



First District News

Councilmember Ed P. Reyes
City of Los Angeles



July 2008

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, July 3

Opening celebration for Levitt Pavillion-MacArthur Park Summer Concert Series featuring Punta Cartel and Son Mayor at 7 p.m. Concerts run through Sept. 14.
2230 West 6th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90057
www.levittla.org
(213) 384-5701

Wednesday, July 9

Very Be Careful at Levitt Pavillion-MacArthur Park Summer Concert Series
Traditional Colombian vallenato music with catchy grooves.
7:30 p.m.

Reyes Brings Back Free Summer Concerts



Free concerts are coming back to the **Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts** at the **MacArthur Park** bandshell from July 3-September 14. The weekly summer series includes 50 performances featuring Grammy-nominated musicians and emerging talents from around the world. The concerts run every Wednesday to Sunday at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. **Target Children's Night** performances on Sundays begin at 6:30 p.m.

The 2008 line-up includes critically-acclaimed salsa band, **Son Mayor** and local Mexican and Cuban jazz rhythm heroes, **Quetzal**, among others. Bring a picnic dinner, lawn chairs, a cozy blanket, or dancing shoes to enjoy the compelling rhythms and energizing beats. Information: (213) 384-5701 or www.levittla.org.

Reyes Moves Closer to Polystyrene Ban in City Facilities

A proposal, co-authored by **Councilmember Reyes**, that bans polystyrene products and non-recyclable plastic bags in City facilities, recently sailed through the **L.A. River Ad Hoc Committee**. City facilities include **City Hall**, libraries, airports, the **Los Angeles Convention Center**, **Farmers' Markets** and street events on City grounds. Reyes' goal is to reduce the quantity of trash, including single-use, plastic carryout bags and Expanded polystyrene (EPS) food packaging, from reaching area waterways and communities. Plastic and EPS wastes pollute waterways,

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Friday, July 11

Audubon Film Fridays at Debs Park
7 p.m for Bird Walk and 8 p.m. for film.
4700 N. Griffin Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90031
www.laaudubon.org
(323) 221-2255.

Saturday, July 12

The Estrella Block Party
Bring your friends and family for raffles, live music and health services.
Intersection of Estrella Ave and 21st Street.

Tuesday, July 29

Meet and Greet Cpt. William Murphy from LAPD
6-8 p.m.
Río de Los Angeles State Park Community Room
1900 San Fernando Rd
Los Angeles, CA 90031

Thursday, July 31

Highland Park Town Hall Meeting with Councilmember Ed P. Reyes
Come meet the councilman and discuss city related issues.
6 -8 p.m.
Highland Park Ebell Club
131 S. Ave. 57
Los Angeles, CA 90042, (213) 485-0763.

impact marine ecosystems, blight neighborhoods and increase landfill waste, said Reyes, who Chairs the L.A. River Ad Hoc Committee. As a consumer, you can do your part by asking stores and restaurants to use alternatives to polystyrene. For recycling facts and resources, visit Californians Against Waste at www.cawrecycles.org.

Triangle Park Links Public to Chinatown, L.A. River



Councilmember Reyes recently gathered with city officials, neighboring businesses and community leaders to dedicate the **Alameda Street and Main Street Improvement Project**. The project, a triangle park, links the public to **Chinatown**, the **Los Angeles River** and **Union Station**. It includes 61 trees, park benches, lush green lawn and circular path lined with historic red bricks that date back more than 100 years.

Reyes, Residents Pitch In for Lincoln Heights Community Clean-up



Armed with rakes, shovels and trash bags, Reyes and nearly 200

volunteers fanned out across **Lincoln Heights** to clean-up their neighborhood. The crews gathered at **Lincoln High School** at 8 a.m. on a recent Saturday for the community clean-up organized by Reyes, who also provided tools for the event. Participating organizations included the **Lincoln Heights Tutorial Program, Lincoln High School and Parent Center, Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council** and **Chamber of Commerce, LA Bridges/Aztecs Rising, Socorro Cri-Help, Central City Action Committee** and **Clean and Green**. If you or your organization would like to host your own community clean-up, or be part of our next effort, please contact our office at (213) 485-0763.

Pico Boulevard Gets a Makeover



A \$2.5 million streetscape project to improve the safety and beauty of Pico Boulevard is well underway. The **Pico Blvd. Streetscape Enhancement Project** calls for enhancements along a 1.4-mile stretch of Pico Corridor, between the Harbor Freeway 110 to Hoover Street. At Reyes' request, community workshops were held to gather ideas from local residents on the project design. A design plan was developed based on this input that includes tree trimming, tree removals, replacing old or broken sidewalk, fixing disabled ramps, planting Chinese Flame trees and 25-foot-high Mexican Fan Palm trees, benches, trash receptacles and decorative crosswalks at major intersections.

