proposed boundaries, 50% of the Historical Cultural NC boundaries, and also 50% of the people who live in the DLANC boundaries. So literally every person who lives in DTLA can vote on this and should consider the implications of a Skid Row Neighborhood Council being formed.

http://empowerla.org/.../02/FINAL_DRAFT-SRNC-Bylaws-2016-3C...





Like Share

18

Nick Saturn Thanks, Josh. I intend to vote no and encourage every other resident I know to do the same.

Like · 12 · March 23 at 7:04pm

Kirk A. Gaw It really isn't right that investors could be ruled by non-stakeholders?

Like · 1 · March 23 at 9:12pm

Kirk A. Gaw I am shocked that potentially, financial decisions about stakeholders (taxpayers, property owners, and business people) could be ruled by homeless, mentally ill, and drug addicts?

Like · March 23 at 7:12pm · Edited

Gerren Taylor As if there are provisions that block drug addicts or mentally ill from DLANC?

Like · 2 · March 24 at 12:26am

Kirk A. Gaw Uh, huh.

Like · March 24 at 12:31am

Nick Saturn It's more than that. This is an attempt to preserve the status quo of Skid Row indefinitely, no matter how much empty rhetoric is spouted about improvement. This is an attempt to convert that interminable suffering and decay into political power that can be used to benefit a select few, and the charter makes it reasonably clear who those few are.

This well may be an attempt to provide political top-cover for a number of ongoing illegal activities--industries, really--that normally survive via bribes and corruption. I would be fascinated by an in-depth investigation of LACAN and other alleged 'social justice' organizations supporting this, particularly with respect to cash flow & sources. Is there an intrepid journalist in the house...?

Like · 9 · March 23 at 7:15pm

Deacon Tyler Josh Albrektson - Didn't you once argue with me that Main Street was already skid row? What exactly is changing?

Like · 1 · March 23 at 7:17pm

Hide 27 Replies

Josh Albrektson By law, it is in Skid Row. Jones decision some time ago. The Neighborhood Council that controls the area has been the Downtown Neighborhood Council. The people who make the decisions about the area as a whole is represented by the area as a while.

Now people in Skid Row and not in skid row are trying to take the decision making power from the Downtown NC and make it so that they control it. So it is about the formation of a neighborhood council, not the legal definition of Skid Row.

I personally am not a fan of DLANC and feel it doesn't do much, but I do not feel it harms anybody. (Spoken as an elected member of DLANC)

Like · 4 · March 23 at 9:21pm

Kirk A. Gaw I think it SUCKS that MAIN ST., the birthplace of our City would be relegated as the address of Skid Row known today as the cesspool of drugs, violence, homelessness, and prostitution! These individuals who shadow the historic context of our founding fathers ought to be ashamed of themselves that they would want to dictate authority over financial stakeholders?

Like · 4 · March 23 at 9:44pm · Edited

Deacon Tyler Well said, Kirk! For those of us who live and have our businesses on Main Street, this is the worst news.

It also splits up downtown too much and the stigma of 'skid row' kills all the new development.

My wife and I are in the Santa Fe building and were remarking at how the new apartment building next to us is going to help bring in more working people.

This is an unnecessary change and I'm very sad for the brick and mortar business - there are some beautiful restaurants that are going to suffer.

Like · 7 · March 23 at 9:48pm



Kirk A. Gaw Yeah, I am sickened.

Like · 1 · March 23 at 9:50pm



Nick Saturn Gotta get out the vote & defeat it. That's all there is to it.

Like · 6 · March 23 at 9:51pm



Deacon Tyler Nick Saturn count me in, my friend!

Like · 3 · March 23 at 9:53pm



Kirk A. Gaw Yep.

Like · 2 · March 23 at 9:57pm



Kris Ferris Definitely vote.. there will be online voting so there really is no excuse not to vote

Like · 3 · March 23 at 11:56pm



Nick Saturn Is there a registration process? Links? We NEED to publicize this ASAP.

