



## NEIGHBORHOODS, USA RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS** the Neighborhoods, USA mission states “NUSA provides opportunities for diverse people and organizations to share their ideas, values and experiences to build stronger communities.” and

**WHEREAS** Currently 18 cities in 14 states are represented on the NUSA Board; and they most directly represent their cities with a combined population of about 5 million residents (1.5%), and less directly the interests of 148 million (46%) people in their states out of the total national population of over 322 million. Most states and the majority of the United States are not currently represented on the NUSA Board.

**WHEREAS** NUSA Board membership is currently limited to 2 persons from a single city; and there is no limit to participation at the state or regional level, and

**WHEREAS** at the February 2017 Board meeting, discussions occurred around the topic of revising the 2 members from a single city provision in the bylaws, and

**WHEREAS** based on the statistics above, and with a goal of expanding our membership and influence, the whole organization needs to continue to explore new ways to engage residents in other states and communities that have not been NUSA members or applied to be host cities, and

**WHEREAS** the current bylaw provision (6 C ii) has not had the desired effect of achieving outreach to new cities and states and increasing Board representation from new areas, and

**WHEREAS** developing a strategic plan for NUSA should become a priority of the organization, including considering limiting Board members to two per state, or establishing larger regions (and an appropriate number of representatives for them) within the United States that share common cultural and economic ties, could be new approaches to increase the number of people that are members of NUSA and improve the national representation on the NUSA Board;

**WHEREAS** any changes to the bylaws should be drafted in such a way that does not affect currently elected members of the NUSA Board; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the sponsors of this resolution ask for General Membership support directing the NUSA Board of Directors to draft any necessary bylaw amendments for consideration at the 2018 Annual Conference that will further encourage broad participation from across the entire country, and direct the establishment of a strategic plan to improve equitable representation and expanded membership in NUSA.

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