



THE LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL GAZETTE

OPEN GOVERNMENT WORKING DAY AND NIGHT FOR YOU
IN EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD OF LOS ANGELES

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Day in, day out: your City Council at work

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *Los Angeles City Council Gazette*. I introduced the *Gazette* to give you some idea of what your City Council as a whole is up to day in and day out, in the community and in City Hall. Whether we're developing legislation, working with department officials to find funding for valuable projects, serving as mediators and communicators to solve problems in our districts or just working outside on anti-graffiti vines or trash clean-ups, we each find ourselves involved in countless projects that sometimes don't make the news. Please contact our offices or go online to <http://www.lacity.org/council> to learn more about what we do.

Yours truly,

Eric Garcetti

CD1 Reyes honors Roybal, opens new bandshell

The **Edward Roybal Board of Public Works Room** was unanimously named by the City Council following a motion by **Councilmember Ed Reyes**. Roybal, a pioneer in Latino politics and a major catalyst in securing adequate health care for the elderly, was 89 when he died Oct. 24. Roybal represented Los Angeles for 30 years in Congress after serving on the Los Angeles City Council for 13 years. He was the first person of Mexican descent to sit on the council since 1881.

Reyes joined Hiner family members and the community at Sycamore Grove Park in Highland Park to **dedicate the Sousa-Hiner Bandshell**, named after nationally-renowned band leaders and composers Dr. Edwin M. Hiner and John Philip Sousa. Hiner founded the music school at what is now the UCLA music department. Sousa, also known as the "March King," composed *The Stars and Stripes Forever*. The Highland Park Heritage Trust introduced the idea to name the bandshell and was joined by the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council, Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council and Highland Park Chamber of Commerce.

CD2 Greuel gets left-turn lights, rec center

Last year **Councilmember Wendy Greuel** asked the Department of Transportation (DOT) to examine the need for **additional left-turn signals citywide**. In response to that request, DOT officials presented a report to Transportation Committee last month and announced an \$8-million plan, funded over the next four years as part of the Automated Traffic Surveillance

and Control Program, various Street Lighting Improvement Projects and DOT's annual Signal Design work program, to add 450 left-turn signals to Los Angeles intersections. DOT officials said there are a multitude of intersections where left-turn arrows would help move traffic more smoothly, relieve congestion, and enhance safety for motorists and pedestrians. The San Fernando Valley will receive 163, or 40%, of those signals. The total number of left-turn signals in the City of Los Angeles will increase from 1,700 today, to 2,100 in four years.

Greuel dedicated the **Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park Gymnasium and Recreation Center**. The brand-new 13,425 square-foot facility, built with **\$4.26 million** in Proposition K funds, features full-court basketball, a state-of-the-art scoreboard, and a multi-purpose room. The city is now in the process of designing a state-of-the-art Senior Citizen Center to continue to provide seniors with quality programs and meals at the Van Nuys Sherman Oaks park site.

CD3 Zine funds swimming pool

Four Council Motions, a Controller's Audit, a Mayor's Directive, and 3 cost estimates by the Bureau of Engineering - this is what it took to put the funding puzzle together to **reopen the Lanark Park Pool** in Canoga Park, announced by **Councilmember Dennis Zine** with Mayor Villaraigosa. Prop 12 and Prop 40 State Park Bonds, local Quimby Funds, Urban Development Achievement Grants, and Community Redevelopment Agency tax increment money were only the beginning of the quest to find the funds estimated by the Recreation and Parks Department to replace the pool.

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Initially estimated at a cost of \$2.7 million, the price tag hit \$4.4 million following a further feasibility study and geotechnical survey, and ballooned yet again to \$6.2 million based on the results of a different pool planning project. This shortfall could have delayed the project, but after the November 2005 audit of the Department of Recreation and Parks by the Controller, the Mayor designated the necessary \$1.8 million from the Municipal Recreation Program Fund to close the gap and **get the pool open in time** for the 2007 Summer season.

Weiss and the Los Angeles Fire Department proudly celebrated the grand opening and dedication of the **new Fire Station #83** at 4960 N. Balboa Boulevard in Encino on Sunday February 26. The new station will meet the needs of the area's thriving residential and business community with a state of the art 15,250 square foot Station House, which includes a meeting room for the community. Construction of the new station was provided with voter-approved Prop F funds.

CD4 LaBonge: PD ride MTA free, hope for Cahuenga Peak

During his time on the board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, **Councilmember Tom LaBonge** introduced a motion to allow LAPD officers in uniform to ride Metro free. It was adopted in February. The new policy, to be formalized with a Memorandum of Understanding between the Los Angeles Police Department and the MTA, will permit officers in "Class A" (dress) uniforms with valid identification to ride the Metro rail and bus system on a fare-exempt basis so long as they do not take seats from fare-paying passengers and that they fulfill their responsibilities as peace officers as circumstances require.

Councilmember **LaBonge's campaign to acquire Cahuenga Peak from private developers** and annex it to Griffith Park moved closer to reality in late February when the central Regional Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee recommended allocating \$955,000 of Prop. K funds toward the purchase of these 138 unspoiled acres just west of the H in the Hollywood Sign. If the City Council ratifies R-VNOC's recommendation, the pool of funds will grow to \$4.5 million, still shy about \$1.5 million of the \$6 million asking price to buy this property for public use and ensure it remains open space forever. Private citizens interested in contributing should contact Larry Kaplan at the Trust for Public Land at 213.380.4233.

CD5 Weiss fights for residents, opens fire station

The City Council has passed **Councilmember Jack Weiss' "Neighborhood Protection Package,"** a combination of legislative and constituent service measures that will **help residents protect the quality of life in their neighborhoods.** Weiss' measures will strengthen City laws and enforcement ability and provide directions for builders to prevent disruption in neighborhoods by strengthening enforcement against developers who repeatedly violate code requirements, requiring notification when demolition permits are issued, and improving construction site management, including a set of 'rules of the road' for builders to minimize nuisance to neighbors.

CD6 Cardenas keeps kids from gangs, bulky items off streets

As a state assemblymember, **Councilmember Tony Cardenas** created the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act, which secures over \$100 million a year for California anti-gang programs. Now, as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Gang Violence & Youth Development, he's making sure that the city supports effective programs to help kids avoid gangs. Cardenas has **proposed a "gang czar"** or a sole department that keeps track and places **accountability models on all the city's intervention programs.** In committee, he won support for a non-profit consulting group charged with unraveling the city's current disarray. The Advancement Project was selected to put together a proposal that would help solve these organizational, accountability, and funding problems. The group will also look into creating a sole, centralized department as a possible solution.

The Cardenas Clean-up Crew has picked up 4600 tons of trash and bulky items off of city streets since the Councilmember took office in 2003. Cardenas has made a commitment to spend weekends rolling up his sleeves and ridding Council District 6 of old couches, rusty refrigerators, trashed T.V.'s, and abandoned construction material. Bulky item pick-up is free when you call 3-1-1.

CD7 Padilla: safer grocery stores, lower crime

Councilmember Alex Padilla won city support for a new **grocery worker retention ordinance** that provides workers 90-days of job security when their place of business changes ownership. Proper handling of meats and produce is a public health issue and there was concern that ownership change often results in abrupt replacement of experienced workers.

By the end of 2005, the **7th District once again saw additional drops in crime.** Homicides fell 17%, burglaries fell 19% and robberies fell 30%, in addition to the reductions realized each of the previous two years. Foothill Division, which serves the Lake View Terrace and Pacoima areas of the district, is now ranked last in crime within the city! The remainder of our district is covered by the new Mission Area Police Station which is also doing a tremendous job of crime reduction.



CD8 Parks: regulate student housing, get football

Due to the increasing demand of student housing in the city, Councilmember Bernard C. Parks has introduced ground-breaking legislation to address high-density housing in lower density neighborhoods. The proliferation of out-of-scale multi-housing developments has led to overcrowding, elevated the demand for on-street parking and imposed strains on the community's existing infrastructure. Commonly referred to as the "University Off-Campus Housing District", the legislation addresses issues related to University Student Housing in residential areas and establishes the "Off-Campus Housing Overlay Zone Oversight Committee" to identify stakeholder concerns regarding residential housing in the proposed boundary of the 10 freeway to the north, the 110 Freeway to the east, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to the south, and Normandie Avenue to the west.

Councilmember Parks and Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum General Manager Pat Lynch met with National Football League officials at Super Bowl XL in Detroit, Michigan and continued their lobbying efforts to return an NFL team to the Coliseum, whose officials remain just a handful of issues away from transitioning the term sheet they have been negotiating with the NFL into a lease which, if approved, could bring a team to L.A. in time for the 2009 season. During the meeting, the league reaffirmed its desire to put the plan for a brand new Coliseum can be put on the agenda for the league owners' meeting in March.

CD9 Perry wins re-investment plan, opens urban wetlands

Councilmember Jan Perry and the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA/LA) released the Central Avenue Action Plan. Along Central Avenue from 18th Street to Slauson Avenue, the plan outlines key sites for investment, identifies areas targeted for a façade improvement program and notes a dearth of retail and entertainment options available to residents in the area. According to studies, the \$400 million annually spent outside of the area could support 1,500,000 square feet in new development.

The Augustus Hawkins Nature Park near Slauson and Compton is the first of its kind to be developed in a highly urban setting. Opened by Councilmember Perry in February, the park creates an urban oasis for South Los Angeles residents, attracting unique wildlife and vegetation to the community. The wetland was designed to improve urban stormwater flood protection, a major goal of voter-approved Prop O. It provides efficient flood controls, and treatment of surface water run-off. It will also support a habitat for locally sensitive species, migratory birds, and other wildlife, with plant species that provide nesting, roosting and refuge.



CD10 Wesson fights cuts, regulates auto body shops

The hard work of Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr. as chair of the Housing, Community and Economic Development Committee (HCED) City Council led to the passage of the 2006-07 Consolidated Plan, which lays out the spending plan for federal housing and block grant funds. Facing a 10 percent cut from the Federal Government, Wesson restored proposed cuts in homeless shelters, AIDS prevention, and youth programs. Under his stewardship, the committee restored almost \$3.3 million to these programs as a response to the community's concerns.

Councilmember Wesson pushed for enactment of a one-year ban on new auto body shops in the 10th District. Finding an over-concentration of auto shops and junk yards in the District, Wesson decided it was time to put a halt on new entities and take a hard look at how the existing ones could be effectively regulated. The Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) addresses a major issue raised by residents who have complained about fumes from paint and other toxins, noise from shops working at night, as well as businesses that routinely park dilapidated cars on the street, aggravating the shortage of neighborhood parking. The ordinance, which became effective February 13, 2006, directs the Department of City Planning to develop plans, over the next year, to further regulate auto-related uses, junk yards, open storage and recycling facilities.

CD11 Rosendahl keeps LAX promise to community

During Councilmember Bill Rosendahl's campaign for office, he demanded an end to LAX expansion, the promotion of a system of regional aviation, and greater community involvement in airport planning.

In October 2004, at a meeting of the Westchester Neighbors Association, Rosendahl unveiled the "Rosendahl Pledge for LAX", a series of promises and commitments about constraining growth at LAX and promoting aviation. In December 2005, Councilman Rosendahl, along with the mayor, the Alliance for a Regional Solution to Airport Congestion (ARSAC), and other elected officials from the local, county, state and federal level, announced a plan that fulfilled those promises.

The plan settled a series of lawsuits against the airport, curbed LAX expansion, and addressed the need to promote regional aviation solutions. Specifically, the plan allows for the immediate modernization of the airport, enhancing security, public safety and traffic mitigations. It also gives the local community a front seat and genuine decision-making power in a massive rewrite of the LAX Master Plan.

