



NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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CITYWIDE

WATER RATE INCREASE

Approximately 30 Neighborhood Councils took positions in opposition to a proposed 18% water rate increase. It was the single largest effort by Neighborhood Councils to advocate for a position on a citywide issue. The Board of Water and Power Commissioners voted to seek just an 11% increase. See [articles](#) dated February 3, 4, 13, 23, March 8, 24, 31, and April 2, 14, 2004.

MOU WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER

During the discussions about the possible water rate hike, the Department of Water and Power and representatives from the Neighborhood Councils met to discuss early notification issues, and how the department and the Neighborhood Councils should interact with each other.

The result was a Memorandum of Understanding that was unanimously endorsed by the Board of Water and Power Commissioners on April 5, 2005. This MOU is expected to a model for similar MOUs with other city departments. To see the MOU, click here or go to www.lacityneighborhoods.com and click on [Reference Library/MOU](#)

SECTION 245 MOTION ABANDONED

Section 245 of the City Charter allows the City Council, by a 2/3rds vote, to take jurisdiction over any action by a city commission, and potentially veto the action.

Following the approval of the DWP MOU by the Board of Water and Power Commissioners, there was a motion submitted to the City Council a week later. The Neighborhood Councils quickly mobilized themselves, and when the matter was discussed the maker of the motion changed his mind, the Neighborhood Councils were roundly applauded by the City Council members for their achievement, and the motion was “received and filed.” To view the motion and its disposition, click here, or go to www.lacity.org/CFI/ and type in the Council File Number which is 05-0675.

MOU WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Working with a grant they received, USC’s Neighborhood Participation Project facilitated meetings with the Department of Public Works and four Neighborhood Councils in the southeastern Valley. (Mid Town North Hollywood, Greater Toluca Lake, Neighborhood Council Valley Village, and Studio City.)

The goal was to develop a memorandum of understanding that included, among other things, a system through which each of the Neighborhood Councils would prepare lists of priority projects for the department to pursue. The MOU was completed, and each Neighborhood Council is in a different stage of completing their work plans. To read the MOU, click here or go to www.lacityneighborhoods.com and click on [reference library/mou](#)

BURGLAR ALARMS

With just a few days notice, a coalition of Neighborhood Council leaders joined together to convince the City Council to take their side in opposition to a burglar alarm response policy being adopted by the Police Commission. Articles documenting this can be found on the department’s website at www.lacityneighborhoods.com. Click on [Newsroom>Articles](#), and look for articles dated January 15 and 16, and February 11, 2003.

ON-LOCATION FILMING

The City has now required that the controversy surrounding on-location filming and the Entertainment Industry Development Corporation should be resolved by including all the Neighborhood Councils that wish to be involved. See [articles](#) dated May 7 and 13, 2003.

DEVELOPING THE CITY BUDGET

Mayor James Hahn has fulfilled his unprecedented pledge to involve the Neighborhood Councils in the development of his annual city budget. In the past, all mayors have kept the public far outside the budgetary process. 47 Neighborhood Councils submitted their budget priorities.

Neighborhood Council budget representatives met in focus groups and workshops and ranked their top priorities for each of the city's seven Neighborhood Service Areas. Neighborhood Council representatives met privately with the mayor to discuss their priorities. When the mayor released his proposed 2004-05 budget on April 20, 2004, he also released a separate Neighborhood Council Budget Summary that listed all of the priorities submitted by the Neighborhood Councils and the mayor responses to those requests. This process was improved with the involvement of the Neighborhood Councils for the 2005-06 budget.

See [articles](#) dated July 23, 25, September 2, 15, November 2, 2003, January 13, 2004, and April 21, 2004.

BUILDING THE NEW SCHOOLS

At the April 5, 2003 Congress of Neighborhoods, the Los Angeles Unified School District began involving Neighborhood Council in the site selection and design of the 40 new schools that the District plans to build. One of the goals, unique to such processes, is to maximize project benefits for neighborhoods, especially where District's plans might help the neighborhoods rid itself of blighted or problem properties.

BUILDING LEADERSHIP

Six forming and certified Neighborhood Councils in the Central and South Los Angeles area (Olympic Park, West Adams, P.I.C.O., Mid City, United Neighborhoods of the Historic Arlington Heights, West Adams, and Jefferson Park Communities, and Wilshire Center-Koreatown) joined with Coro to develop a special leadership development program. The 10-week

program concluded June 19, 2003 when the leaders presented their project – a vision for the economic development of the 10th City Council District. The leaders learned how to take a dream, define the concept, develop a plan, and realize the dream.

10TH DISTRICT EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS

Twelve out of the 13 Neighborhood Councils in Council District 10 joined together and launched the first 10th District Empowerment Congress on January 24, 2004. Approximately 200 neighborhood council leaders gathered at the Wilshire Radisson Hotel recognizing that they are stronger as a united group and if Neighborhood Councils want a long lasting change to be made, it must be a unified effort. All Neighborhood Council stakeholders in attendance pledge their support and commitment in setting an agenda to include a strategic plan for economic development, safety, youth, green space, and common initiatives. 10th District Councilmember Martin Ludlow also pledged his support and commitment to seek input from the Neighborhood Councils concerning any "cuts" that he would recommend during the City's budgetary crisis.

