

Wendy Greuel Los Angeles City Councilmember

The Valley View

LAKE VIEW TERRACE • LA TUNA CANYON • NORTH HOLLYWOOD • SHADOW HILLS • SHERMAN OAKS
STUDIO CITY • SUNLAND • SUN VALLEY • TUJUNGA • VALLEY VILLAGE • VALLEY GLEN • VAN NUYS



October 2007

IN THIS ISSUE:

SHINING A LIGHT ON CITY BUSINESS

I am working to pass a measure that expands the City Ethics Code to include meetings between City Commissioners and lobbyists.

WE COMPLETE A MAJOR CONGESTION- REDUCING PROJECT

A \$46 million project to improve the 405/101 interchange is unveiled.

CD 2 CELEBRATES THE CHILD HEALTH AND SAFETY FAIR

In an effort to bring critical health services to our Valley children, we host our 4th annual child health and safety fair.

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS

October 27th, 9:00 AM
CONGRESS OF
NEIGHBORHOODS

The Los Angeles Convention
Center
1201 S Figueroa St

INCREASING TRANSPARENCY



In an effort to ensure honesty and transparency in City elections, I introduced a motion last month asking the City Ethics Commission to include [ex parte communications](#) with City Commissioners under the City's ethics code.

We must ensure that all City Commissions are operating in an open, ethical, and transparent manner. Angelenos have the right to know that decisions by their City government are being made on behalf of the people, not the powerful.

Ex parte communications are contacts made by an interested party – such as a lobbyist with a decision maker – such as a City Commissioner – outside the presence of other stakeholders. An expanded ex parte code would require City Commissioners to make public all such contacts before voting on a particular issue.

The [City Ethics Commission](#) does not currently have a citywide ex parte communications program for City Commissioners and groups conducting business with a Commission. Currently, City Commissioners could hold several meetings with lobbyists or community groups and receive private information without having any legal obligation to report these exchanges. Under the new ordinance, a Planning Commissioner, for example, would be bound by law to announce that he had met with a developer before making a land use decision relevant to the developer.

We are not suggesting that contacts between Commissioners and stakeholders are inherently wrong. I simply believe that the citizens of Los Angeles have a right to full disclosure of all the evidence used to reach a public decision.

I have found that most City Commissioners are eager for a defined set of rules on reporting and publicizing ex parte communications. The City Commissioners I have worked with want to ensure due process on all matters before them, particularly in the case of quasi-judicial issues.

Various cities and agencies across the State of California have implemented ex parte communications restrictions, including, the City of San Diego, the City of Santa Monica Planning Commission, and the California Coastal Commission.

In order to safeguard the best interest of Los Angeles residents, I am working step by step to clean up City government. In 2005, I led the effort to ban City Commissioners from fund raising or from participating in contracting. We also launched the effort to institute a "Clean Money" system for City elections, which would remove the influence of special interests in these elections, and helped to create the Waste, Fraud and Abuse Investigation Unit in the Controller's office. Fighting for transparency at the commission level is one more step toward an

Los Angeles, CA 90015

Residents from across the City are invited to a day of [free workshops](#) on Neighborhood Councils and civic engagement.

Register: Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
(213) 485-4608

or

To register online
[click here](#)

**November 1st, 8:00 AM
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY INFO SUMMIT**

Holiday Inn Burbank
150 East Angeleno
Burbank, CA 91502

The Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley hosts a summit to address major economic issues affecting Valley business.

To register online
[click here](#)

**November 11th,
11:00 AM
FOREST LAWN 48TH ANNUAL VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY**

Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills
6300 Forest Lawn Dr
Los Angeles, CA 90068

The free community event will feature a military vehicle display, musical performances and KTLA anchor Stan Chamber as emcee.

For more information visit the Forest Lawn website.
[click here](#)

honest and efficient City Hall.

REDUCING TRAFFIC CONGESTION

On October 19th, I joined City, State, and business leaders to announce the completion of a major congestion reducing project along the 405 freeway. The \$46 million [project widened](#) the northbound section of the 405 from five lanes to six between Sepulveda and Ventura Boulevards. Further, we constructed new on-ramps from Sepulveda to the 405 and 101 freeways.



According to Caltrans, MTA and LADOT engineers, commuters heading northbound on the I-405 will be able to travel 2.5 times faster than before and travel speeds through this interchange will increase by 30 miles per hour.

The 101/405 interchange is the busiest freeway interchange in the nation carrying 580,000 vehicles daily and it is the most congested bottleneck in the US according to the [American Highway Users Alliance](#). Valley don't need statistics to tell us that commuting to and from the Westside is a notorious nightmare. For this reason I have made improving the North-South connection a priority of my tenure as Chair of the Los Angeles Transportation Committee.

The enhancement of the 405/101 interchange is just the first step toward reducing congestion along the North-South route. I worked with my colleagues to secure state dollars to complete the 405 carpool lane and we recently unveiled the Sepulveda Boulevard Reversible Lane Plan. By fighting for our fair share of transportation dollars and implementing innovative solutions, we will continue to fight traffic congestion along our freeways.

CHILD HEALTH AND SAFETY FAIR

Last month a record-breaking 2,000 community members attended my fourth annual Child Health and Safety Fair.



Families from Sunland-Tujunga to Studio City joined us in Valley Plaza Park for a day of music, celebration and safety information. While local school bands played on stage, health professionals provided immunizations, spinal checks and useful [safety tips](#). The LAPD inspected car seats to ensure all were age-appropriate and installed properly and then gave new car seats away to those in need.

Each year I host the Child Healthy and Safety Fair in an effort to bring critical resources to under-served Valley residents. We provide health services and information in a fun, family-friendly atmosphere. This year more than 40 health organizations ranging from El Proyecto del Barrio, a non-profit agency that serves lower income residents in the San Fernando Valley, to 1st Choice Dental staffed booths and provided free information. We gave away 500 bike helmets and raffled off 7 brand new bikes. In a particularly memorable moment, children gathered around the booth of First Choice Dental and were taught about the staggering quantities of sugar contained in ordinary products like orange soda.



This year's Safety Fair was a wonderful family-friendly event and I thank all who came and

helped to make the day such a success.

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

**VISIT MY
WEBSITE**

CALL MY OFFICE

Downtown
(213) 473-7002
North Hollywood
(818) 755-7676
Sunland-Tujunga
(818) 352-3287