CD12 Smith passes trash plan, starts work on pool

Councilmember Greig Smith's RENEW LA policy was unanimously passed by the City Council in February. RENEW LA (Recovering Energy, Natural Resources and Economic Benefit from Waste for Los Angeles) is a **resource management blueprint to guide the City for the next 20 years**. It leads Los Angeles out of landfilling by recovering material that has traditionally been disposed of for beneficial use in the form of green electricity, alternative fuel sources and manufacturing feedstocks.

Councilmember Smith used a sledgehammer to break the concrete of the old Northridge pool in a groundbreaking ceremony to **kick off construction of the new Northridge Pool & Aquatic Center** at Northridge Park, fulfilling a pledge to replace the now empty Northridge Pool, which has been damaged and has not been open for a full summer in several years. Councilmember Smith secured funding to build the Pool & Aquatic Center from several sources, including Proposition 40, Proposition K, Seismic Bonds, Sites and Facilities money, a General Fund contribution. The new **\$5.8 million pool** will feature a lap pool, a specially equipped shallow pool for young children and the disabled, all new lifeguard offices, first aid station, showers and changing rooms.

CD13 Garcetti protects trees, opens homes on tragic site

Council President Eric Garcetti won passage of the Protected Tree Ordinance. Mature, healthy trees encourage investment in our city, raise property values, and contribute to a higher quality of life in the city. A strong urban forest improves air quality, helps control flood control, and conserves water and energy, but development continues to threaten oaks and other species. The new ordinance **increases penalties for non-permitted removal of protected trees** and adds the Southern California Black Walnut, the Western Sycamore, and the California Bay to the species protected in city codes.

Garcetti also opened the Palomar Apartments, a \$5.6 million affordable housing project built on the site of a tragic fire. In an arson fire in 2001, resident Norma Galindo fell to her death only moments after handing her two young children, Lupita and Miguelito, to LAFD firefighters Bob McMaster and Tony Cardona. With assistance from the the CRA/LA and TCAC bonds, the Hollywood Community Housing Corporation restored the structure and opened **27 apartments to serve low-income senior citizens and people with disabilities**.

CD14 Huizar addresses gang girls, helps nonprofits

Councilmember Jose Huizar is taking leadership in addressing the female gang problem. He's currently working with L.A. Bridges II, the City's gang intervention program, to **reach out to female gang members** and provide gender-specific programs and services.

Since **Huizar** took office in November, he has co-sponsored with the Community Development Department a series of capacity-building **workshops for Community Based Organizations** (CBOs). The series focuses on resource development, fiscal management and program evaluation to help enhance the delivery of human and social services for CD 14 residents. These workshops are vital because CBOs help to serve underserved and under-represented communities in the district.

CD15 Hahn fights ship pollution, heals gang rifts

Councilmember Janice Hahn received unanimous support from her City Council colleagues for a resolution urging the United States Senate to adopt the newest amendment to the MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships) clean ship treaty. The Councilmember has been **working to improve air quality** in the Harbor Area, and throughout the region. Ship pollution is responsible for as much as 20% of the pollution in the Los Angeles basin. A recent Air Resources Board report blames cargo-related pollution for 750 premature deaths; 290 hospital admissions; 18,000 asthma attacks; 160,000 lost days of work; 1.1 million days of restricted activities; and 350,000 school absences statewide. Business, labor and environmental leaders also supported the treaty, which the Senate, hopefully, will adopt in its upcoming session.

Councilmember Hahn continues to work toward **achieving a cease-fire amongst gang members** in the community of Watts. In a one month period, there were 18 gang related shootings, 7 of which were homicides, in the community. The Councilmember has been meeting regularly with community leaders, as well as with the gang members, to achieve peace and stop the shooting. Significant progress is being made. She has been focused on improving the quality of life for the residents in Watts, specifically by bringing in additional recreational opportunities for young people.