The 10th District Empowerment Congress established a committee who will meet in a quarterly basis to discuss issues of concern in the 10th District. The event ended by affirming the commitment of Neighborhood Councils to work together as a unified group on issues of common concern in the 10th District and encouraged everyone to hold their elected officials accountable to the commitments they have made.

BEING A PART OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OVERLAY ZONE (HPOZ) BOARD

Neighborhood Councils have taken credit for convincing the City Planning Commission to change a staff recommendation, and provide a seat for Neighborhood Councils on each Historic Preservation Overlay Zone board. The first draft of the amendment to this ordinance presented by the Planning Department staff included a guaranteed seat for Neighborhood Councils. But when the report was finally presented to the Planning Commission, this recommendation was deleted. Neighborhood Councils said that this victory at the Planning Commission was evidence of the growing influence that Neighborhood Councils have on the way government does business. The ordinance still requires City Council approval.

RE-NAMING OF CITY STREETS

Neighborhood Councils may have been divided on whether or not to re-name Crenshaw Boulevard, but they joined together to insist upon a process that involved them in the decision-making. The City Council agreed, and voted to send the proposal to committee where the matter would be considered along with more involvement from the Neighborhood Councils. Following this action, an editorial entitled “A New Force at City Hall” in the Los Angeles Times said, “Los Angeles’ evolving neighborhood councils may not have a seat at the City Council’s horseshoe-shaped table, but they are finding ways to influence decisions made there. Like term limits, they could radically transform the way the city work – for better or worse.” [See article dated July 6, 2003.](#)

MID CITY WEST, CANNDU, HARBOR GATEWAY SOUTH, RESEDA, SUNLAND-TUJUNGA

The Mid City WEST Community Council, CANNDU (Community and Neighbors for Ninth District Unity), Harbor Gateway South, Reseda, and Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Councils are leading the way in creating emergency preparedness plans. They are going beyond training individuals, such as through the Fire Department’s CERT program, and preparing plans for entire neighborhoods to ensure that they begin fixing their neighborhoods even before help can arrive.

CENTRAL AREA

CENTRAL HOLLYWOOD:

Held a holiday party in 2003 that was attended by approximately 200 stakeholders. About half of the stakeholders were new to the Neighborhood Council, and a number of those have been participating by joining and chairing committees.

Recently planted a community garden at Fountain and Mansfield Avenues. This garden was planted with the help of the LA Conservation Corps. Neighbors worked together to transform an empty lot into a beautiful garden.

DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES:

Holds an annual Block Party, an event that the Neighborhood Council holds every June to celebrate the culmination of the preceding year of operations, thank outgoing board members, and welcome newly-elected incoming board members. The Neighborhood Council uses this event as

an outreach event to inform people about the Neighborhood Council. The event includes food, performers and a booth with City and community agencies.

Brought together 27 board members (including the homeless, social services, business, labor, the arts, residents, and workers) around one table to work together in a harmonious way. The Neighborhood Council has managed to find Board Members who represent not just one-but two, three, four, or more of each stakeholder group in a single person. The only organization that has brought together all these groups to get to know, understand, and work with each other in the history of downtown.

Created a whole new neighborhood in the Gallery Row along Main and Spring Streets in once boarded up store fronts, with spaces for film, theater, music, books, and all of the other fine and popular arts.

El Nopal Press Art Printers signed a lease at 5th and Main streets for their studio art gallery. Bert Green Fine Art opened across the street and two or more galleries will soon be open at the same corner.

The L.A. Means Business event at the Convention Center shortly after the gallery openings also worked in conjunction with Gallery Row to bring downtown to the attention of many other businesses that are now either relocating or starting up in downtown including a five star restaurant which is about to sign a lease just around the corner where the average meal will be only five dollars.

GREATER GRIFFITH PARK:

Created a video tape that aired to all students in the local high school which communicated the purpose of the GGPNC and gave compelling reasons for young people to become involved with their Neighborhood Council.

HISTORIC CULTURAL:

Board members were successful in getting the City Council to include neighborhoods in a review of EIDC policies and HCNC Board Members have proposed a media “hot zone” policy to create more rigorous rules for location filming in areas of intense production (two communities in the ninth district account for more than 5,000 shooting days a year) and to ensure some benefits flow back to the neighborhoods.

Councilmember Jan Perry appointed an HCNC Board Member to the Public Safety Metro Site Steering Committee.

The NC organized the first community meeting to challenge the City's plans to build a new public safety facility that would include a 500-bed jail adjacent to a Buddhist temple in the area.

HOLLYWOOD HILLS WEST:

Supports the Yucca Community Center by providing funds for various occasions like the 2004 Easter Egg Hunt and holds many of their meetings there.

Held an information expo for stakeholders and will be supporting the local Halloween festival both monetarily and with volunteers. On October 16, 2004 the Neighborhood Council held a recruiting event to recruit volunteers for the Runyun Canyon Volunteers a unit of the Recreation and Parks Department that would be in the park greeting people and providing information. The Neighborhood Council also purchased two informational kiosks and will be providing doggie bags within the park.

