

CITY WATCH

An Insider Look At City Hall

October 12, 2004 Volume 2 Issue 19

CITY WATCH

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Say What?

"Don't talk about

nix.

Talk about fix"

--Quentin Drew, President
Watts NC
To Mayoral candidates
On King/Drew Issue

Ethics

When is a Lobbyist Not a Lobbyist? NC's are Asking

By Ken Draper

One local newspaper calls it a "dirty trick." Councilman Greig Smith says it's dishonest and has made a move to do something about it. They're both talking about the recent hiring of a Neighborhood Council board member, by the Sunshine Canyon landfill folks, Browning Ferris Industries, to lobby other Councils.

The uproar was set off a few days ago by an email letter sent to NC's urging them to schedule a brief presentation "about Sunshine Canyon Landfill and the need for safe, cost-effective waste disposal for the City of Los Angeles." The letter was a cover on another letter from David Edwards, the Director of Projects at BFI. The catch was, Wendy Bruget, the NC board member signing off on the cover letter failed to mention that she is on the BFI payroll.

The City Council passed a Tom LaBonge bill some weeks ago, requiring lobbyists to identify themselves as such when attempting to influence Neighborhood Councils. Bruget told City Watch on Friday that she wasn't a lobbyist because she hadn't registered yet and was told that she didn't have to register "until I get paid." However, it would appear that that hole is about to be plugged.

Continued on Page 7. See "Lobbyist"

CITY WATCH

Debriefing the Congress

The Growing Ability of NC's to Influence was Congress Highlight

By Ken Draper

There were a number of indications that the October 9 Congress of NC's was a success. For one, the attendance was, by some estimates, double that of the last congress in May. Certainly there was a third again as many attendees. The gathering stayed to the end. The popular afternoon sessions were well attended. Some even crowded. The first "issues" Congress worked.

The Inclusionary Housing, Half Cent Sales Tax and King/Drew issues sessions themselves were popular and energized. In addition, there was good response to First Responders, the LANC Issues and Gay and Lesbian caucuses. The main room was full and, generally, attentive. The City booths were busy. It may have been the best Congress since the first.

Continued on Page 7. See "Congress"

How Much Have City Candidates Taken In? Pg 11
Election Procedures: 10 Things You Need to Know Pg 6

Post Crisis Analysis**To Greater Griffith Park NC:
You Break It. You Own It.**

By Mark Siegel

It's too soon to pass a final judgment the success or failure of the Neighborhood Council experiment. With the second generation of board elections, some councils are facing new challenges but showing resilience. The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC) is one case on point.

The GGNNC has strong lineage. The Franklin Hills Residents Association, Los Feliz Homeowners Association and the Chamber of Commerce participated in its founding. It is a community with a history and tradition of neighborhood activism. Their board consists of 10 elected Board members and 9 appointed members to ensure there is representation from specific constituencies.

About half of the committee that worked on the certification chose not to run for the initial board, knowing the time commitment required. The meetings suffered from tedium and lengthy debate on internal organization and little time on substantive issues.

Continued on Page 8. See "GGPNC"

Both Sides Now**Is LA Boosting Downtown at the Expense of Neighborhoods?**

(Last month the Los Angeles Daily News accused LA "officials" of kissing up to Downtown at the expense of LA's neighborhoods. The story was headlined: "LA's passion for grandiose downtown bleeds the city's neighborhoods of resources. We asked the President of Downtown Los Angeles NC, Brady Westwater, to provide another perspective.)

Daily News: In the eyes of local government, Los Angeles is a tiny burg. Just a couple dozen city blocks in downtown make up the second largest city in the United States. Or so it seems in the eyes of the city's sprawling neighborhoods because of the unequal attention paid to the city's central core.

At a time when the neighborhoods from Pacoima to South Los Angeles are begging for more services and for investment, Los Angeles officials have spent \$200 million in the last two years buying up pricey real estate in downtown.

Westwater: *It is far, far cheaper to buy existing high rises at a fraction of price it costs to build them than to buy land and build new office buildings elsewhere (even if the land was ... free) -- and there are not buildings that size that are empty in other government centers. The only problem is that the city has not bought enough of them or bought them soon enough. The city NOT buying the two towers on Figueroa two years ago at the old price -- or this year at the new price -- will prove very, very costly to the city on the long run.*

Continued on Page 9. See "Downtown"

Follow the \$\$\$ & Pick a Winner

A political consultant once advised, "Want to pick a winner in a political race, follow the dollars."