Like · 2 · March 24 at 12:03am



Kris Ferris I don't know yet.. the city just voted to allow online voting yesterday

Like · 3 · March 24 at 12:08am



Kris Ferris Idk why dlanc has been quiet about it and I don't care. I'm speaking as a member of the public. Skid row shouldn't exist and this is absolutely the wrong direction for downtown and anyone living in assisted housing. It only benefits those who want to keep the status quo and tents.. and all of the crime that comes with it

Like · 7 · March 24 at 12:10am



Nick Saturn Yup. And I wish like hell someone would follow the money here. That's gotta be it. That's ALWAYS it.

Like · 4 · March 24 at 12:16am



Kris Ferris Combination of money and no other part of the city wanting to help out. Just throw it all onto skid row and call it a day. Even bus people there. That needs to stop too. It's not going to fix anything keeping it like that. Everyone needs to pitch in. And we need major policy changes to deal with the mental illness. No neighborhood council can make those decisions.

Like · 3 · March 24 at 12:21am



Nick Saturn True. But the process of decentralization can begin without major policy changes by locating new SROs, shelters, and missions anywhere else BUT Skid Row. I think that this SRNC would argue for the exact opposite.

Like · 3 · March 24 at 12:24am



Kris Ferris Oh yes.. that's why having it separated is so bad. They're also arguing against any market rate or mixed use development. So there's that.

Like · 2 · March 24 at 12:26am



Kris Ferris Homelessness is not just a skid row issue. It's statewide. And we need to quit putting it all there and letting it just be completely lawless

Like · 2 · March 24 at 12:27am



Kirk A. Gaw The sad thing? The whole subject of discussing the appropriateness of Skid Row and its relation to Los Angeles seems like media taboo! Never a mention anywhere from the media about the REAL situation in DTLA! Skid Row is a cesspool of crime, drugs, and violence! Their only solution is to keep throwing money at it! WHY is the DECENTRALIZATION issue never discussed?

Like · 2 · March 24 at 12:29am



Kris Ferris Idk kirk. I have no idea why it's so wrong to say a tent is not a home. It's not right to let people live like that. And the crime and disease over there is out of control. More money isn't solving anything. It's policy that needs to change. That and quit selling drugs to addicts.

Like · 3 · March 24 at 12:33am



Kirk A. Gaw The Police know who's selling the dope? Don't they? The most policed neighborhood in town!

Like · March 24 at 12:35am



Nick Saturn Also, Kris, homelessness is a nation-wide issue. Skid Row is a national attractor. I just talked to a guy last week who said he "was relocated" (his words) from Las Vegas to here.

Like · 3 · March 24 at 12:36am · Edited



Kirk A. Gaw Geeez! Talk about reputation?

Like · March 24 at 12:36am



Nick Saturn Talk about who relocated him? Odds are it was Vegas PD.

Like · 2 · March 24 at 12:37am



Kris Ferris Oh I'm very aware it's a nationwide problem.. but the policy issues that have led to skid row are California's. But yeah I believe it about free greyhound tickets to Los Angeles

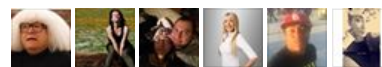
Like · 2 · March 24 at 12:45am



Nick Saturn Yup. And if we ever get a City Attorney interested in suing the balls off of places that give away bus tickets to Skid Row, I got no

MEMBERS

1,158 Members



DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the DTLA Town Square. This group for DTLA residents ... [See More](#)

GROUP TYPE

Neighbors

CREATE NEW GROUPS

Groups make it easier than ever to share with friends, family and teammates.

[Create Group](#)

MORE WAYS TO CREATE



faith that the SNRC as proposed would support such an effort.

Like · 1 · March 24 at 12:53am

Nick Saturn BTW, why the fuck is that Greyhound terminal still there? Let's move THAT goddamn thing to Beverley Hills!

Like · 1 · March 24 at 12:55am · Edited

Kris Ferris There was talk of moving it to union station but idk what happened to that idea. lol the metro bus doesn't even go to Beverly Hills let alone the greyhound 😂

Like · 2 · March 24 at 1:00am

Nick Saturn By all means let's move it SOMEWHERE else. Union Station would at least make sense from a multimodal transportation standpoint. Gotta break the pattern in some way(s).