There is a movement to recruit poll workers that the Neighborhood Council will update on after the election.

Working with other groups in Hollywood to improve traffic flows on the 101 freeway and major Hollywood streets.

Working with Hollywood United Neighborhood Council and the Chamber of Commerce to create a "fun bus." The bus would transport Hollywood club goers to and from the various clubs and would also take them to their cars at the end of the night. The Neighborhood Council is trying to find a use for a vacant library in the area that will be of the best use to the community. The Neighborhood Council also plans to be active with the City Council in improvements and development of Highland Ave. CA Bill AB3047 turns Highland Ave over to the City of Los Angeles effective Jan. 01, 2005 and will also provide money for improvement and development.

HOLLYWOOD UNITED:

Had a tree planting in conjunction with Tree People for the Franklin Beautification Project. Planning to plant 36 more trees on November 13th. The Franklin Beautification Project is a City-assisted volunteer project to plant new trees along Franklin Ave, uniting the entire community in neighborhood improvement.

Organized a community meeting regarding the site that might be selected for the replacement of Fire Station 82. A majority of the board members present selected a nightclub property as the best option because of its location among the three potential sites.

Together with the "Friends of Cheremoya Avenue School," the Neighborhood Council co-sponsored a fundraiser to help fill some of the gaps created by the LAUSD shortfall. The Neighborhood Council started a wish list from the school principal that led to the school receiving computers, televisions, \$200/month credit at a Staples store and community folks offering to volunteer at the school.

Been active in assisting Hollywood Heritage in saving the Toberman House (home of a prominent mayor in the 1880's) by testifying at the Community Redevelopment Agency and the City Council hearings against development projects.

Co-sponsored the Hollywood Partnership Against Drugs New Year's Eve Rally and March. HUNC funds paid for a portion of the advertising and balloons. The event, which they helped organize, started at a local youth nightclub. The purpose was to provide a place for parents and youth to go on New Year's Eve. Passed out flyers and materials to the 1,000 participants.

MACARTHUR:

The Neighborhood Council is developing projects for the improvement of MacArthur Park. Providing funding to purchase paddle boats and make some improvements to the boat house on the lake. This is being done in cooperation with a local nonprofit, the Urban Research Institute, which maintains Mama's Hot Tamales Café across the street from the park.

Held a community outreach/toy giveaway event in collaboration with the office of Councilmember Ed Reyes during the holidays at a local community garden. Several hundred parents and children participated. The Neighborhood Council was able to collect contact information from the stakeholders that attended, which will allow them to contact them for future Neighborhood Council events and issues. The Neighborhood Council is now planning to hold a Tenants' Rights and Responsibilities Fair, with the support of the office of Councilmember Reyes, various community non profit organizations and the City Housing Department.

Held a “Tenants Rights Fair” on February 26, 2005 in collaboration with Office of Councilmember Ed Reyes and various other organizations, such as Collective Space, the Legal Aid Foundation, United Tenants, and the City of Los Angeles Housing Department. The fair covered various topics including the legal eviction process, tenants’ rights and responsibilities, housing department services and resources and the impacts of lead and mold. About 200 people attended the event. The lunch provided to the participants was donated in part from Mama’s Hot Tamales Café, a local non profit vendor. The event was a result of Neighborhood Council board members being approached by tenant stakeholders asking for help in dealing with problems such as eviction and other apartment housing related issues. The Neighborhood Council plans to hold ongoing workshops to continue educating renters as well as apartment landlords and managers regarding their rights and responsibilities, while providing information on housing and legal resources available.

MID CITY WEST:

Has over 3,100 registered stakeholders. The January 2003 general election had a turnout of almost 700 voters.

Publishes and distributes 35,000 newsletters published on a bi-monthly basis.

Launched and implemented a community-wide Crime Alert Network (CAN) that provides alerts, advisories, and prevention information to its stakeholders. The CAN played a major role in the arrest of a serial burglar suspect in the area.

Received an Environmental Affairs Department grant to plant hundreds of trees along Wilshire Blvd. as part of their Greening Project.

Partnered with the business community to beautify the Fairfax median, Crescent Heights, and San Vincente.

The Community Council is working with all four elementary schools in the area to establish before and after school programs.

On April 24, 2004, the Community Council released the results of their Mid City WEST Visioning Project Report. The report documents the findings of an extensive effort to learn more about community assets,, issues, needs and desires of stakeholders in the community. The 14-question survey queried local residents, employees, property owners and stakeholders

about a variety of issues ranging from how the City budget should be spent, crime, parks, housing, transportation, planning, and art. A total of 1256 people responded to the survey. They overwhelmingly cited traffic as their top concern, followed by noise, parking and lack of infrastructure maintenance. The Visioning Project is the most ambitious such effort undertaken by any of the Neighborhood Councils.

Held an all-day visioning session on Sunday November 7, 2004 that involved 38 board members at which they created a strategic plan for the next 18 months for the Neighborhood Council. Timelines and goals were established and individuals committed to specific projects.

PICO UNION:

Lead the fight for the new school at the Ambassador Hotel.

EAST AREA

ARROYO SECO:

Will spend \$2,498 for Phase I of the beautification project to take place at Latrona Elementary School in Montecito Heights.

