

Over the last couple of months, I've listened in to a few neighborhood council meetings, and I've been struck by how lively they tend to be – and not just because of the regular interventions of Mr. Goat Puppets. It's clear that at every meeting, important issues are brought up; issues often overlooked by city authorities, but that are nonetheless vitally important to our local community. I've seen the neighborhood council take steps to deal with problems ranging from burglaries and squatters in the old firehouse to noise pollution from Van Nuys Airport and excessive brush – all local issues that require advocacy by an assembly in touch with its constituents.

I've always been passionate about politics, both national and local, and the Neighborhood Council seems like a perfect way to learn more about the issues affecting my community – and to help give back. The Youth Representative position has sat vacant for many months, which is certainly a cause for concern; the Neighborhood Council is meant to be representative of a broad range of stakeholders, including our neighborhood's youth. As Youth Representative, I would bring new perspectives to the table, highlighting issues relevant to young people and working to drive greater engagement. I can commit to being a diligent and engaged member of the council, having demonstrated my capacities for leadership, commitment, and knowledge of local issues, through extracurriculars and political volunteering, respectively. It would be an honor and a privilege to serve as the ENC's youth representative, and I look forward to helping my local community in any way I can.