

# PRESS RELEASE

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## COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH INTRODUCES LANDMARK LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS IN THE VALLEY

**Los Angeles** – In an ongoing effort to make City Hall more accessible to residents of the San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles City Councilman Greig Smith has introduced legislation that would require City Council meetings to take place in Van Nuys City Hall twice monthly, upon its completion.

Smith, a longtime advocate of *truly* local government, has initiated a series of policies targeted at bringing City government closer to his constituents. His legislation requiring remote videoconferencing for City Council meetings has been approved for a pilot program in two locations, which will eventually roll out to six, citywide. Videoconferencing is a key component in the Councilman's efforts to make it more convenient and expeditious for citizens to exercise their voice in local affairs.

Councilman Smith has initiated evening district office hours; a Community Service Partnership with local community groups and Neighborhood Councils and has brought many City committee and commission meetings to his district – all aimed at increasing government participation by Valley residents who often feel too remote from City Hall.

“San Fernando Valley residents should not feel excluded from City government by virtue of geography,” said Councilman Smith. “Having City Council meetings at least twice a month in the Valley, where one-third of our citizens resides, is plain common sense. I look forward to the completion of Van Nuys City Hall and to enabling more Valley residents to engage actively in their local government.”