Like · 2 · March 24 at 1:02am · Edited

Hal Bergman Why expand the Skid Row NC boundaries outside of Skid Row? It already has super well-defined boundaries.

Like · 1 · March 23 at 7:35pm

Hal Bergman I actually don't see any reason why they shouldn't have their own NC, it is a neighborhood with some pretty fucked up issues that are overlooked regularly by the city. But why expand those boundaries into other neighborhoods like the historic core and little tokyo that already have their own governance?

Like · 2 · March 23 at 9:37pm

Josh Albrektson I plan two more posts about how it would affect everybody. They picked the boarders. You and I might say it starts at Los Angeles st, but you and I are not the ones deciding.

Like · 3 · March 23 at 9:43pm

Hal Bergman ok

Like · 1 · March 23 at 9:48pm

Eric Garcia I'm for the split. Seems like an unpopular view but I believe in communities empowering themselves. DLANC has done squat, CCE seats in DLANC are filled with BID members or BID friendly folks. Time for a reset.

Like · March 24 at 12:20am

Chris Loos How does forever cementing everything from Main to Alameda as Skid Row help the problem?

Like · March 28 at 12:42am · Edited

DTLA Town Square

neighboring ones.

Like · March 26 at 11:47am

Simon Ha i think it's based on the boundaries set by the Jones settlement that allows sleeping in the sidewalk from 9pm to 6am.

Like · March 26 at 12:02pm · Edited

Simon Ha The way I see it, the high concentration of poverty will not be diluted unless we start making Skid Row a mixed income community. I assume there's a great deal of concern of losing affordable housing and SRO's and displacement if market rate housing is allowed in SR. The existing housing has to remain affordable for 50+ years typically from when they are first occupied. We will continue to build permanent supportive housing in the area but concurrently, we need to build more housing for the workforce and market rate to reach for a balanced neighborhood. Skid Row is part of Downtown and needs to be integrated in the bigger vision, not isolate itself. I think if the residents and stakeholders in the area feel their concerns aren't being address by DLANC, Little Tokyo, and HCNC, they have a right to form their own NC. I hope if they do succeed, they realize that there is a way to deconcentrate poverty through creating a mixed income community and not become a NIMBY organization that fights to keep the status quo.

Like · March 26 at 12:20pm

Jerrell Ordonio I can't believe skid row is even allowed to exist

Like · 8 · March 23 at 8:02pm

Dion Noravian Main Street is most definitely NOT skid row. The boundaries should be as small as possible, starting with 4th, Los Angeles, 7th and Alameda at its absolute largest and with provisions to shrink it down as the population gets housed /reduced. I can't even believe that the rules they have imposed in regards to who gets seats are legal. I hope that if this bullshit passes, it's sued immediately

Like · 4 · March 23 at 8:32pm · Edited

Kirk A. Gaw Skid Row, to my knowledge is officially only San Julian St.

Like · 1 · March 23 at 10:33pm

Kris Ferris Not even Los Angeles... bunch of new development happening near Santee


Like · 2 · March 23 at 11:56pm

Kris Ferris Vote. Make sure it doesn't happen.

Like · 1 · March 23 at 11:57pm

Dion Noravian I was being generous, very generous

Like · March 23 at 11:57pm

 **Kris Ferris** Fair enough. I live on that street and definitely don't want that group of people making decisions for me. Those tents need to go.

Like · 5 · March 23 at 11:59pm


 **Michael Frey** On what planet are income and housing restrictions to serve in a public office legal.

Like · 3 · March 23 at 10:11pm


^ Hide 18 Replies

 **Kris Ferris** Also pretty big issues with that founder emeritus bit... but let's not wait for the legal ramifications. Just vote no.