City Watch will begin its coverage of the 2005 Los Angeles city election in earnest on November 9, with insightful and in-depth reports on the candidates and the progress of the campaign.

In the meantime, turn to page 11 for a current rundown on contributions to the candidates and other campaign financial info. \$\$

CITY WATCH
The E-Newsletter for LA's NC's

October 12, 2004
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CITY WATCH is published electronically on Tuesday of every other week. Share it with your Neighborhood Council and other activists.

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Guest Commentary**Renewable Energy: Not a Sexy Issue
But It Could Save Your Life**

By Roberto Haraldson

In 2002 the State of California passed a law requiring all privately owned utilities get 20% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2017. It was the belief of state legislators that a step forward had to be taken to protect consumers from future energy crisis and reduce dependency on fossil fuel.

The State defined renewable energy as Solar, Wind, Geothermal, Biomass, fuel cell and small hydroelectric. Sources of non-renewable energy are Coal, Oil, Natural Gas, large hydroelectric and Nuclear.

The Department of Water and Power which provides energy to the City of Los Angeles, lobbied successfully to be exempted from the law. As a result the DWP has the dubious honor of being the dirtiest energy source in the state. 75% of the department's energy comes from coal-fired and natural gas burning power plants and each year those coal plants emit around 18 million tons of carbon dioxide.

These dirty power plants contaminate the air, causing asthma, which is a growing epidemic among adults and children alike. This August, the Journal of Public Health reported the incidents of brain disease, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, have tripled in the Western Hemisphere in less than 20 years, and the reason for the increase has been linked to increasing levels of air pollutants.

*Continued on Page 8. See "Energy"***No Quorum. No Meeting: Postscript****City Attorney to Provide Clarification**

By Sara Epstein

The advice to the Greater Griffith Park NC, from DONE Project Coordinator Melvin Canas, that without a quorum their board meeting had to be adjourned, sent a ripple through LA's Neighborhood Councils. Some were unaware of such an edict and some because they simply disagreed.

Most everyone agrees that board meetings without quorums cannot entertain a vote. But many NC's believe they can hear presentations, take public comment or discuss non-deliberative agenda items without violating any Act, ordinance or plan.

Done E-Memo

A day before the brakes were put on the GGPNC meeting, at least some DONE Project Coordinators sent an e-memo to some NC's saying, "When there is no quorum, the meeting is to be adjourned. The Neighborhood Council is not to hold a meeting of any type, including a meeting to "present information." There are Brown Act concerns, the memo says.

A few lines later, the memo goes on to warn, "In the absence of the quorum, there are Brown Act concerns because a number of the board members are engaging in discussions outside of a 'public meeting'." Which is curious, one council President noted, "since the same members of the public present when a lack of quorum was announced would still be present after the announcement."

Memo May Not Have Been Approved

No one is quite certain how the directive got out and on to the internet. Both DONE and the City Attorney's office say it was not approved by them. In any case, the City Attorney's office says it will provide a clarification shortly. There is some leeway, they say, but explaining the difference between discussing a successful fundraiser and deliberating a \$10-million mixed-use development is harder to define than it seems on the surface. Or, the difference between a Neighbor-of-the-Week award presentation and a presentation from a developer.

In the interim, it would seem, Councils will be left to their own interpretation of their bylaws and the Brown Act and their own sense of ethics and respect for the stakeholders. ■

Issues Watch*(Citywide Top Ten)*Current/Previous

- 1/1 Inclusionary Zoning
- 2/3 King/Drew Closure
- 3/10 Transparent DWP Funds Transfer
- 4/2 ½ Cent Public Safety Sales Tax
- 5/9 2005-2006 City Budget
- 6/6 LAX Expansion
- 7/5 Business Tax Reform
- 8/- Parking Meter Revenues/Distribution
- 9/1 Urban Landfills BFI/Sunshine Canyon
- 10/- Mayoral Election