Monetarily supported the Halloween Carnival at Carlin G. Smith Recreational Center.

Provided financial support to: Sycamore Grove bandshell dedication project, a printing program for local *October Surprise* a three-day event sponsored by the Arroyo Arts Collective, National Night Out, Banner for Hermon 101st anniversary and family picnic, tree planting in all five communities, Mt. Washington Elementary School amphitheatre expansion, Sinfonica del Barrio, a classical concert preformed by professional musicians and local student musicians.

Gave support to the Hermon Dog Park, advocating that the park retain it's name.

Participated in Debs Park clean-up event for National Public Lands Day

Works to bring problem apartment buildings up to code.

Worked with the Senior Lead Officer to stop garage sales, illegal parking, and illegal vending.

Improved the area for parents who pick up and drop off their children at Arroyo Seco Elementary School.

Held a forum on Inclusionary Zoning.

Co-sponsored the CalTrans presentation on the Draft Corridor Master Plan Presentation for the Arroyo Seco Park.

Gave awards to apartment building managers who have worked hard to improve living standards for tenants.

ATWATER VILLAGE:

Worked with Warner Brothers Studios on a project through which Warner Brothers "Green Team" and their "The Studio That Saved the Earth" contest selected the center median and sidewalk areas in the 3200 block of Glendale Blvd. for their beautification project.

Over 150 people attended "An Afternoon in Atwater," and about 80 people committed to volunteer in various Neighborhood Council standing committees.

Working closely with the LAPD Northeast Division to raise awareness of public safety issues and crime-both violence and quality of life related. In addition to participating in meetings at the LAPD headquarters, the Neighborhood Council has worked closely with the neighborhood Community Police Advisory Board representative and Senior Lead Officer, resulting in a significant reduction of violent crime.

BOYLE HEIGHTS:

Advocated for the local parks, graffiti programs, public works projects, safety issues, and transportation projects.

EAGLE ROCK:

Responsible for a median tiling project on Yosemite and Townsend, a mural on North Figueroa, trash cans for each sub-district's public thoroughfares, surveillance cameras for Yosemite Park, monthly clean ups with the Eagle Rock High School Key Club, tree planting project on major median with the Collaborative Eagle Rock Beautiful and the Environmental Affairs Department.

Creation and implementation of the North Figueroa Corridor Beautification initiative.

Financial support for Eagle Rockdale Community Garden and Art Park.

Financial support for ROCK Teen Center youth leadership program and improvements at the center.

Financial sponsorship of the Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock's summer programs-the Rock is Art, Sylvan Movie Nights, and the Eagle Rock Music Festival.

Purchase of playground equipment for the Eagle Rock Elementary School kindergarten students.

Financial support for a historical documents preservation project by the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society.

Community-wide tree planting and median beautification and Collaborative: Eagle Rock Beautiful.

Financial sponsorship of Summer Swing Fest in conjunction with the Eagle Rock Chamber of Commerce.

Financial Support for Women's Twentieth Country Club historic building seismic retrofit to protect historical landmark.

Sponsorship of the B.L.E.N.D. Safety Fair.

ELYSIAN VALLEY RIVERSIDE:

On October 27, 2004, the Neighborhood Council held a "College Night" event for high school students in the community with the assistance of Marshall High School's college advisor. The event helped high school students to complete college applications for the University of California and California State University systems. The Neighborhood Council made a commitment to continue working with the students to help them complete the FASA application for financial aid. The Neighborhood Council has helped over 30 students apply for college.

GREATER ECHO PARK ELYSIAN:

The Historic Filipino Town Street Fair: Celebrating the designation of the first year of Historic Filipino Town with food, games, a parade, and the

participation of Councilman Eric Garcetti. There were at least 1,000 community stakeholders in attendance, mostly from the Filipino community, who all got to hear about the Neighborhood Council and its benefit to the community

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK:

Held the 1st Annual Home Ownership Orientation discussing the first steps toward homeownership. The bilingual event was held on Saturday July 3, 2004 at the Arroyo Seco Regional Branch Library. The workshop was the first of its kind to be sponsored by the Neighborhood Council in the entire Northeast region. Over 100 community members attended and the contributors included Bank of America, Fannie Mae, ACORN, New Economics for women, Inquilinos Unidos, the City Housing Department, and local realtors.

Purchased four concrete tables weighing 3670 pounds each placed at Garvanza Park, six benches weighing 1200 pounds each placed at Garvanza Park, and two benches weighing 1200 pounds each placed at Sycamore Grove Park. These are part of the Neighborhood Council beautification and improvement project.

Two community lectures at Arroyo Seco Library for the HHPNC and Kiwanis to replant the bare areas of the library and put in flagstones so that the people will walk on the stones, not on the plants.

Participated in a mural project. The mural is located at Ave. 54 and York, and depicts Native Americans as the first settlers in Highland Park. The purpose of the mural is to showcase a historical perspective on Highland Park.

LA-32:

Participated in a community clean-up in collaboration with Council District 14.

Participated in a Fourth of July Parade that marked the bicentennial of the El Sereno community.