Like · 4 · March 24 at 12:15am

 **Michael Frey** You mean it might not be legal to appoint a King either?


Like · 4 · March 24 at 12:18am

 **Kris Ferris** Well I didn't want to call it a king... but yeah 😊

Like · March 24 at 12:18am

 **Gerren Taylor** DlanC itself has similar seat provisions. Not the founder thing


Like · March 24 at 12:24am · Edited

 **Michael Frey** It has limitations on income?

Like · March 24 at 12:24am


 **Kris Ferris** It has no limitations on income. It has separate seats for business and resident as well as social service and even a homeless resident seat

Like · 1 · March 24 at 12:36am


 **Michael Frey** Market rate housing/ housing versus no housing limitations. If these are all legal, in theory it should be legal to have a neighborhood council for only market rate housing, or only non-homeless people. I think you'd agree that wouldn't be legal.

See... See More

Like · 1 · March 24 at 12:40am · Edited

 **Michael Frey** To be fair, if the council has no power, a court probably wouldn't give two shits about this stuff, but if they have any sort of power over the district they serve, this kinda stuff isn't going to fly.

Like · 1 · March 24 at 12:44am

 **Gerren Taylor** Well that hypothetical in the first part wouldn't pass muster because it is still a democratic process. Also setting aside seats for certain types of residents is again something that happens in every council. Each council has the ability to determine what those criteria are. In other parts of LA they're even stranger

Like · March 24 at 12:44am

 **Michael Frey** Could a city council set aside seats by race? by religion?

Like · March 24 at 12:45am

 **Gerren Taylor** Moving goalposts

Like · March 24 at 12:45am

 **Michael Frey** Voting restrictions on income and ownership status of property were a very bad part of our country's past that were knocked down, thinking you can use the same restrictions but now for noble purposes is a mistake.


Like · 1 · March 24 at 12:47am

 **Gerren Taylor** OK so are you making this same argument against DLANCs homeless seat?

Like · 1 · March 24 at 12:50am

 **Gerren Taylor** Cause that NC already exists

Like · March 24 at 12:50am

 **Michael Frey** I don't agree that anyone should be excluded for not having a home or for having a home. Like I said though, if these councils have no power, I don't think anyone would care, but lets say hypothetically they could pass taxes on their local districts. This stuff wouldn't fly.

Like · March 24 at 12:52am

 **Gerren Taylor** They can't

Like · March 24 at 12:52am

 **Michael Frey** That's why I said it was hypothetical, my point is, the scrutiny of this stuff should be proportional to their power.

Like · March 24 at 12:53am

 **Kris Ferris** Honestly I think what's going to happen if it passes is that nobody will listen to them. Developers aren't required to bring projects before neighborhood council and my guess is that they'll just bypass the whole thing and go straight to permit process

Like · 1 · March 24 at 12:53am

 **Gerren Taylor** I see a lot of people talking about skid row but very few people talking to those who live there. I think self determination is important and so far the reasons given to not support don't seem substantive.

Like · 2 · March 23 at 10:25pm



Eric Garcia Agree 100%. "Let me tell you what's good for you." - said countless times to depressed populations.

Like · 1 · March 24 at 12:26am



Kris Ferris How about the people that live in sro housing and can't walk outside their front door without going into the street because of the tents and trash?

Like · 2 · March 24 at 12:35am



Eric Garcia You're assuming that SRNC results in the situation you describe. Point me to a statement from SRNC that says they want tents and trash.

Like · March 24 at 12:37am



Gerren Taylor I would think that's something DLANC and the city would have a vested interest in fixing however here we are.

Like · March 24 at 12:37am



Gerren Taylor I mean isn't that exactly the problem?

Like · March 24 at 12:37am



Kris Ferris Centralizing the problem is why things are like that in the first place.

Like · 1 · March 24 at 12:42am



Kris Ferris And lacan has argued time and time again about allowing tents

Like · 3 · March 24 at 12:43am



Gerren Taylor Centralizing services in Skid row has nothing to do with anyone who is involved today.

Like · March 24 at 12:45am



Kris Ferris Recent lawsuits against the city for enforcing laws absolutely have to do with people today

Like · 2 · March 24 at 12:47am



Gerren Taylor Sure.