**Issues Watch***(NC Top Ten)*Current/Previous

- 1/2 NC Election Procedures
- 2/4 Meetings W/Out Quorums
- 3/2 NC Funding Delays
- 4/- Lobbyists ID for NC's
- 5/5 NC/DWP Partnership Negotiations
- 6/7 NC Appointments to Commissions
- 7/8 Reasonable Time for NC's at City Meetings
- 8/7 Sanctions for Failing/Dysfunctional NC's
- 9/10 Decision-Making Powers(Public Works/Land Use/Budget)
- 10/- Cable TV Access



NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL WATCH

BONC

When is an NC Election Not an NC Election? BONC Looks for Answer

By David Lowell

When is a Neighborhood Council election not an election? The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners will try to answer that question at their meeting on October 26, when they tackle the unusual Old Northridge Neighborhood Council election effort of last December.

DONE General Manager, Greg Nelson, told the LA Daily News, "It's a matter of how you define election." Looking back on an election that boasted in its flyer, "Everyone votes in this election: Kids, moms, dads, brothers and sisters. Even dogs can vote, but sorry, no cats. They're just not trustworthy," Nelson said, "It may simply be that what happened was not an election at all but simply a fun time."

Who Can Argue With Votes?

"Our last election was fun," argues Don Larson, the Council's founder, "but who can argue with the large number of votes cast (nearly 1,400 including three dogs) that, at least, showed significant support for the Kapuna." Kapuna is the name given to the method Larson used to develop the Old Northridge Council.

In their Status Report to the BONC, DONE says that Old Northridge violated the Plan and that there is "no evidence to suggest that the event on December 11 was a valid election." They also suggest that outreach to the "significant Latino population" as lacking. According to DONE, a challenge and a complaint were filed two days after the election.

"Little Confidence"

In response, Larson says, "we have very little confidence" in DONE. And, as for outreach, he notes, "All were invited to attend one of the four weekly meetings ... to declare their candidacy ... as long as they agreed with the basic principles of the Kapuna: pick up the broom, scoop and paint brush for the community and walk the streets."

DONE has ordered Old Northridge to appear before the BONC and "provide justification as to why decertification ... is not appropriate."

Old Northridge joins a growing list of NC's with election serious problems including Van Nuys, Grass Roots Venice, Greater Cypress Park, Wilshire Center-Koreatown and Greater Wilshire. It's now up to the Commissioners to sort it all out and get these councils on track serving their stakeholders. The question is how thin the Board's patience is running these days.

Election Procedures: Final Draft

Perhaps help is on the way. The NC Election Procedures ... Draft 23 ... got the nod from Janice Hahn's Education and Neighborhood's Committee a few days ago. It's on the BONC docket for next Tuesday's (10-19-04) board meeting. Once approved by BONC, Hahn's committee will move it on to the City Council for approval.

Continued on Page 10. See "BONC"

**For an Election Procedures "Kwik Read"
10 Things You Need to Know
See Page 6**

City Watch DayPlanner

October 14

2nd Downtown Art Walk (N-9p)
www.gallelryrow.org

October 15

City Council (10a)
Agenda: www.lacity.org

October 16

2004 Ballot Initiative Educational Forum (9a)
Info: mary.jones@asm.ca.gov

October 19

City Council (10a)

Important

LAX Master Plan
Complete agenda: www.lacity.org

BONC Meeting (6:30p)

State Building, Van Nuys

Agenda:
www.lacityneighborhoods.com

October 25

Conventions, Tourism, Entertainment Committee (2p)
Public comment on on-locations filming. www.lacity.org

October 26

BONC Certification Hearings (6:30p) Agenda:
www.lacityneighborhoods.com

Laura Chick Commissioners Workshop (5:30p)

Info: mjaffe@ctr.lacity.org

November 2

Vote! Vote!



Briefly Told**Controller Chick Continues Her Effort to Get "Regular" People on City Commissions**

By Sara Epstein

City Controller, Laura Chick, continues her campaign to open the door to the City's Commissions to more diversity representing "the real Los Angeles." Chick is hosting a workshop on October 26 on how to apply for a commission appointment.

"Because I believe that citizen commissions, charged with department oversight, are the cornerstone of our city government," Chick says, "I want to be sure that they truly represent today's Los Angeles ... in all of its diversity."

The workshop will feature experts explaining the role of commissions, the most effective way to write a resume and "the best way to promote yourself in order to secure the appointment."

