

SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD 51 COUNCIL (Near Northside Neighborhood Council)

BYLAWS

Article I. – Name

The name of the City of Houston Super Neighborhood #51 Council shall be Super Neighborhood 51 Council also known as SN51 Council and Near Northside Neighborhood Council.

Article II. – Boundaries

Super Neighborhood 51 (as defined by the City of Houston) is generally bounded by I-10 Southern Boundary, Hardy Street Eastern Boundary, I-45 Western Boundary, and Houston Belt & Terminal Railway Northern Boundary.

Article III – Definitions

The following definitions pertain to terms contained within the Super Neighborhood 51 Bylaws:

Super Neighborhood or SN51 – shall refer to the conglomeration of smaller, contiguous communities grouped together that fall within the boundaries set forth in Article II above.

Super Neighborhood Council or Council – shall refer to the group of delegates appointed in the manner stated in these Bylaws to represent the stakeholder organizations existing within the Super Neighborhood. The make-up and voting authority of the Council is set forth in subsequent provisions herein.

Council Leadership Team or Council Officers – shall refer to a committee of no less than 5 (five) and no more than 7 (seven) delegates acting to fulfill the duties generally conducted by a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. The SN51 Council Leadership Team constitutes the elected officers of the Council. The make-up and authority of the SN51 Council Leadership Team is set forth in subsequent provisions herein.

Stakeholders – shall refer to the resident-linked organizations situated in and/or owning property within the Super Neighborhood, including but not limited to, civic associations, non-profit organizations, faith-based institutions, school districts and business organizations.

Active and Participating Stakeholder Organizations – shall refer to those stakeholder organizations appointing a delegate in accordance with these Bylaws to represent their community or organization on the SN51 Council.

Delegate – shall refer to an individual appointed as a designated stakeholder representative, in the manner set forth in these Bylaws.

Quorum –

A) – a quorum of the SN51 Council Leadership Team shall consist of a simple majority of the duly elected Council Officers.

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B) – a quorum of the Council shall consist of 5 (five) of the duly designated Council delegates.

Article IV Purpose

Section 4.1 – The SN51 Council is organized for charitable, civic, educational, cultural, and general community improvement purposes, including one or more of the purposes specified in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. An application may be filed with the Internal Revenue Service for the 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) non-profit status, if and when so determined by the Council. The general purpose and power of the non-profit corporation, once established, is to have and exercise all rights and powers conferred on non-profit corporations under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act and other laws of Texas, of those powers which may hereinafter be conferred.

Section 4.2 -- The general purposes for which this Council is organized shall be to promote the civic betterment and social welfare and well-being of those residents, businesses, property owners, and other stakeholder groups within the boundaries of the SN51. The Council shall promote and engage in activities for the use and benefit of all stakeholders within SN51, including but not limited to, (i) to seek a consensus and provide citizens with opportunities to advise the Houston City Council, Mayor’s Office and other entities on issues important to the Super Neighborhood; (ii) undertake a wide range of neighborhood improvement projects determined by the members; and (iii) with cooperation from the City of Houston, identify and develop solutions to mutual problems, and develop Super Neighborhood Action Plans (SNAPs) to address them.

Article V – Membership

Section 5.1 – SN51 Council Leadership Team shall be governed by a Council composed of the duly designated delegates of eligible resident-linked organizations such as civic associations, non-profit organizations, faith-based institutions, school districts, and business organizations that are stakeholders in the Super Neighborhood.

Section 5.2 – Participation in the Super Neighborhood Council #51 Council shall not be limited by the imposition of membership requirements or fees either by the Council or participating organizations.

Section 5.3 – The Super Neighborhood Council #51 prohibits the exclusion of any individual or organization based on race, age, creed, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation or national origin from participating in Council activities or serving as a Council member.

Section 5.4 – It shall be the right of any stakeholder within the Super Neighborhood to be represented, either through new or existing resident-linked organizations.

Article VI – Council Seats

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Section 6.1 – A delegate to the Council must be a designated representative of the stakeholder organization that they represent. All residential delegates shall live within and/or own residential property within the boundaries of SN51.

Section 6.2 – Each stakeholder organization with a seat on the Council shall be allowed one vote which shall be cast by the stakeholder organization’s delegate or in his/her absence, by a designated alternate. Each Active and Participating Stakeholder Organization shall provide the Council with an authorization letter indicating their appointed delegate and alternate delegate(s).