Like · March 24 at 12:49am



Eric Garcia Seems like there should be someone from the SR formation committee on here explaining their views and positions.

Like · 2 · March 23 at 10:25pm



Josh Albrektson Here is a link to their group. I would be a lot more sympathetic to the self determination thing if there was an actual outreach that happened. They picked a 4 hour window and lobbied not to have online voting. Regardless, my post about why I personally oppose the SRNC is going to be done later.

Like · 5 · March 23 at 10:29pm



Josh Albrektson

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/606811309451219/>



Skid Row Neighborhood Council

Public Group
600 Members

[+ Join Group](#)

Like · 1 · March 24 at 12:29am



Wassef Tawachi They lobbied for no online voting, but online voting will be taking place, correct?

Like · March 24 at 9:39am



Josh Albrektson It will be happening

Like · March 24 at 5:17pm



Morgan Terrinoni Josh Albrektson So who can vote and where/how?

Like · March 25 at 6:43pm



Josh Albrektson If you live or work in dlanc or have an interest in the boundaries and have something with your name an an address in the boundaries you can vote. The information will be out on Wednesday.

Like · March 25 at 6:58pm



Nick Saturn I think that expansion of Skid Row's defined area so that other districts must vote to cede jurisdiction is fairly significant. I also think that LACAN's influence on this process is now overt, given that Jeff announced that they will have a meeting at... [See More](#)

Like · 1 · March 23 at 10:32pm



Gerren Taylor Well we know it's not an expansion of the defined area as set forth in the Jones decision. I talked to Jeff about that LACAN city meeting today and he said it was not their plan and he didn't care for it. I do however agree with him that far too much talking is done (by both sides) about each other and not too each other.

Like · 4 · March 24 at 12:36am



Nick Saturn Okay, that's fair.

Like · 2 · March 24 at 12:40am



Nick Saturn Put it to you this way: I would support SRNC formation if--and ONLY if--the district boundaries were 4th, Los Angeles, 7th, and Alameda, and the espoused goals of the council were to resist new shelters & missions in all of DTLA (but support building them all around LA County), support development in the form of a 50/50 mix of affordable & market-rate housing, and attract new businesses--and jobs--to the district.

In other words, it needs to demonstrably function as a force for positive change, not maintenance--in fact, expansion!--of the status quo. Dante himself would barf if he saw that place...it HAS to end.

Like · 5 · March 23 at 10:51pm



Betsy Starman Remember this. I say it now: sure the big promo for this that no tents on skid row will happen. . . But they will merely be picked up and moved. Maybe to Bunker Hill. Maybe to South Park. Probably to the HC. Then the ring master of his skid row circus can say "see, I told you I'd clear it up." There's a huge agenda going on with this nonsense. And, the ring master has always wanted separation even though he claims not to. And watch LACAN have a big part in all this. It's too bad the homeless and vulnerable will continue to suffer as a result of the same ego's that have kept skid row oppressed. They like to keep it oppressed through time wasting legal action and then act like they're rescuing the poor and downtrodden. When really, they are the oppressors.

Like · 2 · March 23 at 11:25pm



Wassef Tawachi I definitely intend to vote No.

Like · March 24 at 7:09am



Della Castillo What time & where is the voting taking place on April 7th? How do I check that I'm registered? Will I be getting something in the mail?

Like · March 24 at 7:33am



Jacob Douglas Van Horn The registration is not the same as your voter registration. If you voted in the last neighborhood council election you are already registered. If not online registration will open Tuesday around noon. You will be able to register online at <https://empowerla.everyonecounts.com/page/4881/9995>. Also the election is April 6th, not the 7th.

EmpowerLA! Online Elections - Landing Page (VR)

EmpowerLA is excited to announce that in addition to having polling locations on election day, 35 of the 96 Neighborhood Councils in the City of Los Angeles are also piloting Online Voting for their elections, which provides an opportunity for voters to register in advance of the election day and vo...

