



Los Angeles Community Development Department
1200 W. 7th Street, Los Angeles California 90017

NEWS

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Happy Birthday CDD!

Los Angeles-The Community Development Department (CDD) of the City of Los Angeles marked its 30th year this week. The department was officially established on August 15, 1977 by the authority of then Mayor Tom Bradley.

The department had its genesis in the late 1960s when the City received an influx of federal funds to address the problems of urban decay brought into focus by the Watts riots in the summer of 1965. Funds were used to provide social services, help people develop job skills and employment. Money was also used to rebuild and rehabilitate housing and assist senior citizens.

The focus of the department has not changed dramatically over the years, although there are now City departments devoted to housing and aging issues. Economic development programs have been added to CDD's services.

On the anniversary of the department, staff gathered for a small celebration to note three decades of providing economic, social and employment opportunities for individuals, families and neighborhoods in need. Four of the original staff members still work at CDD. They are Larry Feldman, Tony Kochinas, Dolly Malva and Mike Shaw. During the celebration, each recounted how they started with CDD and how much the department's mission has continued to inspire them.

Ms. Malva, noted that Richard Benbow is eighth in a line of CDD general managers. Since taking the reins of the department in June 2006, Mr. Benbow says he has been "struck by the dedication and passion that CDD employees bring to their jobs daily."

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