LINCOLN HEIGHTS:

Supported the renaming of two of the Gold Line stations: Avenue 26 and French Avenue to Lincoln Heights/Cypress Park Station and Heritage Square/The Arroyo Station.

HARBOR AREA

The Harbor Area Neighborhood Councils (Central San Pedro, Coastal San Pedro, Harbor City, and Northwest San Pedro) participated in a joint venture with LAPD to purchase ATVs for the LAPD Harbor Division. The ATVs are to help deter crime within Harbor Area parks such as illegal dumping, off-road motorcycle riding, and homeless encampments.

CENTRAL SAN PEDRO:

Central San Pedro held a Holiday Film Festival at the 1931, Warner Grand, during the December holiday season of 2003. Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council teamed up with them on this effort. Additional support came from Councilwoman Janice Hahn's office. For one week they showed holiday films for the general public and bused in kids to view the films. The children came from local schools, and literature went out to the parents acquiring permission for the field trips. Both parents and school officials became aware of the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council through this effort. Various outreach activities took place around this time promoting San Pedro Area Neighborhood Councils.

Contributed \$10,000 for the Bandini Canyon Project with LANI.

Contributed \$4,000 to the joint venture with the Harbor Area Neighborhood Councils and LAPD to purchase ATVs for the LAPD Harbor Division.

COASTAL SAN PEDRO:

Worked with the Port of Los Angeles to create an Educational Resource for the local youth. The Port and the Neighborhood Council are also working together to create a freshwater marsh for the community to enjoy.

Contributed \$11,000 to the joint venture with the Harbor Area Neighborhood Councils and LAPD to purchase ATVs for the LAPD Harbor Division.

HARBOR CITY:

Had a railroad crossing placed at Western Ave. and Sepulveda Blvd.

Converted the 15-year-old Day Laborer Task Force into a committee of the Neighborhood Council to give it greater influence.

A developer prepared plans to convert a hot dog stand property into an unattended, 24-hour car wash. Individuals expressed serious concerns.

The Neighborhood Council was at the Zoning Administrator's hearing when the developer's request was denied. The Neighborhood Council invited the developer to work with them. He did and a plan was worked out to limit the hours of operation, have an attendant during business hours and to install quieter equipment. The lesson learned is that the whole process can be much easier and productive when developers and Neighborhood Councils work together on the front end.

Developed a successful graffiti abatement program involving a cooperative effort with their Neighborhood Prosecutor, the Police Department, and the Gang Alternative Program. The Neighborhood Council leveraged their resources and received the support of multiple agencies for assistance in solving challenging community issues.

Funded an Internet-based "Token of Kindness" program in 39 classrooms of three elementary schools that promotes acts of kindness by young school children.

Contributed \$5,000 to the joint venture with the Harbor Area Neighborhood Councils and LAPD to purchase ATVs for the LAPD Harbor Division.

NORTHWEST SAN PEDRO:

There is an ongoing strategic plan with LANI for Peck Park. The Neighborhood Council contributed \$10,000 and Council District 15 contributed \$70,000.

Contributed \$10,000 to the joint venture with the Harbor neighborhood councils and the LAPD to purchase ATV for the LAPD Harbor Division.

WILMINGTON:

Participated in an emergency preparedness education

Sponsored public forums and creating plans for the Wilmington Waterfront development--a strip of Port land one mile long and 600 feet wide that will be turned into a park, playground, and job training facility.

Contributed \$20,500 for a conceptual gateway project with LANI.

HARBOR GATEWAY SOUTH

Sponsors and conducts CERT-Emergency Preparedness training and awareness to the community for the purpose of ensuring readiness in case of a disaster. The CERT training provided community members with the

certification that equips them with the knowledge and capability to spearhead emergency relief for their community. Participated in developing plans for disaster relief and readiness for their own community and other communities without emergency relief plans or capabilities.

Coordinating an ongoing project to repair sidewalks in the community.

Spearheading an effort to revive block clubs in the community and to assist the Police Department by utilizing community participation to combat crime. The Neighborhood Councils, working with their Senior Lead Officer, has mounted recruiting efforts to create and strengthen block clubs in the community.

SOUTH VALLEY AREA

CANOGA PARK:

Held a Day of the Dead parade/carnival with food and music that the NC participated in. The Neighborhood Council passed out flyers and invited adjacent Neighborhood Councils to participate. (Day of the Dead is an ancient festivity that has been transformed through the years, but which was intended in prehispanic Mexico to celebrate the dead. Hence, the best way to describe this Mexican holiday is to say that it is a time when Mexican families remember their dead, and the continuity of life. Two important things to know about the Mexican Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos) are: 1. It is a holiday with a complex history, and therefore its observance varies quite a bit by region and a by degree of urbanization. 2. It is not a morbid occasion, but rather a festive time.

VALLEY VILLAGE:

Completed numerous zoning issues were heard and provided consistent feedback, that adhered closely to the Valley Village Site Plan, to both stakeholders and the City.

Began a very specific recruitment of stakeholders in the Neighborhood Council neighborhoods to become part of a new and more active Neighborhood Watch program. This included the purchase of street signs, and greater interaction between the local police and neighbors.

In August, hosted the first Neighborhood Night Out that was attended by over 200 people. The board tackled issues related to freeway sound walls, permit processes, beautification, traffic, and bike and pedestrian paths.

The purpose of the event was to establish a strong bridge between the stakeholders and the City government.

GREATER VALLEY GLEN:

The Neighborhood Council approved \$5000 for a freeway sign project.

Gateway signs for Valley Glen – two proposed locations: on Victory Blvd. median and Fulton Ave. and Burbank Blvd. The Neighborhood Council intends to apply for matching funds for gateway signs that say “Welcome to Valley Glen.”

Spearheading a community beautification project to encompass the triangle median at Vanowen St. and Fulton Ave. The beautification project began on November 24th with planting trees and drought resistant plants. Began planning the neighborhood beautification project in its early stages, setting aside a large budget and approving several locations.

Joined the Fire Department in making Neighborhood Councils first responders during emergencies by setting up a CERT class through LAFD to train Council members and block captains in emergency preparedness.

In December 2004, the Neighborhood Council distributed its first quarterly newsletter to nearly 22,000 stakeholders. The newsletter’s multi-color format and articles related to neighborhood concerns throughout the Neighborhood Council’s boundaries.

Published a tri-fold color brochure, that features information on the Council, its meetings, boundaries, and photographs of well known Greater Valley Glen locales.

Held its first ever holiday event on December 18, 2004. Upwards of 250 stakeholders were in attendance at this event that included the participation of the City departments, such as the LAPD, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, the Office of the Mayor, and the Office of Councilmember Wendy Greuel. Local schools took part in the event, including the Grant High School singers and the Grant High School jazz ensemble. Other noted musical groups and individual musicians rounded out the evening’s entertainment. Refreshments were provided by several area restaurants.

MID-TOWN NORTH HOLLYWOOD:

Received a \$10,000 Neighborhood Matching Fund grant in July that covered the September tree planting and have another planting scheduled

for January 2005. In total, the Neighborhood Council has planted 77 large 24" box trees with their funds from last year and the Neighborhood Matching Fund grant.

NORTH HOLLYWOOD NORTH EAST:

Brought Mango Tango restaurant into compliance with their permits after two years of non-compliance, thereby eliminating a problem for LAPD.

Worked to remove illegal street vendors at the request of business owners.

RESEDA:

Held a car show at which over 4000 people attended this resulted in the participation of two stakeholders that are now a part of the Safety Committee.

WEST HILLS:

The Neighborhood Council's opposition against the proposed Ahmanson Ranch Project was adopted by the Mayor and the project was abandoned.

Restricted and modified two housing developments to more closely fit with the milieu of West Hills and the desires of the neighbors.

Modified the development of a religious high school to accommodate the neighbors.

Worked with the 3rd and 12th district City Council members to improve street safety and removal of standing water around the West Hills Community Hospital and environs.

WOODLAND HILLS-WARNER CENTER:

The Neighborhood Council had a resolution passed on standing water, got more cops for intersections, planted oak trees in areas where the original oak trees have fallen down.

Got approval for steam cleaning on Ventura and Topanga Blvds. Often intercedes on behalf of stakeholders regarding situations that are happening in the neighborhood, i.e. building and development. The Neighborhood Council is trying to make it so those who want to do things in the Neighborhood Council area will come to the Neighborhood Council and present the idea to them and get a type of "approval."

Aided in having liquor licenses denied to places that are near children or if they are near children they have pushed to have walls and patrons built to keep the liquor farther away from the children.

Worked with the City Council to have a master plan done for cell phone towers. The City Council agreed to study another large city (example San Francisco) and report back to the Neighborhood Council.

Worked against the conversion of Hughes Junior High School into a high school that would specialize in foreign finance.

WEST AREA

BEL AIR-BEVERLY CREST:

Developed the process through which the Neighborhood Council meets monthly with the Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) traffic committee. They address traffic and transportation issues at local and regional levels. Neighborhood Councils provide representatives to discuss transportation priorities of the entire Westside with the officials from the Police Department, MTA, Cal Trans, homeowners' associations, businesses, the Mayor's office, and City Council offices.

Purchased radar guns for the police department to help combat speeders.

Working with tree people to help the Magnet School at Bellagio Road develop a green area behind their school. The City wants to pave the area.

April of 2004, participated in Earth Day by cleaning up areas of Mullholland.

MAR VISTA:

Holds quarterly stakeholder meetings, each with a focus for the community. The meeting in July 2004 safety and security turned out 150 people with the goal of creating neighborhood watch groups and block captains. The Neighborhood Council has already organized a few groups and will use this theme as a focus for their July 2005 stakeholder meeting.

The Mar Vista Voices meeting dealt with communication and bringing together other organizations that have been in the community longer than the Neighborhood Council, and that the Neighborhood Council generated from. That meeting had about 100 people in attendance.

Masterminded the multi-Neighborhood Council meeting to take a position on the Playa Vista development. The MVCC worked with Grass Roots Venice and Westchester/Playa del Rey Neighborhood Councils, and about 1200 people attended.