Section 6.3– The Council shall initially consist of the following stakeholder organizations, each having one vote on all matters brought before the Council. Additional stakeholder organizations may be added to the Council by a simple majority vote of the Council where a quorum is present.

- A. Civic Associations
 - 1) Lindale Park Civic Club
 - 2) B.O.N.D.
 - 3) North Central Civic Association
 - 4) Ryon Civic Association
 - 5) Silverdale Civic Association
 - 6) North Lindale Civic Association
 - 7) Glen Park Neighbors
 - 8) Avenue Place Civic Club
 - 9) Historic Near Northside Civic Club
- B. Non-profit Organizations
 - 10) Avenue
 - 11) Wesley Community Center
 - 12) MD Anderson YMCA
 - 13) Salvation Army
 - 14) Leonel Castillo Community Center
 - 15) Northside Dawgs
- C. Religious Organizations
 - 16) Canaan Central Christian Church
 - 17) Holy Name Catholic Church
 - 18) St Patrick’s Catholic Church
 - 19) Juan Marcos Presbyterian Church
 - 20) St Alban’s Episcopal Church
- D. GO Neighborhoods Program
 - 21) GO Neighborhoods Program Manager
 - 22) GO Leadership and Advocacy Team
 - 23) Greater Northside Health Collaborative
 - 24) GO Culture Team
 - 25) Block Captains
 - 26) Safe Walk Home
 - 27) Vagrancy Committee
- E. Schools

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- 28) Clemente Martinez Elementary
- 29) Ketelsen Elementary
- 30) Looscan Elementary
- 31) Thomas Jefferson Elementary
- 32) Sherman Elementary
- 33) Marshall Middle School
- 34) Northside High School
- 35) YES Prep Northside
- 36) Houston Can Academy
- 37) Houston Community College – Northline Campus
- 38) University of Houston Downtown
- F. Other Associations
 - 39) Greater Northside Chamber of Commerce
 - 40) Jeff Davis Hispanic Alumni Association
 - 41) Del's Ice Cream
 - 42) NNS Positive Interaction Program

Section 6.4 – Active and Participating Stakeholder Organizations where three consecutive general meetings of the Council were not attended by their delegate or alternate delegate will be asked in writing by the Super Neighborhood Council #51 to appoint a new delegate.

Article VII – Officers

Section 7.1 – The elected SN51 Council Leadership Team (officers) of the Council shall be a committee made up of no less than 5 (five) and no more than 7 (seven) delegates acting to fulfill the duties generally conducted by a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. The Council Leadership Team shall constitute the elected officers of SN51.

Section 7.2 – The SN51 Council Leadership Team shall schedule and convene Council meetings and in between meetings of the Council, act in its behalf to approve and set policies, evaluate projects, communicate with City Council and other government entities, communicate with the City of Houston Super Neighborhood Liaison, promote participation in City governance, and establish committees to carry out these and other functions as needed.

Section 7.3 – The SN51 Council Leadership Team shall preside over all general meetings. The SN51 Council Leadership Team shall have the authority to conduct meetings and to maintain order.

Section 7.4 – The SN51 Council Leadership Team may have rotating roles in conducting the business of the Council.

Section 7.5 – The SN51 Council Leadership Team shall keep an accurate record of proceedings at all meetings, act as custodian of current records, and file and maintain up-to-date membership lists and attendance records.

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Section 7.6 – The SN51 Council Leadership Team shall keep an up-to-date record of all financial transactions, receive all money, deposit funds in the bank and disburse money as authorized by the Council. The SN51 Council Leadership Team shall present a report of finances at each general meeting of the Council. Checks disbursed shall contain the signatures of two of the Community Coordinating Team members.

Section 7.7 – At each SN51 Council Leadership Team election, newly and/or reelected Council Officers shall serve a term of two years. A staggered election process will be implemented so that no more than a simple majority of the SN51 Council Leadership Team are replaced at the next yearly election.

Section 7.8 – All newly elected SN51 Council Leadership Team members shall be installed immediately.

Section 7.9 – SN51 Council Leadership Team members shall be limited to serve two (2) successive terms.

Section 7.10 – The Council will determine the annual election dates for the SN51 Council Leadership Team.

