

# WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

March 8, 2023

Agenda Item # 12

February 15, 2023

Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council

5500 Hollywood Blvd, Suite 406

Hollywood, CA 90028

Fellow board members, committee members, and stakeholders,

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the board of the Hollywood

Studio District Council (HSDNC) and represent our community in local government. However, due to the actions of the Department of Neighborhood

Empowerment (DONE), we are no longer able to both continue that service and follow our conscience.

On February 8, 2023, at a special meeting of the HSDNC board, Mario Hernandez of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment informed the board

that:

- a) The HSDNC would be sponsoring an event held by the Sheriff's Youth Foundation;
- b) The sponsorship would include \$4,000 in funding, more than 10% of the HSDNC annual budget; and
- c) Any HSDNC board members who did not attend would be removed from the board.

The board members and stakeholders present vehemently objected to sponsoring or participating in this event because of the violent, white-supremacist, criminal gang activity historically and currently perpetrated by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

Despite the fact that no HSDNC board members or stakeholders had been involved in this decision, Mr. Hernandez informed meeting participants that it was "not open for negotiation."

Given the choice of betraying our values or ending our service to the HSDNC, the decision is clear. We, the undersigned, do hereby resign from the board of the Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council, effective immediately.

Black Lives Matter.

In Solidarity,

Michael Tessler

HSDNC Board Chairperson

Laura Graves  
HSDNC Board Vice Chairperson

Damien Burke  
HSDNC Board Secretary

Hayden Bernard  
HSDNC Board Member

Frankie Holt  
HSDNC Board Member

Cathy Hood  
HSDNC Board Member

Nitzan Levinson  
HSDNC Board Member

Kali Mutty  
HSDNC Board Member

cc: Mario Hernandez, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, DONE  
Angie Aramayo, Director of Awareness & Engagement, DONE  
Raquel Beltrán, General Manager, DONE  
Debbie Wehbe, Commissioner, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners  
Hugo Soto-Martinez, Councilmember, Council District 13  
Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles