

WEISS WIRE

Volume 7 No. 1

February 2008

Welcome to Councilmember Jack Weiss' e-newsletter. Please call (213) 473-7005 or visit Jack's website for more information about happenings in the district and the City.

<http://www.lacity.org/council/cd5/>

If you or a friend would like to sign up to receive this newsletter, or if you would rather not receive it, please send an email to councilmember.weiss@lacity.org with your e-mail address.

In This Issue...

- WEISS CONTINUES PUSH FOR MORE DNA TESTING TO STOP RAPISTS
- WEISS INTRODUCES MOTION TO AMEND WLA TIMP
- NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS GAIN LEGISLATIVE ACCESS
- WEISS ENDS TERM AS CHAIR OF THE BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION
- MTA WESTSIDE EXTENSION TRANSIT CORRIDOR STUDY MOVES FORWARD
- DONATIONS WELCOME FOR FALLEN SWAT OFFICERS
- STREET SERVICES TO COMMENCE BEVERLY GLEN ROAD REPAIRS
- DOT WORKS TO IMPROVE STREET SAFETY IN THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS
- WEISS CALLS FOR CONTINUATION OF LOS ENCINOS PARK OPERATIONS
- LOS ANGELES MUSEUM OF THE HOLOCAUST BREAKS GROUND
- THE LOS ANGELES FILM FESTIVAL IS BACK
- STAFF CHANGES IN THE WEST LA DISTRICT OFFICE
- WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BURGLAR ALARMS AND LAPD
- UPCOMING EVENTS IN COUNCIL DISTRICT FIVE
- STAFF PROFILE: MAYA ZUTLER, FIELD DEPUTY

WEISS CONTINUES PUSH FOR MORE DNA TESTING TO STOP RAPISTS

For nearly six years, Councilmember Jack Weiss has championed the use of DNA evidence as the most effective modern means for catching violent criminals, particularly those who rape and murder. Most recently, in November 2007, he outlined a \$10 million plan to staff the LAPD's DNA testing lab fully and fund additional outsourcing to clear the City's backlog of more than 7000 untested rape evidence kits.

Since December, Councilmember Weiss has been holding weekly hearings on DNA issues in the Public Safety Committee, which he chairs, and LAPD reports the number of perpetrators identified through the national database in which all DNA profiles are kept (known as a "cold hit"). In 2007, LAPD had 322 cold hits from unsolved crimes,

which is a 106% increase in the number of cold hits since 2006. The ability of the LAPD to match the DNA of a perpetrator to his or her identity has increased exponentially since the creation of the database a few years ago.

The LAPD has requested additional staff and outsourcing funds to increase DNA testing further in the next year's budget which will be discussed by the City Council starting in April. Councilmember Weiss will continue to emphasize the need to test all rape kits collected in a "real time" manner to boost the rate at which violent criminals are identified and arrested. For more information, contact his Public Safety Deputy Sue Stengel at (213) 473 7005.

WEISS MOVES TO UPDATE AND AMEND WLA TIMP

Because the West Los Angeles Transportation Improvement Mitigation Specific Plan (WLA TIMP) does not reflect current traffic conditions and pending transportation projects, Councilmember Jack Weiss introduced a motion on January 29 instructing the Department of Transportation, the Department of City Planning, and the City Attorney to amend the WLA TIMP to reflect an up-to date list of planned infrastructure.

Weiss has also been working on several initiatives, which together encompass a broad program aimed at congestion reduction, new or expanded public transit choices, better pedestrian accessibility, updated planning tools and a regional assessment of traffic improvements.

For more information on this issue, please contact Weiss' Field Deputy & Associate Planning Deputy Katherine Hennigan at (310) 289-0353.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS GAIN LEGISLATIVE ACCESS

On Tuesday, January 15, the Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously to permit Neighborhood Councils to create official Council Files that can be considered by the full City Council. This process will allow Neighborhood Councils to have a more official role in the creation of City policy than their current advisory capacity allows.

The City Council approved a two year pilot program that enables Neighborhood Councils to file up to three motions per year and requires another Neighborhood Council to second any motion. Participating Neighborhood Councils may be required to file the same Form 700 financial conflict of interest disclosure currently required of City Councilmembers and their staff.

For more information on the legislation, please contact Councilmember Jack Weiss' Legislative Deputy Kellee O'Rourke at (213) 473-7005.

WEISS ENDS TERM AS CHAIR OF THE BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION

After serving more than four years as the Bay Restoration Commission's first Governing Board chair, Councilmember Jack Weiss has stepped aside.

"My four years as Chair of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission have been educational and rewarding," said Weiss. "I have been proud to work with the staff and governing board members to put the Bay Restoration Plan into action."

Weiss leaves a legacy of successful projects from major land purchases that preserve valuable open space in the Santa Monica Mountains, to restored kelp habitats to native creekside revegetation and coordination with other state and local entities to restore critical habitats such as the Ballona Wetlands.

"Our actions have resulted in improvements in the quality of the Bay's environment, but much work still lies ahead," Weiss said. "I look forward to continuing to be involved in the good work of the Commission."

Weiss will continue to serve as President of the Bay Watershed Council and as a voting member of the Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board. For more information on his environmental work, contact Legislative Deputy Paul Backstrom at (213) 473-7005.

MTA WESTSIDE EXTENSION TRANSIT CORRIDOR STUDY MOVES FORWARD

To move forward with planning for additional transit on the Westside, on January 23, Metro (MTA) briefed many local elected officials on the status of the Westside Extension Transit Corridor Study that had commenced in the fall of 2007. Three public meetings also have been held to brief interested members of the public.

The next phase of the study takes into consideration the 484 comments received from the public during the early project scoping process that began this past October. Most of those who submitted comments supported a subway option as their preferred mode of transit expansion to the Westside. There were also comments in support of an aerial/monorail option and for special dedicated bus lanes in place of the heavy rail options.

The Metro study includes a number of options for a subway or aerial alignment that would connect with the purple line subway at Wilshire/Western running west on or near Wilshire Blvd. to Century City, then to Westwood, and ending along Wilshire just east of PCH. There are also another set of options being considered for above and below ground connecting with the red line subway at or near the Hollywood/Highland station running along Santa Monica Blvd. through West Hollywood, Beverly Hills to Century City, Westwood, and then along Wilshire to the ocean. The Bus Rapid Transit

(dedicated bus lanes), also being studied, would follow similar corridors along Wilshire and Santa Monica Boulevards.

The Metro Alternatives Analysis schedule for the coming months will include community update meetings in April 2008. The Alternatives Analysis study report will be completed in the summer of 2008 and a recommendation will be made to the board of the locally preferred alternative. If you would like further information please visit www.metro.net/westside, or call (213) 922-6934.

DONATIONS WELCOME FOR FALLEN SWAT OFFICERS

The City of Los Angeles and its LAPD Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team are mourning Officer Randal Simmons and wishing a speedy recovery to Officer James Veenstra who were shot on February 7. Due to overwhelming support for the officers and their families, trust funds have been established in both their names through the Los Angeles Police Federal Credit Union (LAPFCU) www.lapfcu.org. Donations may be sent to:

Blue Ribbon Trust Fund/ Officer Randal Simmons
Acct. 2030077-product code S4.12

Blue Ribbon Trust Fund/ Officer James Veenstra
Acct. 2030077-product code S4.13
LAPFCU
16150 Sherman Way
Van Nuys, CA 91410
(877) 695-2732

Contributions in their honor may also be made to the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation www.lapmf.org, or the Los Angeles Police Foundation www.lapolicfoundation.org.

STREET SERVICES TO COMMENCE BEVERLY GLEN ROAD REPAIRS

The Bureau of Street Services has tentatively scheduled road repairs for portions of Beverly Glen Blvd. between Mulholland Dr. and Ventura Blvd. The repairs will take place during weekend hours with completion expected by the middle of March. The thoroughfare has suffered for years from potholes, alligator cracks, and sunken portions.

For more information about the repairs or others in the Sherman Oaks area, please contact Councilmember Jack Weiss' Field Deputy Joan Pelico at (818) 971-3088.