Section 7.11 – All SN51 Council Leadership Team members shall be elected by the SN51 where a quorum is present. Each delegate present shall be permitted to cast the number of votes equal to the number of SN51 Council Leadership Team members being elected at the meeting. Each vote must be for a distinct individual. The open member positions are then filled by the nominees who receive the highest vote counts. For example, if two members are being elected, then the two nominees receiving the highest number of votes are elected to the SN51 Council Leadership Team. In the event of a tie between nominees, they must choose between a run-off election or a coin toss to determine the winner.

Section 7.12 – A vacancy in the SN51 Council Leadership Team shall be filled according to the determination of the Council Leadership Team. The Council Leadership Team may appoint a replacement or hold a special election by a quorum of the members of SN51. The appointed or elected member shall serve immediately and hold office for the duration of the term.

Section 7.13 – Any SN51 Council Leadership Team member who fails to meet the obligations and responsibilities of their office may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Council. In addition, any SN51 Council Leadership Team member who fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of SN51 Council Leadership Team with unexcused absences may be removed from office. The SN51 Council Leadership Team is responsible for determining whether an absence is excused. Any SN51 Council Leadership Team member may appeal an unexcused absence by asking SN51 to excuse an absence by a majority vote of the SN51.

Section 7.14 – Any SN51 Council Leadership Team member may publically comment on their affiliation and/or representation for either the SN51 Council Leadership Team or the Super Neighborhood 51 Council so long as it is in a general, non-political, non-bias manner. The

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following activities must be approved by the SN51 Council Leadership Team and/or SN51 prior to public engagement:

- A) Attempting to influence legislation;
- B) Organizing or engaging in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes;
- C) Assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing;
- D) Impairing existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements;
- E) Engaging in partisan political activities, or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to any public office;
- F) Participating in, or endorsing, events or activities that are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties, political platforms, political candidates, proposed legislation, or elected officials;
- G) Engaging in religious instruction, conducting worship services, providing instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious instruction or worship, constructing or operating facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship, maintaining facilities primarily or inherently devoted to religious instruction or worship, or engaging in any form of religious proselytization;
- H) Providing a direct benefit or harm to:
 - 1) A business organized for profit;
 - 2) A labor union;
 - 3) A partisan political organization;
 - 4) A nonprofit organization that fails to comply with the restrictions contained in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 except that nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent participants from engaging in advocacy activities undertaken at their own initiative; and
 - 5) An organization engaged in the religious activities described in bullet number seven above, unless Super Neighborhood 51 Council assistance is not used to support those religious activities;
- I) Conducting a voter registration drive or using Super Neighborhood 51 Council funds to conduct a voter registration drive;
- J) Such other activities as the Community Coordinating Team and/or Super Neighborhood 51 Council may prohibit.

Section 7.15 – Individuals may exercise their rights as private citizens and may participate in the activities listed above on their initiative and time, and using non-Super Neighborhood 51 Council funds. Individuals should not wear clothing that may distinguish them as a part SN51 while doing so.

Article VIII Committees

Section 8.1 – Committees shall be established as the need arises by the Council.

Section 8.2 – Committee members shall appoint the committee chairperson.

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Section 8.3 – Committee chairpersons and committee members need not be SN51 members, however, they must be a stakeholder, a representative of a stakeholder organization or a potential stakeholder organization, and must be approved by the SN51 Council Leadership Team.

Section 8.4 – Committees have the power to act, plan, design and schedule without the approval of the SN51 Council Leadership Team or SN51. All expenditures of funds or request for funding or grants must be approved by SN51.

Article IX Meetings

Section 9.1 – The general meeting of SN51 shall be held at a time and place to be designated by the SN51. A quorum is required for the transaction of business at a general meeting. All SN51 activity will be conducted in open meetings where community stakeholders may observe discussions and participate under defined circumstances.

Section 9.2 – An individual wishing to address the SN51 shall sign a “Speakers List” at the beginning of the meeting and shall be allowed 3 (three) minutes to speak.

Article X – Procedures

The most current edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order” shall be the guide for procedure in all points of order not covered by the Bylaws.

Article XI – Amendment of Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended on an as needed basis by a written resolution, presented at a general meeting of the SN51 and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at a general meeting of the SN51 where a quorum is present.