WESTCHESTER/PLAYA DEL REY:

Recommendations including downgrading Sepulveda Blvd. from a Class I to a Class II highway, and similarly downgrading La Tijera Blvd. The recommendations also included that any zone changes to Manchester Square be designated "open space" and that the Departments of Planning and Land Use, and Building and Safety and all related City departments provide the Neighborhood Councils with "Early Notification" for projects that require variances or zone changes.

Held a community picnic on September 11, 2004. About 700 people attended, and the NC signed up a few new stakeholders. The event was called the "Stars of the Neighborhood Picnic" because an award for unsung heroes called the "Star of the Neighborhood" was distributed at the picnic. The NC had a celebrity emcee Jovanna Lara of ABC 7 News.

WESTSIDE:

Purchased radar guns and gave them to the LAPD to combat speeders.

NORTH VALLEY AREA

ARLETA:

Gathered up volunteers and collaborated with the City Council Office to clean up an alley.

CHATSWORTH:

Initiated Equestrian Safety Month in April, 2004. The event was so successful that County Supervisor Michael Antonovich decided to make it county wide next year, and has asked Chatsworth Neighborhood Council's Equestrian Committee to assist in the planning.

Purchased a new remote control basketball/volleyball scoreboard for Chatsworth Park. Purchased another 27" TV, books and games for the Mason Park after-school program. Purchased 10 new chairs for the Devonshire Police Division detectives, purchased refrigerators, and barbeques for the Devonshire and Marilla fire stations, and got Best Buy to donate a \$350 fax machine to the Porter Ranch Fire Station. Bought \$1000 worth of books for the Wonder of Reading program at Chatsworth Park

School, and purchased a bench for the reading garden at the Superior Street School.

The Neighborhood Council purchased a mock rescue horse for Animal Services' DART (air rescue) team to use in simulated horse rescues.

They will be co-sponsoring an art festival in November and provided support for a large graffiti removal/clean-up project in the local state historic park.

NORTH HILLS WEST:

Stood in opposition of a church development that resulted in the City Councilman's decision to turn down the permit to the church. During this ordeal, general monthly meetings were packed with community stakeholders who were also opposed. Meetings averaged 35-45 people, and because of the increased stakeholder participation in this controversial issue the Neighborhood Council appointed a board member to a vacant seat.

PACOIMA:

Spearheaded two beautification projects and adopted two off-ramps. Participated in a Town Hall meeting for Chief Bratton that over 200 people attended. Bought playground equipment and educational materials for Pacoima Elementary School.

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA:

The monthly meetings have attendance of over 120 community members.

Compiled a survey entitled "ST Vision 2020" which is meant to gather opinion from the community about the strategic plan of the Neighborhood Council. The results of the survey are available on the Sunland-Tujunga website, and were used as information for hiring the urban planners.

Hired "urban planners" to assist in planning the future of Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council.

SOUTH AREA

CANNDU

Sponsors and conducts CERT-Emergency Preparedness training and awareness in the community for the purpose of ensuring readiness in the case of disaster. The CERT training provides community members with certification that equips them with the knowledge and capability to

spearhead emergency relief for their community. CANNDU has also participated in developing plans for disaster relief and readiness for their own community and other communities without emergency relief plans and capabilities. CANNDU is also developing partnerships with groups in the Valley to develop broad, regional emergency preparedness plans.

Sponsored a community play that was designed to demonstrate and foster positive relations between African Americans and Latinos and to bring about greater understanding between the groups. The theme of the play focuses on the interactions of an African American and a Latino family coexisting as neighbors in an inner-city community. The event was attended by over 100 community members, which included a high percentage of youth.

Frequently conducts alley clean ups in the community. Youth are brought in to participate in cleaning the community's dirty alleys.

EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS NORTH AREA NDC:

Had a stop sign placed at 29th St. and Budlong St.

EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS SOUTHWEST AREA NDC:

The Neighborhood Council is continuously repairing sidewalks in the area. Stakeholders whose sidewalks have been damaged since the 1970's are very pleased with the repair.

The Empowerment Congress sponsored a youth conference dealing with black-brown issues. Over 200 teenagers showed up and participated.

On September 11, 2004, the Empowerment Congress sponsored a back-to-school event where over 400 people were present. All elementary-aged children present were given Staples gift certificates, and five computers were raffled off.

Worked with Councilman Bernard Parks' office to prevent a motel from being built that they felt was not going to improve the quality of life in the area.

EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS WEST AREA NDC:

The Neighborhood Development Council spearheaded the establishment of two monuments at the June 12, 2004 South Area assembly. The Monuments were meant to acknowledge the contributions of the late community leader, Johnnie E. Raines Jr. and jazz legend Horace Tapscott.

The monuments are at the Angeles Mesa Park, adjacent to the Leimert Park area. In addition to the monuments, the Environmental Affairs Department donated two trees to be planted alongside each monument. Council member Bernard Parks and Assemblyman Mark Ridley Thomas help the Neighborhood Development Council establish the monuments and were on hand for the event.

VERMONT HARBOR:

Has an annual street conference. It provides outreach to the community and distributes information regarding various City services and resources to the community. The Neighborhood Council signed-up approximately 100 people and spread the word about the purpose and goals of the Neighborhood Council. Also distributed vital information to an under-served community and provided a day of fun with carnival rides, contests, and games that included prizes. The conference also had symposiums on economic development and promoting arts in South Los Angeles.