This is for, Chick says, people who don't understand what commissions do or how to get appointed.

(To attend or for info on the workshop, e-mail: mjaffe@ctr.lacity.org.)

Committee Takes on Hot Neighborhood Filming Issue: Your Comments Wanted

The City Council's Conventions, Tourism and Entertainment Committee will take on the controversial on-location filming issue on October 25 and they're looking for your input.

In a request made public last week, the Committee said it's looking for comments from Neighborhood Councils and neighborhood leaders on how on-location filming affects your community. In particular, they need your ideas on making advance notification more effective and on improving filming permit compliance.

The filming issue always generates a lot of heat in LA's neighborhoods. Now the question is: will it generate enough interest to get neighborhoods and Councils to show up and speak up?

(CTEIBE Committee Meeting: Monday, October 26 (2 p.m.) in the City Council Chamber, Room 340. Info: www.lacity.org.) ■

Tracking the Issues (I-Trac)

04-2043-Motion dealing with dedicated deployment of Park Rangers in City's larger parks. (LaBonge)

04-1470-Development Arts Fees not used at the development site be used for art projects within the Council District. (Smith)

Continued next column

2nd GGPNC Board Member Resigns*(See follow up story Page 2)*

(Background: The Greater Griffith Park NC scheduled a board meeting for September 22. With less than a quorum present, the DONE Project Coordinator advised the GGPNC President, and the board members present, that without a quorum, there could be no meeting. A heated disagreement ensued and, later, two board members resigned including NC President Mary Rodriguez and board member Bernadette Soter. What follows are the highlights of Soter's resignation letter which has been edited for brevity.)

September 29, 2004

Dear Mr. Nelson:

During the two years I have been a Boardmember of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council I have realized that problems inevitably arise in the course of creating a new entity and have looked past them to focus on our Council's strengths.

Since the GGPNC's inception, several Boardmembers have expressed annoyance with our mandate to operate under the Brown Act, the City's financial disclosure policy, and our own Council rules. At times this has crossed into non-compliance, as occurred at our September 21st general meeting, when a Boardmember introduced a motion that is illegal under our bylaws and, acting in concert with others, passed it over requests for discussion. This in effect, obsoleted our rules and ended our Council's orderly administration.

Out of this Pandora's Box flew more discord: having shrugged off the constraints written into our bylaws, some of our Boardmembers were openly outraged when our Project Coordinator, Melvin Canas, directed us to end our meeting for lack of quorum. The need to have a quorum to conduct business seems so reasonable and fundamental, that I am at a loss to explain their attitude or guess where else it may lead.

For this reason, I have withdrawn my candidacy for re-election to the GGPNC Board.

Bernadette Soter

Boardmember, Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council.

(For more on this story, see Page 2 or previous City Watch Volume 2 Issue 18 at www.lancissues.org.) ■

Continued from previous column

03-0353-S1- ICO preventing the issuance of building permits for automobile-related uses in the Valley Village and Mid-Town North Hollywood Neighborhood Councils area.

04-2010- ICO to impose temporary regulations on all permits issued for auto-related businesses, including gas stations, repair shops and junk yards, etc. in an area that includes streets such as Florence, Slauson, Figueroa, Normandie, Western and others in parts of Council Districts 1,8,9 & 10.

(To read the complete motions listed above, visit the City website (www.lacity.org) and click on Council Index.) ■

NC Election Procedures

Draft 23

"Kwik-Read"

(Here's a capsulated, "Kwik-Read" version of Draft 23 of the Neighborhood Council Election Procedures. Here's what you need to know.)

- These are not guidelines. All elections must be conducted consistent with the NC Election Procedures.
- Everybody who meets the stakeholder definition in your bylaws gets to vote and run for office.
- Elections cannot be designed to restrict participation by any specific group, including homeless, volunteer workers, non-English speaking, home based workers, etc.
- If a council chooses to not comply with these Procedures, the election won't be valid, their funding can be withheld and the City Council and city agencies will be informed. Ultimately, non-complying councils can be decertified.
- NC's first elections must be held within six months after certification and procedures must be drafted by stakeholders of the NC.
- An NC's election procedures must identify an Independent Election Administrator who must have attended a training program and assisted in at least one NC board election. The IEA cannot be DONE and pretty much oversees and runs every election detail.
- There are four election formats available to Councils: 1) Prepared Ballot Elections; 2) Prepared Ballot Elections with the Vote-by-Mail component; 3) All Vote-by-Mail; 4) Same-day Elections. If you want a different format, you will have to get these Procedures amended.
- Election outreach and notification timelines are not that much different than those currently recommended by DONE.
- If your bylaws do not currently include an age limit for voting, DONE will urge that you amend your bylaws.
- If your election is challenged and an arbitrator is required, he/she will be chosen from a pool of arbitrators comprised of stakeholder representatives from Neighborhood Councils. Each Council will provide at least one arbitrator for the pool. Arbitrators must attend a training program.

(You can read/download a complete and detailed Election Procedures Draft 23 by visiting: www.lacityneighborhoods.com.)

CITY WATCH Future Assignments

- ◆ **Inside the Affordable Housing Puzzle: A former Commissioner speaks up.**
- ◆ **Filming in LA: Extortion Secret Exposed.**

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Lobbyist-Continued from Page 1.**Smith introduces Bill to ID Lobbyists**

Infuriated by “operatives serving as board members (who) never reveal their affiliation to BFI when arguing in favor of the dump,” Smith instantly introduced a motion requiring anyone who is paid to lobby NC’s to register as a lobbyist preventing lobbyists from serving on NC boards. “I will not tolerate anyone purposely deceiving Neighborhood Councils for their own financial gain,” Smith said.

BFI Claims foul

BFI’s Edwards fired off his own letter claiming that “Councilman Smith had his facts wrong.” Edwards said that, “BFI did not conceal anything” in its effort to arrange meetings with NC’s. “BFI fully disclosed in the final paragraph that it had hired Ms. Bruget to meet with Neighborhood Councils and that she was a member of the Downtown Neighborhood Council.” However, the copy of the October 6 letter in question says nothing about Bruget being employed by BFI and does not mention her membership on the board of DLANC. It simply asks NC’s to contact Bruget to schedule a brief presentation.

Another lobbyist working for BFI, Arnie Berghoff, told the Daily News that Bruget would be paid on an hourly basis and would be expected to register as a lobbyist as soon as she reaches the \$4,000 in a three-month period threshold. Bruget told City Watch she expected to be paid \$2,000 but didn’t specify the time period the payment would cover.

Not a First Time for NC’s

This isn’t the first time, of course, that special interests, without clearly identifying themselves, have tried to influence Councils. Security Companies provided most of the thrust and most of the information to NC’s during the burglar alarm debate. More recently, organizations with agendas inserted themselves into the Inclusionary Housing issue. It’s not always easy for Neighborhood Councils to know who the special interest players are. Perhaps the Smith bill will provide the scorecard they need to help them recognize the players.

In the meantime, some questions surface. Will BFI instruct Bruges to identify herself as a lobbyist on her communications with Neighborhood Councils? Until some kind of legislation requires it, how will NC’s know when a lobbyist is, or is not, a lobbyist? ■

.....

Congress-Continued from Page 1**NC Influence is Growing**

But, the highlight of the event ... the “message sent” ... wasn’t on the agenda. It was the recognition of growing Neighborhood Council influence that resulted from the sight of six of the 2005 Mayoral candidates “working the room.”

The Mayor, James Hahn, Antonio Villaraigosa, Bernard Parks, Bob Hertzberg, Richard Alarcon and Walter Moore were all on hand caucusing, schmoozing, shaking hands and dropping in on workshops. If the Mayor and his challengers didn’t believe this was a valuable constituency, they hid it very well.

Perspective

Some perspective: No matter what anyone tells you, the Neighborhood Council opposition derails the DWP 18% rate increase. NC’s are playing a major roll in redirecting the Inclusionary Housing legislation and along the way the Central City Association admitted that they went to Councils to help push their plan. Alarcon has made NC’s a priority for pressing his issues with the City and DWP. Now comes the Sunshine Canyon crowd, hiring lobbyists to convince Neighborhood Councils that they’re the good guys. Downtown, at Hope and First streets, 39 Councils are meeting with the DWP leadership to craft a Partnership agreement that will ensure timely notification and involve NC’s in the Department’s budget process.

Continued next column

Information!

Education!

Provocation!