WEISS/DOT WORK TO IMPROVE STREET SAFETY IN THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS

The Department of Transportation (DOT) and Councilmember Jack Weiss' office have worked together recently to provide a concept striping plan for motorists traveling Kings Road following requests for action from concerned neighbors on the narrow street. The plan repainted the centerline to account for angle parking that previously obstructed through access. The plan took effect between the City limit north of Sunset Blvd and Harold Way.

For more information about this issue and others affecting nearby residents, please contact Weiss' Field Deputy Sonia Kwon at (818) 971-3088.

WEISS CALLS FOR CONTINUATION OF LOS ENCINOS PARK OPERATIONS

Amid reports that the Los Encinos State Historic Park could face closure following state budget cuts, Councilmember Jack Weiss has called for a continuation of park operations through the 2008-09 fiscal year.

"Los Encinos Park has been a jewel of the Encino community since the 19th century," said Weiss. "Budget crunch aside, the state of California needs to allocate the funding to keep this park alive."

Weiss appealed for the operations continuation in a letter to California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman. Los Encinos is one of 43 of the State's 273 parks that are being threatened with closure in response to Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed 10 percent budget cut for all state agencies to offset an estimated \$3.3 billion deficit. Los Encinos State Park is a five acre ranch nestled in the bustling Ventura corridor that is known for its orange grove and popular duck and geese pond.

For more information on the issue, please contact Weiss' Field Deputy Matthew Schupbach at (818) 971-3088.

LOSANGELES MUSEUM OF THE HOLOCAUST BREAKS GROUND

A ground-breaking ceremony was held on January 25 in Pan Pacific Park for the new permanent facilities of Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust. Approximately 250 people attended the groundbreaking ceremony. The ceremony also marked the 63rd anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, one of the most well-known and deadly of the WWII concentration camps in Europe.

The new 15,000-square-foot museum is expected to be completed in 2010 and will include exhibits, a library, an audiovisual room, and an archive. The museum's facilities

will have the capacity to teach some 50,000 students a year about the Holocaust. The Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust has a two-fold mission: commemoration and education. The Museum maintains precious items that survived the war and will display original photographs, documents and other artifacts.

THE LOS ANGELES FILM FESTIVAL IS BACK

The 3rd Annual Los Angeles Film Festival is rapidly approaching and promises to be even bigger and better than last year when Westwood Village hosted the red carpet premiere of Transformers. This year, there will be two major Hollywood openings: Hancock with Will Smith playing a homeless super hero, and Wall*E, Pixar's new animated feature. In addition to the blockbuster premieres, the 10-day event will screen dozens of independent and foreign films. The 3rd Annual Los Angeles Film Festival, presented by The Los Angeles Times, will take place from June 19 through June 29. For more information please visit <http://www.lafilmfest.com>, or call 1-866 FILM-FEST (1-866 345-6337).

STAFF CHANGES IN THE WEST LA DISTRICT OFFICE

The West Los Angeles District Office is undergoing some exciting personnel changes. Field Deputy Katherine Hennigan will assist with planning and land use issues as Weiss' new Field/Associate Planning Deputy, and continue to work on community issues for Cheviot Hills. Council Aide Jennifer Badger will be taking over responsibilities in the communities of Palms, Mar Vista, South Robertson and Westside Village as Weiss' newest Field Deputy. Please look for Jennifer to be introduced in many upcoming neighborhood meetings.

The West Los Angeles District Office is working hard to make these transitions as seamless as possible. For any questions on these personnel changes, please contact Jennifer and Katherine at (310) 289-0353.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BURGLAR ALARMS AND LAPD

The Los Angeles Police Department responds to more than 100,000 burglar alarms each year. 97% of those are false alarms. False alarms divert police resources from patrolling neighborhoods or responding to other calls.

To account for the effects of false alarms, the LAPD implemented a revised Burglar Alarm Dispatch Policy in 2004 to make optimum use of limited public safety resources. The policy permits two false alarms per rolling year with resident verification required to dispatch patrols thereafter. City law was revised the same year with increased penalties for multiple false alarms.

Alarm users may be charged a false alarm fee of \$115.00 for each false alarm. If the property has a second false alarm within 365 days, the alarm user also can be charged a penalty assessment of \$50.00. Additional false alarms will incur additional penalties. If an alarm user has a false alarm and lacks a valid Alarm Permit, they also will be charged a penalty assessment of \$100.00 for the first false alarm and higher penalties for subsequent false alarms.

Residents are encouraged to take safeguards to prevent a false alarm in their absence, whether by accounting for family pets or even a fax machine going off. Residents with alarm systems that have not filed an alarm permit application can do so at https://parc3cert.lacity.org/finance/CoLA_AP.html.

UPCOMING COUNCIL DISTRICT FIVE EVENTS AND MEETINGS:

- On Tuesday, February 19, at 9AM, the Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commission invites residents to provide comments for the upcoming Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir Water Quality Project. A second meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 4, at 9AM. Both meetings will be held in Room 1555-H at DWP Headquarters (111 North Hope St.). To hear more about the project, please contact Councilmember Jack Weiss' Field Deputy Joan Pelico at (818) 971-3088.
 - On Monday, February 25, at 7PM, Councilmember Jack Weiss will be the featured Speaker for the upcoming Benedict Canyon Association Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Beverly Hills Hotel. For more information, please contact Michael Chasteen at (310) 553-4222.
 - On Monday, February 25, at 7:15PM, Congressman Howard Berman will be speaking on foreign affairs, the economy, healthcare and funding for Los Angeles transportation projects at the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association meeting. The meeting will take place at the Sunkist Building (14130 Riverside Dr.) For additional information, please call (818) 377-4590 or visit www.sohainfo.com.
 - On February 25 and 26, the Century City Chamber of Commerce, in association with the Sister to Sister Foundation, will be hosting a Heart Health Fair. For more information on this event, please visit http://www.sistertosister.org/fairs/los_angeles.php.
 - On Thursday, February 28, at 2PM, the Los Angeles Police Department's Van Nuys Community Police Station is inviting business owners and residents to discuss crime prevention and quality of life issues at its first Sherman Oaks Business Watch in the first floor community room of the Sherman Oaks Galleria. To learn more, contact the Senior Lead Office at (818) 374-1995.
-

STAFF PROFILE: MAYA ZUTLER, FIELD DEPUTY

Maya Zutler joined Councilmember Jack Weiss' office as a Field Deputy in September 2006. Maya provides constituent services and assists with planning and land use issues for the Fairfax, Melrose and La Brea communities. She addresses problems unique to these areas and acts as a liaison between constituents and city departments. Maya helps residents, organizations and businesses in her area improve their quality of life by finding creative solutions to ongoing issues. She also serves as a liaison to the Fifth Council District's Jewish community. Currently, Maya devotes numerous hours to a variety of volunteer activities and advocating for various philanthropic causes. Previously, Maya was a Field Representative for U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein. Maya grew up in Orange County and received her B.A. in Sociology from UCLA. A resident of the Fifth Council District, Maya is proud to call Los Angeles her home.

CITY HALL, Legislative and Policy Issues
200 N. Spring St., Suite 440, Los Angeles 90012
(213) 473-7005

Denise Sample, Chief of Staff
Lisa Hansen, Deputy Chief of Staff
Sue Stengel, Public Safety Deputy
Paul Backstrom, Senior Legislative Deputy
Kellee O'Rourke, Legislative Deputy
Moirra Stockwell, Executive Assistant
Tammy Louie, Office Manager
David E. Cano, Council Aide

VALLEY DISTRICT OFFICE, All Neighborhoods North of Sunset Blvd.
15760 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 1020, Encino, 91436
(818) 971-3088

Fortuna Ippoliti, District Director & Director of Community Relations
Beverly Kenworthy, Senior Planning Deputy
Joan Pelico, Field Deputy
Matthew Schupbach, Field Deputy
Sonia M. Kwon, Field Deputy
Shirleen Zatsepin, Council Aide

WEST LOS ANGELES OFFICE, All Neighborhoods South of Sunset Blvd.
822 S. Robertson Blvd. Suite 102, Los Angeles 90035
(310) 289-0353

Lisa Trifiletti, Senior Planning Deputy and District Counsel
Jay Greenstein, Senior Field Deputy
Katherine Hennigan, Field/Associate Planning Deputy
Evan Gordon, Field Deputy
Maya Zutler, Field Deputy
Jennifer Badger, Field Deputy