

**Neighborhood Council Congress Planning Meeting  
February 15, 2006**

**Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Sgt. Paul Espinoza (LAPD Community Relations), Kayla Ann Mejia, (Boyle Heights NC) Bella DeSoto (Vermont Harbor area), Elizabeth Trujillo (Pico Union NC), Brady Westwater (Downtown Los Angeles NC), Eric Wickland (Olympic Park NC), Dan Wiseman (Van Nuys NC), Alexia Teran (Cypress Park NC), Greg Nelson (DONE), Lisa Sarno (DONE), Rita Moreno (DONE), Betty Wong Oyama (DONE), Marco Perez (DONE)

1. What worked or what can be improved?

- Parking:
  - Better parking
  - Special attention to handicapped attendees
  - Map with better written directions
  - Have greeters at parking site
  - Better and more signage
- Venue:
  - Don't care for Los Angeles Convention Center
- Registration:
  - Have incentives for pre-registration:
    - ❖ VIP reception/event
    - ❖ VIP treatment
    - ❖ Food
    - ❖ Books/materials for attendees
    - ❖ Goodies for first 10-20 to register
    - ❖ Incentives to complete workshops
    - ❖ Better workshop
    - ❖ Gail Goldberg – New Planning Director
    - ❖ Hot topics for workshops
    - ❖ Marketing/Outreach – getting the word out to NCs
    - ❖ Change title of event
    - ❖ Limited seating
- Sessions:
  - Include bullet points to ID workshops
  - Focus in on specific topics
  - Defined topics
  - Address issues
  - ID global issues
  - Keep all formats of workshop
  - Have repeat sessions in AM and PM
- NC Roll Call
  - Cut down time on Roll Call
  - Show the NC names on the board without calling them out
- Program
  - Hours – TBA/half day traditionally
  - Money?

- Candidates/appointments for Commission to be presented by Council/Mayor (maybe)
- Session after lunch

## 2. What do you think the focus or theme should be for the upcoming congress?

- Ideas for June 17, 2006 Congress:
  - Bread and butter issues
    - ❖ Affordable housing
      - The Ellis Act
    - ❖ Health issues
    - ❖ Lack of jobs (not addressed by elected officials)
    - ❖ Transportation
    - ❖ Education
    - ❖ After-school programs
  - Channel 35
  - 3-1-1
  - City agencies to make presentations (provide insight to help communities)
  - Citywide issues
  - Regional issues
  - Transportation proposal for monorail system in LA County
  - Small businesses
  - Video/media room – promote it!
  - City services
    - ❖ LAPD
    - ❖ Street Services (sidewalks, potholes, trim trees, street cleaning)
    - ❖ Trash/sanitation
    - ❖ Department's engaged to address issues
  - NC improvement projects
    - ❖ Grants
    - ❖ How To
  - Emergency Preparedness (emphasis on NC's to take lead)
  - Planning and land use issues
    - ❖ Council wants NCs to be more adept
    - ❖ Focus on city/community plans
  - Gangs/Public Safety
    - ❖ Policing: other than police work
    - ❖ New Info/Chief McDonnell
  - NC Presidents Meeting
    - ❖ Best Practices (turning people out) by leaders

## 3. What makes people want to attend?

- Issues vary by NC
  - Attendance per workshops
  - Policing meetings – issues are connected
- Review agenda from NCs for insight
- Make it “sexy”
- Format – single person; example: John Perica (?)
- Impacting issues
- LAPD – Hollenbeck

## 4. Other ideas

- Greg – (per NCs)
  - June 17<sup>th</sup> is one week away for Mayor/Council to form review commission

- Participation by NC Congress Planning Group (senate system)
  - LA Times/KTLA Channel 5 Forum on Homelessness
  - NC Congress
    - ❖ Collectively work together
    - ❖ To be intimately involved
    - ❖ To work better

5. How do we get more people involved?

- Get young people involved
- Increase participation:
  - Don't know how to outreach, need more! Not entirely inclusive. People do not feel moral obligation. DONE not helping
  - Contact OPNC president for survey re: priorities, LAUSD site selection & eminent (hot topic)
  - Mandatory outreach
  - Ask mayor to outreach, Channel 9, "Ask the Mayor"
  - Look at product – what is the product?
    - ❖ Better relationship
    - ❖ Information – brochures
    - ❖ Speakers – quality makes a difference
    - ❖ Participation – NCs need to do so!

**Neighborhood Council Congress Planning Meeting  
March 6, 2006**

**Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Officer Lee (LAPD Community Relations), Kayla Ann Mejia, (Boyle Heights NC) Bella DeSoto (Vermont Harbor NC), Elizabeth Trujillo (Pico Union NC), Brady Westwater (Downtown Los Angeles NC), Greg Nelson (DONE), Rita Moreno (DONE)

1. What should be the theme of the Congress?

- How Neighborhood Councils can change community life
  - Using Neighborhood Councils to accomplish community goals
  - Neighborhood Councils are open to all
    - All media blogs
  - What makes you a leader?
    - What do you bring to the table
    - Leadership skills
  - Quality of life issues
    - Your voice counts
  - Emergency Preparedness
    - LAFD exercise
    - Your neighborhood emergency plan
  - Vision/Voice

2. If we categorize the different topics from our last meeting, where do they fall under?

EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY	REPRESENTATIVE CONGRESS	LOCAL NC AREA	CITYWIDE INTEREST	OTHER
Outreach	Committee Meetings	Project Grants	Planning & Land Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ENS – what is it?</li> <li>○ FAQ</li> <li>○ Focus on City/Community Plans</li> <li>○ Teach NCs the basics and how to use their knowledge</li> </ul>	Health Issues
Technical Assistance	Zoning Codes	Information for Small Businesses	Public Works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street Services – what are they?</li> <li>• Sanitation – land fills</li> </ul>	Lack of Jobs NCs get no respect
	Economic Development		Building & Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PACE</li> </ul>	Education
	What is it and why NCs should or should not participate.		Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monorail system in LA County</li> </ul>	Departments should be prepared to engage the NCs
			Youth Programs (CDD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After-school programs</li> </ul>	
			Community Programs (CDD)	
			Public Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do you start a Neighborhood Watch?</li> <li>• Gang prevention</li> </ul>	

			LAUSD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School site selection</li> <li>• MOU w/NCs</li> </ul>	
			Affordable Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case studies</li> <li>• Historical analysis</li> <li>• Market forces</li> <li>• Ellis Act</li> </ul>	
			Community Improvement Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to</li> </ul>	
			Channel 35	
			912 Commission	
			Homelessness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LA Times/KTLA forum</li> </ul>	
			Emergency Preparedness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a community plan</li> </ul>	

### 3. Program Proposals

7:30 AM - ??	Registration
8:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Networking
9:15 AM – 9:50 AM	Mayor's Welcome
10:00 AM – 11:15 AM	First Breakout Session
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Second Breakout Session
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch Break
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Third Breakout Session

\* Need some action items

\* Publicize the Citizen's Police Academy

- Repeat morning sessions
- Provide for AM networking
- Mandatory classes
- Caucuses should allow "non-members" to participate if no "members" exist
  - VIP room vs. open room
  - Posting board in caucus rooms for folks to leave cards/messages
- Roll-call – show NC names and have Presidents stand
  - Seating in assembly area by 7 regions
- Provide safety tips—guard your belongings
- Provide name tags/personalize lanyards
  - No busy background
  - Color coded by position (e.g. presidents, treasurers)
- Provide a questions bowl