CITY WATCH!

lacitywatch@aol.com

**Cont from previous column**

A sizable number of this City’s Neighborhood Councils are getting this empowerment thing figured out. The ability of Councils to influence the way City Hall does business is growing. The Congress of Neighborhoods is falling in step. The success of the October Congress is more proof of that the NC’s are getting it right. ■

GGPNC-continued from Page 2**You Break It. You Own It.**

In the most recent GGPNC election go 'round, just a few days ago, about half the initial board members chose not run for re-election. While the time commitment and personal sacrifice was a factor, some of those who chose not to run did so with hard feelings. With less than a month before the election, two of the board members including the president, Mary Rodriguez, tendered their resignations.

As is often the case, it was not only the product, or lack thereof, it was also the process that was the source of dissatisfaction .Their complaint was that a faction of the board was using intimidation to "get their way" and breaching the bylaws in support of some development cases. From the point of view of the "faction", they were the members who did the "heavy lifting."

To some it looked like the Council was going to split up or be irreparably damaged. However the board elections came off as scheduled. All of the incumbents who chose to run were re-elected. Several new members were elected, all of whom have had no experience with the GGPNC. The crisis has passed and life goes on.

Neighborhood councils are by there nature political bodies. They hold elections and vote on issues. They search for consensus but there are times when consensus can't be found. There are losers and winners. Those that walked away will find other avenues to express themselves. Those that stayed with the council will be the "official" voice of the community, though the new board members better remember Colin Powell's warning: You break it, you own it. *(For highlights of the second GGPNC board member resignation letter, see page 5. For Mary Rogriguez' resignation letter and the DONE "No quorum, no meeting" memo, see the last issue of City Watch at www.lancissues.org.)* ■

Energy-Continued from Page 3**Solution it to Shift to Clean Sources**

The solution to these problems is a shift to clean energy sources. The goal for adopting a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is to reduce thousands of tons of air pollution each year and develop new, more sustainable power supplies now.

Although the City Council and Mayor have taken strong positions in support of Renewable Energy, DWP revenues subsidize roughly 7% of the Los Angeles general fund. City leaders are leery of losing that funding by purchasing more expensive renewable power.

Meanwhile the DWP continues its tactics of delaying procurement by attempting to include the Hoover Dam in the RPS, keeping the city behind the curve in developing renewables from 20% to 16%.

It is in the best long term interest of the ratepayers that the DWP diversify its energy resources, and that the City of Los Angeles set a worldwide example as a smart energy leader.

(Roberto Haraldson is Vice President of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council and a volunteer advocate for DWP reaching 20% renewable energy sources by 2017.) ■

Send City Watch to a Friend

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Start Spreading the News

Wanted!

The County Registrar of Voters needs 1,000 to 1,300 poll workers.

Must be U.S. Citizens, registered voters and a resident of California.

Stipend is \$55. \$25 more for attending the training class.

Contact the County Registrar of Voters.

Downtown-Continued from Page 2.**Are Neighborhoods Being Ignored?**

And there is a synergy in keeping the departments that constantly interact with each other in close proximity.

DN: If the city needs land, why not buy it on the Eastside, in Van Nuys or Crenshaw, where land is cheaper and run-down neighborhoods would benefit from a municipal outpost? There is an unofficial reason for the acquisitions: an unnatural obsession with downtown Los Angeles.

W: *Again, it would be far more expensive to build new buildings there than to buy existing ones here. And, it would be insane to build the Police Headquarters that far from the Courts, the jails and the other city agencies.*

DN: It's that obsession that has led city officials to use their clout to concentrate new state and federal buildings in the downtown area to further their mad belief that L.A. will be a world-class city somehow with a grandiose center and rotting neighborhoods.

The latest agency to participate in this insanity is the California Department of Transportation. While Caltrans can't seem to get together a plan to relieve traffic on the region's freeways, it built itself a gleaming new headquarters across the street from City Hall in record time.

W: *It was also built on a tight budget and it needs to be near all the other transportation agencies. And, if they are complaining that it was built on schedule and on budget -- what would they say if the reverse were true?*

DN: Even county government, which has even more far-flung responsibilities, has downtown fever, endorsing the "Grand Avenue" retail, office and housing complex planned for the street adjacent to the county offices complex downtown.

