

Informational re: In-kind Payments to MVCC and our room rentals

-from MVCC At-Large Director Roos

Wikipedia defines Gifts-in-kind or payments-in-kind as follows (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gifts_in_kind):

“...a kind of [charitable giving](#) in which, instead of giving money to buy needed goods and services, the goods and services themselves are given. ... Some types of gifts in kind are appropriate, others are not.^[1] Examples of in-kind gifts include goods like food, clothing, medicines, furniture, office equipment, and building materials.

Performance of services, such as building an orphanage, providing office space or offering administrative support, may also be counted as in-kind gifts.”

Page 70 of the MVCC July BoD meeting packet materials presents the following four items:

- 13.2.6 The Mar Vista Community Council approves the expenditure of up to \$300 for meeting room rental at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, located in Los Angeles, CA.
- 13.2.7 The Mar Vista Community Council approves the expenditure of up to \$10 for FY2018-2019 for meeting room rental at The Windward School., located in Los Angeles, CA.
- 13.2.8 The Mar Vista Community Council approves the expenditure of up to \$450 for FY2018-2019 for meeting room rental to St. Bede's Episcopal Church, located in Los Angeles, CA.
- 13.2.9 The Mar Vista Community Council approves the expenditure of up to \$600 for FY2018-2019 for meeting room rental to the Westside Vineyard, located in Los Angeles, CA.

As it happens, CoLA Councilmember Ryu has submitted proposed reforms for the Neighborhood Council system in City Council (CF 18-0467, <http://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=18-0467>) that permanently restrict the ability for NCs to accept in-kind or monetary donations. See this article from DONE about his proposals: <http://empowerla.org/city-council-introduces-proposed-neighborhood-council-reforms/>

The relevant LAMC (LA Municipal Code Section 5.485 of Chapter 88 of Division 5) may be found here: [http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/laac/administrativecode?f=templates\\$fn=default.htm\\$3.0\\$vid=amlegal:losangeles_ca_mc](http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/laac/administrativecode?f=templates$fn=default.htm$3.0$vid=amlegal:losangeles_ca_mc)

It is not allowed that Neighborhood Councils accept in-kind donations in part because it is possible for the donor to thereby influence council members who might otherwise vote or represent community opinion regarding matters that affect the donating entity.

The large disparity between room rental rates among these entities presents such an appearance in our neighborhood.

To minimize this influence MVCC should set a rate schedule, possibly conditioned on meeting room size and duration of rental, and pay accordingly. It is important that all our constituent venues give and receive the same amount to our community council, particularly given its prerogative to influence the community and judge community impacts.