EMPOWERLA.EVERYONECOUNTS.COM

Like · 1 · March 26 at 6:45pm



Gerren Taylor Found this in my search for balance

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1945934058976560&id=1670113726558596



Quiet Desperation

March 22 at 7:49pm ·

Update on the upcoming SR subdivision vote...

Interesting meeting at City Hall this evening.....
Rules committee approved online voting for the April 6th election...That was not the interesting part because it comes as no surprise....

The interesting part was the public comments....

You know? I find it very interesting that all of those folks who are from DTLA and a part of DLANC that spoke in the public comments are the ones spreading ALL of the shmeat....
Falsehoods & misinformation.

While we the folks fighting FOR a SRNC are keeping it real, honest, crossing our T's & dotting our I's as the CITY has requested.

What do we get from those folks in Ivory towers?

SRFC is not transparent

They had no idea until recently there was going to BE an election
Our application is flawed...When the CITY approved it on Jan.11th and moved to the next step....The April 6th election.

And my personal favorite from those for online voting?

We must be "inclusive".

Really?

And howmay I ask...Has skid row been included?

Inclusive means "everything (or everyone), the wholeALL"

So inclusiveness is all important now... to these folks feeling LEFT OUT?

Hhhhhmm....

Again, what, may I ask, has DLANC done for the Skid Row community in the past 15 years?

How has our current NC been inclusive with our community?

Skid Row as I have stated before, is a unique community with a unique set of issues...Online voting does not "include" a large portion of our residents.

Yet we have overcome other obstacles and we will overcome this one!

So to you folks who spoke in the public comments today I say to you....If you knew nothing about a skid row formation committee or a subdivision vote then you obviously don't pay any attention to our community.

We have been having PUBLIC meetings for over two years! Announced in many public forums!

SoI guess the days of you ignoring our community are over!

And let me add....I invite anyone from the DTLA community that barely crosses into our skid row boundariesCome sit, chat, I will buy you a cup of coffee and happily give you a tour of our community...

I double dog dare you.....

Like · March 24 at 9:44am



Manuel Velazquez That's a pretty incoherent rant.

Like · March 24 at 12:50pm



Gerren Taylor It's readable.

Like · 1 · March 24 at 12:54pm



Escott O. Norton Who is the writer, and why are they remaining anonymous? I admit to being an outsider to Skid Row specifically, I prefer to think of all of Downtown as my area. I guess what I will never understand is why some people want Skid Row to exist and under that name. It is a historically negative term, and shouldn't the effort be to rise up, fix the problems, get people on their feet again and part of the larger city?

Seems to me the effort to decentralize services, rehabilitate people and help them reenter society is more important than celebrating and enlarging an area that I suspect most of the people came to because they had to. Am I missing something? Are there families that live in the area that take pride in being from Skid Row? If they had the choice to move somewhere else would they take it, or stay?

I am all for giving every citizen a voice, and every stakeholder a place to express themselves. What I do not understand is breaking away from the existing NCs, and forcing people not now in the Skid Row area to be redefined as being in Skid Row. Instead of trying to shrink Skid Row and solve problems, it feels like this NC is all about growing Skid Row. And the anointment of any citizen as a member of the council for life is so wrong in so many ways. Even if they have no vote, I think it sends a message. The way I understand it, General Jeff would now be an official spokesman for life, whether the elected council liked it or not.

Seems to me a much better avenue towards including Skid Row issues would be to stop thinking of it as a separate area with separate issues, but a part of the rest of the city, that ALL of us need to address and care about. Building walls is not the way to do this. Getting the existing NCs to be more responsive to ALL problems would be much better in my opinion.

Like · 2 · March 26 at 7:26pm



Manuel Velazquez Thanks for posting these, Josh.

Like · 1 · March 24 at 10:48am



Jacob Douglas Van Horn Here is my take. Let me start by saying this is my personal opinion and does not indicate any official position of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council. The purpose of a Neighborhood Council is so that the stakeholders in a neighborhood are empowered to have their collective voice heard by the city of Los Angeles through their elected representatives. It allows everyone in a community to participate and make local politics more accessible to them.