W: *The County owns the land (now tax exempt) and is going to sell it to a developer who will pay for the land and then erect buildings that will produce very high property and sales taxes for the county. What better use for these parking lots? And, what does this have to do with the County having far flung responsibilities?*

DN: Of course, county officials expect to get their own new Taj Mahal office building as a bonus for their support.

W: *The Court House and the Hall of Administration need to be torn down for many reasons -- seismic being only one of the reasons. The County will have to pay for this at some point in time. How their selling land to private developers is going to get them 'support' (from whom, I might ask) to get their new buildings.... baffles me as an argument.*

DN: Maybe the smog caused by the ever-increasing traffic is making it harder to see that there is a world beyond Temple Street.

W: *Actually, a denser city core makes it more likely people will take the subway rather than drive -- or be able to walk to work, meaning less traffic and smog.*

Continued next column

Insight!**Perspective!****Opinion!!**

CITY WATCH

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Cont from previous column

DN: Like any neighborhood in Los Angeles, downtown deserves care and attention. But this relatively tiny section of the city gets the lion's share of resources at the expense of L.A.'s 3.8 million residents. Local government's downtown myopia must end before it brings down the entire city -- downtown included.

W: Government buildings with their nine to five, five days a week hours, are actually, in many ways, a DRAG on downtown. I would prefer to have far less of them down here -- but it makes economic and social sense to have them in one spot -- for those departments that do need to be consolidated, of course. ■

BONC-Continued from Page 4**NC Election Procedures**

This effort, by the Elections Procedures Working Committee, has generally gotten high grades. Especially the work of the newly appointed City Clerk, Frank Martinez and the representatives from the Neighborhood Councils. The Committee was unique because of the unusually high percentage of NC reps among its members.

It is hoped that the election document will allow for the flexibility for NC elections to reflect the independence and uniqueness of each council while helping them steer clear of the pitfalls that have frustrated Neighborhood Councils from the beginning.

(For a capsulated, Election Procedures "Kwik Read" version of Draft 23, see Page 6.)

An NC Success Story in the Making

The BONC agenda also includes a status report from the Neighborhood Council Taskforce currently working with the Department of Water and Power to hammer out a partnership agreement that guarantees early notification to NC's, involves them in the DWP budget process and simplifies the Council's ability to monitor the delivery of water and electricity services.

Thirty-nine Neighborhood Councils are involved in the negotiations with another 10 to 15 expected to sign off on the agreement once it's completed.

Visit the *DONE* website (www.lacityneighborhoods.com) for the time, location and remaining agenda for the October 19, 2004 meeting of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.) ■

City Watch

**Will Cover
City Elections 2005
From an NC POV
Beginning**

November 9, 2004

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the News ...****

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To a Friend Or
Someone Who Needs It*

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the
News!!***

■■■■

*Follow the \$\$\$***2005 Municipal Election Campaign Finances***Mayor*

| Candidates | Reported through | Contributions | Expenses | Cash on Hand | Personal Funds |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| Totals as of "Reported through" Date: | | | | | |
| <u>Richard Alarcon</u> | 09/30/04 | \$254,438.00 | \$75,742.99 | \$179,528.24 | \$0.00 |
| <u>Theodore M. Crisell</u> | 06/30/04 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| <u>James K. Hahn</u> | 09/30/04 | \$2,268,302.36 | \$506,804.40 | \$1,783,030.39 | \$0.00 |
| <u>Bob Hertzberg</u> | 09/30/04 | \$1,100,076.70 | \$344,860.53 | \$822,605.10 | \$2,271.12 |
| <u>Addie M. Miller</u> | 09/30/04 | \$355.00 | \$353.68 | \$1.32 | \$0.00 |
| <u>Walter Moore</u> | 06/30/04 | \$3,750.00 | \$3,754.49 | \$612.26 | \$3,000.00 |
| <u>Bernard Parks</u> | 09/30/04 | \$400,701.00 | \$150,512.59 | \$266,774.25 | \$50,000.00 |
| <u>Antonio Villaraigosa</u> | 09/30/04 | \$643,253.00 | \$33,896.00 | \$609,553.03 | \$0.00 |
| | | \$4,671,076.06 | \$1,116,144.68 | \$3,662,084.59 | \$55,471.12 |