VERNON/MAIN:

Organized a health fair attended by over 1,000 people. A variety of health screenings and tests were offered. Food and entertainment were provided.

Conducting an ongoing after-school tutoring program.

Doing a beautification project at a local elementary school.

Formed a coalition with the South Central Farmers to save a community garden that has been a vital resource in the community. This community garden, one of the few in the South L.A. area, has provided food at a very low cost to impoverished families. The Neighborhood Council, along with other community entities, organized to petition their local public officials to make their voices heard on this issue. These efforts resulted in the continued operation of the community garden.

WATTS:

Played a major role in spearheading the flood disaster relief that hit Watts in the Winter of 2003. The Neighborhood Council members were instrumental in distributing food, clothes, supplies, and other information regarding available services to those in need. The Steve Harvey Morning Radio Show on 100.3 "The Beat" acknowledged the Neighborhood Council's relief efforts on his show and donated \$50,000 to the Red Cross on behalf of the Watts Neighborhood Council. Councilmember Janice Hahn

formally commended their efforts by presenting them with a City certificate in the name of the Watts Neighborhood Council.

After a projectile exploded on the campus of Jordan High School campus, the community rallied to make sure that the metal company that had a military contract to demolish outdated ammunition would no longer have the opportunity to put the children that attend the high school or the rest of the community at risk. Community leaders, Cal OSHA, and political representatives on local, state, and federal levels inspected the premises of the sheet metal company and had them remove dangerous and hazardous materials from the premises. The Department of Defense cancelled its contract with the business, and the business sent a letter to the community stating that it would no longer engage in activities that would place the community in immediate danger.

Major contributor to several of the development projects in Watts such as, the Imani Fe project and Lanzit project. Been an active participant in discussions with the Community Redevelopment Agency, developers, and public officials, representing Watts in determining the arrangement of these development projects.

Conducts an annual Unite Watts Celebration for Watts for a day of entertainment, food, and fun. The event drew about 1,000 people. Many of these outreach events by the Neighborhood Council have been instrumental in spreading the word about the presence of the Neighborhood Council in the community, which is quickly becoming a well-known entity and a forum for the residents and stakeholders to address the many concerns of the community.

Held their first annual Christmas Event on December 21, 2004 at the Watts Labor Community Action Committee. Children from all over the community came to see Santa (played by Watts Neighborhood Council Corresponding Secretary Henry Broomfield), eat great food, receive a toy donated by community members and to have a great time. Contributors included Councilmember Janice Hahn and individual members of the Watts Neighborhood Council.

SOUTHEAST/CENTRAL AVENUE:

Effectively organizing the community to address the issue of school construction. Bringing the community into the decision making process as sites within the community are being located for school construction. Neighborhood Council members have formed relationships with LAUSD

officials in working together to pinpoint sites for construction while saving as many homes as possible. Formed a coalition with adjacent neighborhood councils to address LAUSD on the school construction issue. This effort has drawn new participation in the Neighborhood Council.

EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS CENTRAL AREA NDC:

In conjunction with two other Neighborhood Councils, led a Town Hall meeting at Crenshaw Christian Center that was attended by Congresswoman Maxine Waters, county Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite-Burke, and others. They expressed opposition to the Sheriff's attempt to bring a homeless shelter in the area without community input. The attempt was halted.

Worked with Councilman Bernard Parks' office to prevent a motel from being built that they felt was not going to improve the quality of life in the area.

MID CITY:

Participating in the Washington Blvd. revitalization in partnership with LANI.

EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS SOUTHEAST AREA NDC:

On August 14, 2004, held their first book festival at the Mark Twain Library, a day filled with fun and entertainment.

In conjunction with two other Neighborhood Councils, led a Town Hall meeting at Crenshaw Christian Center that was attended by Congresswoman Maxine Waters, County Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite-Burke, and others. They expressed opposition to the Sheriff's attempt to bring a homeless shelter in the area without community input. The attempt was halted.

UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS OF THE HISTORIC ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, WEST ADAMS AND JEFFERSON PARK COMMUNITIES:

Connected neighbors from disparate neighborhoods within their boundaries and created a network for block clubs and associations to share problems and solutions to issues in each neighborhood.

Were instrumental in renaming a community park on behalf of a resident and the park's immediate neighbor, so that it is now called the Benny H. Potter-West Adams Avenue Park.

WEST ADAMS:

Distributed flyers in the entire boundary area to solicit community attendance at a meeting regarding the proposed expansion of Dorsey High School. Over 100 residents came to protest the proposal as little to no community input was involved in the process. Several board members addressed the school board and after hearing the disgust of those in attendance, the School Board scrapped the proposal and committed to starting over and coming up with a plan that was agreeable to the community and agreed to keep them involved and informed. The original plan would have caused residents to lose their homes, and businesses, and posed a safety risk because the high school would share its physical education field with another school, but would be kept separate by the proposed Metro light rail on Exposition Blvd.

EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS WEST AREA NDC:

The Empowerment Congress successfully campaigned against the renaming of the historically and internationally known Crenshaw Blvd.