City Celebrates the “Magic” of 10,000 Youth Jobs



Councilman Ed Reyes joined **Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa** and **Ervin "Magic" Johnson** at the **L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce** to celebrate the mark of 10,000 youth jobs goal and set a 15,000 new jobs goal for **Hire LA's Youth**. The program, backed by the City's **Workforce Development System**, will prepare young adults for the 21st century workforce with job placements at participating business. The program provides job seekers, L.A. residents ages 16-24, with valuable work-readiness training and leadership development between youth and businesses. One in five youth between the ages of 16-24 in Los Angeles and Long Beach are out of school and out of work, according to a study commissioned by the **Community Development Department's Workforce Development Division**.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Lights On at Cypress and Glassell Parks

Councilmember Reyes recently announced the launch of "Summer Night Lights," a new anti-gang initiative that will keep eight City parks, including **Cypress Park** and **Glassell Park**, open after dark. The program includes free sports and art activities for at-risk youth and youth job opportunities. The Councilman joined **Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa**, **LAPD Chief William Bratton** and **USC football coach Pete Carroll** at **Glassell Park Recreation Center** to kick off the program, designed to combat gang violence during the traditionally most-violent summer months. Each park will host basketball and soccer leagues that will culminate in an end-of-summer sports tournament. **Beyond the Bell's LAUSD "Mobile Skate Van" program** will be stationed at each park to provide safe skateboarding opportunities. City parks under this program will be open and fully-staffed from 7 p.m. to midnight on Wednesday through Saturday, from July 4 to Labor Day. The program is a partnership with Coach Carroll's non-profit organization - **A Better LA**, the **Department of Recreation and Parks**, the **LAPD**, the **Department of Cultural Affairs**, and the **LA Unified School District (LAUSD)**. Information: (213) 485-0763.

Reyes Backs Motions to Crack Down on Gun-Related Violence
Councilmember Reyes, a member of the City's **Public Safety**

Committee, recently backed City motions aimed at reducing violent crimes. The proposals call for the following:

- Eviction of a tenant if he or she is in illegal possession or use of weapons and ammunition on the premises or within 1,000 feet of a rental property
- Banning the possession of 0.50-caliber ammunition
- Licensing of ammunition vendors; and
- Face-to-face ammunition sales, intended to prevent Internet purchases of bullets.

Crime-Fighting Police Cars Make Our City Safer

In an effort to protect our communities and police officers from violence, Councilmember Reyes recently joined City leaders at the **Los Angeles Police Academy** in **Elysian Park** to unveil the **LAPD's** new digital in-car cameras.

The LAPD will begin rolling out this month 300 high-tech cars with digital cameras that capture footage inside and outside police cars. Two cameras will be placed in each car, one facing outward, and another facing inward toward the rear seat of each car, said Reyes. **IBM** has installed a highly secure WiFi network at divisions, providing automatic wireless uploads from multiple police cars simultaneously.

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinics Target Homeless Pet Population



Councilmember Reyes joined with officials and celebrities at **North Central Animal Care Center** in **Lincoln Heights** recently to announce new low-cost spay and neuter clinics to help reduce the number of homeless cats and dogs in Los Angeles. Nearly 1 million homeless cats and dogs enter animal shelters annually in California. "Residents have shared their concerns with me about packs of homeless dogs roaming neighborhood streets and the danger they could pose to their children. The spay/neuter clinics both help improve public safety, and humanely reduce the number of homeless animals on the streets," said Reyes, who was joined by **Bob Barker**, activist and former host of "Price is Right." Information: (888) 452-7381, or www.laanimalservices.com.

Neighbor of the Month



Name: Alicia V. Brown

Occupation: Retired teacher

Neighborhood: Solano Canyon

Claim to Fame: Alicia has worked on a number of projects in the **First Council District** ranging from historical preservation to neighborhood beautification. One of these projects is the **Solano Canyon Community Garden** which she helped found. Alicia worked with community activists **Al Renner** and **Lydia Moreno** to transform a neglected five-acre plot into a community garden with rented plots filled with trees, flowers, fruits, and vegetables. The garden, decorated with colorful mosaics and shady benches, is located next to the northbound 110 freeway on Solano Ave. Money that generated from renting the plots used for park improvements under a non-profit status. For more information, visit www.solanogarden.org.

I have lived in Solano Canyon Since ... 1939 .

What I love most about my neighborhood: The quiet, green hillsides right in the middle of the City.

Favorite CD1 restaurant: Prefers barbecues with family and neighbors.

First Pet: A white **Pekingese** named **Snowball**

Favorite Book: Bible

Hobbies and Interests: The performing arts. Alicia was a former professional dancer in various forms ranging from classical ballet to folklorico. She studied in Mexico City and Texas, and made her debut at the **Palace of Fine Arts** in **Mexico City**.