Skid Row is currently represented under the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council which also represents the Historic Core, Fashion District, South Park, and Bunker Hill/Civic Center neighborhoods. The feeling by the Skid Row Neighborhood Council formation committee is they are not best served by voting along with representatives from these areas and need their own council. They have submitted an application to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to bifurcate into their own council with the existing Skid Row district along with portions of the Historic Core District, the Fashion District, and Little Tokyo (which is under the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council) What may surprise some people is I believe they may be correct in that those stakeholders need and deserve their own voice.

That being said I can not support the formation of this council and urge stakeholders to vote no. Here is my reason. Each formation committee write the bylaws which will govern the council should it be formed and determines how the community will be represented. It is the responsibility of each formation committee to do outreach to the stakeholders that will be affected so they are aware of the process and can choose to be a part of it. Outreach was done by the committee but only to a very select group of people. I have had countless stakeholders reach out to me in dense buildings with thousands of stakeholders along Main Street, in Little Tokyo, and in Central City saying they were never informed or consulted in the plan to let them have their own voice and chart their own destiny. Every council has the responsibility to include and represent everyone. That is what democracy is and what we have in the

current bylaws are not.


Skid Row is a diverse community that contains every type of stakeholder imaginable. There are SRO occupants, market rate residents, the homeless, business owners, property owners, and social service providers. It is going to take the joint efforts of every single type to address the difficult problems this community faces on a daily basis. Democracy will always involve bringing everyone to the table and will never involve disenfranchisement. The formation committee admits the purpose of the council is to give a voice to the voiceless as classes of stakeholders other than the low income voters already have other avenues to make their voice heard. Giving a voice to the voiceless is a laudable goal but the methods are flawed. A wide coalition would have certainly never signed off on bylaws that gives one individual a lifetime position with an officially recognized government body. This provision certainly won't stand as we don't do that in this country, but it demonstrates that a large number of people did not participate in the formation of this council.

I support a Skid Row Neighborhood Council, but not this Skid Row Neighborhood Council. The status quo of the us vs them mentality has not worked for decades and the mechanics of this council will continue to do the same. I urge everyone to vote no in this election but to give it a look if Skid Row chooses to reapply with everyone involved.


Like ·  14 · March 24 at 1:00pm · Edited

 **Wassef Tawachi** Well said


Like ·  1 · March 24 at 2:25pm

 **Betsy Starman** Thank you. I agree. Same ego trying to build a kingdom to be king in. We've seen this before in a different costume.


Like ·  3 · March 24 at 5:13pm

 **Tony Hoover** I'm voting NO



Like ·  2 · March 24 at 7:49pm

 **Kirk A. Gaw** The "voiceless" are already heard by DLANC who went out of their way to make sure of it! The chronic homeless, addicts, dealers, prostitutes, and users are already represented?

Like · March 24 at 11:04pm · Edited

 **Tony Hoover** I just got my notice of the election today from empowerLA

Like ·  4 · March 24 at 5:48pm


 **Nick Saturn** So did my wife & me. 


Like · March 24 at 8:36pm

 **Dan Curnow**




Like · March 24 at 8:56pm

 **Dan Curnow** Online voting has been authorized.


Like ·  1 · March 24 at 8:57pm

 **Dan Curnow** More to come...

Like · March 24 at 6:57pm

 **Kirk A. Gaw** Got my notice today via email! Will be voting "NO".....expanding the boundaries of Skid Row is plain wrong! Flagrant abuse towards financial stakeholders!


Like ·  3 · March 24 at 8:56pm · Edited

 **Bassam Jurdi** Voting "HELL NO" to skid row. Creating a fiefdom devoted to poverty and society's failure to take care of its weakest is not a good answer.

Like ·  7 · March 25 at 7:45pm

 **Deacon Tyler** So well put!!!

Like · March 26 at 12:18pm

 **Jacob Douglas Van Horn** We should note the election will be April 6th rather than April 7th.

Like · March 26 at 10:14am