

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 12, 2005

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Greig Smith Council District 12



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

LOS ANGELES TO BE FIRST CITY IN THE NATION TO OFFER VIDEOCONFERENCING PARTICIPATION

Los Angeles/Van Nuys - On Wednesday, the Los Angeles City Council will formally vote on Councilman Greig Smith's videoconferencing legislation that allows Los Angeles residents to testify at Council meetings through the means of videoconferencing technology from remote locations across the City.

Los Angeles is the largest City in California and spans almost 466 square miles. Over the years, residents have felt disconnected with its local government.

"It's time that Valley residents have their voice heard on issues that affect them. No longer will they have to sacrifice an entire day out of school or work and have to drive 30 miles downtown in heavy traffic to state their opinions at Council meetings," said Councilman Smith. "Videoconferencing provides a great opportunity to increase participation and reflects my philosophy that City government should be as open and accessible as possible."

If approved by Council, the first two videoconferencing locations will be at Van Nuys City Hall and San Pedro City Hall. Los Angeles would be the first city to offer videoconferencing participation at Council meetings.

At Wednesday's Council meeting, Valley Vote President Joe Vitti, Valley Industry Commerce Association Chairman Martin Cooper, Van Nuys Homeowners Association President Don Schultz, and Richard Ricci, the Chatsworth resident who suggested videoconferencing testimony to Councilman Smith during his Council campaign will provide a demonstration from Van Nuys City Hall.

WHO: Councilman Greig Smith and San Fernando Valley Activists.

WHAT: City Council's formal vote and demonstration of Councilman Greig Smith's videoconferencing legislation.

WHEN: Wednesday, July 13, 2005 at 10a.m.

WHERE:

- Los Angeles City Council Chambers, 200 N. Spring Street, Room 340, Los Angeles
- Marvin Braude San Fernando Valley Constituent Center, 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Room 1A, Van Nuys

VISUALS: San Fernando Valley activists testifying from Van Nuys via videoconferencing.