*City Attorney***Totals as of "Reported through" Date:**

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| <u>Rockard J. Delgadillo</u> | 09/30/04 | \$1,065,819.02 | \$464,373.06 | \$604,862.21 | \$0.00 |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------|

Totals as of "Reported through" Date:*City Controller*

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <u>Mervin L. Evans</u> | 06/30/04 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
|-------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|

*Council District 1***Totals as of "Reported through" Date:**

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| <u>Joseph Lucey</u> | 06/30/04 | \$1,155.00 | \$637.00 | \$518.00 | \$350.00 |
|----------------------------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|------------|------------|-----------|--------|
| <u>Sylvia Luna Nerio</u> | 09/30/04 | \$1,000.00 | \$1,028.18 | (\$28.18) | \$0.00 |
|---------------------------------|----------|------------|------------|-----------|--------|

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| <u>William M. Morrison</u> | 09/30/04 | \$625.00 | \$186.00 | \$439.00 | \$0.00 |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|------------|--------|------------|---------|
| <u>Robert Fumio Nakahiro</u> | 06/30/04 | \$1,025.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,025.00 | \$25.00 |
|-------------------------------------|----------|------------|--------|------------|---------|

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------|
| <u>Eduardo P. Reyes</u> | 09/30/04 | \$231,625.00 | \$96,090.37 | \$136,734.73 | \$0.00 |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------|

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|------------|----------|--------|
| <u>Edward Rivera</u> | 09/30/04 | \$250.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$250.00 | \$0.00 |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|------------|----------|--------|

Council District 3

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------|
| <u>Dennis Zine</u> | 09/30/04 | \$229,648.01 | \$54,922.81 | \$174,725.20 | \$0.00 |
|---------------------------|----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------|

Council District 5

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|--------|
| <u>Gregory K. Martavan</u> | 06/30/04 | \$8,830.00 | \$6,223.39 | \$2,606.61 | \$0.00 |
|-----------------------------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|--------|

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------|
| <u>Jack Weiss</u> | 09/30/04 | \$263,754.65 | \$59,750.07 | \$203,732.04 | \$0.00 |
|--------------------------|----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------|

Council District 7

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------|
| <u>Alex Padilla</u> | 09/30/04 | \$266,361.24 | \$94,531.65 | \$187,897.32 | \$0.00 |
|----------------------------|----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------|

| Candidates | Reported through ① | Contributions ① | Expenses ① | Cash on Hand ① | Personal Funds ① |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Totals as of "Reported through" Date: | | | | | |
| Council District 9 | | | | | |
| <u>Walter Bannister</u> | 06/30/04 | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 \$0.00 |
| <u>Sylvia Lynne Hawkins</u> | 06/30/04 | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 \$0.00 |
| <u>Jan C. Perry</u> | 09/30/04 | \$222,794.53 | \$37,859.34 | \$186,035.19 | \$0.00 |
| Council District 11 | | | | | |
| <u>Flora Gil Krisiloff</u> | 09/30/04 | \$212,808.00 | \$43,965.61 | \$168,703.21 | \$25,000.00 |
| <u>Angela J. Reddock</u> | 09/30/04 | \$27,025.00 | \$19,127.15 | \$7,897.85 | \$25,000.00 |
| <u>William J. Rosendahl</u> | 09/30/04 | \$205,834.27 | \$54,433.33 | \$151,400.94 | \$120.00 |
| Council District 13 | | | | | |
| <u>Eric M. Garcetti</u> | 09/30/04 | \$252,334.00 | \$67,714.51 | \$197,750.69 | \$0.00 |
| Council District 15 | | | | | |
| <u>John Fer</u> | 06/30/04 | \$15,200.00 | \$0.00 | \$15,200.00 | \$15,000.00 |
| <u>Janice Hahn</u> | 09/30/04 | \$177,972.00 | \$52,195.44 | \$128,183.37 | \$0.00 |

This report is provided by the City Ethics Commission. These figures are as reported by the City Candidates, and others, who raise and spend money to influence City elections, on public statements required under the law according to the schedule prescribed by law. Candidate filings reflect their campaign activity from the date they began fundraising, which under City law can occur no more than 18 months prior to the date of the election.

The City Ethics Commission administers the City's campaign finance laws. ▀