



an insider look at city hall

# CITYWATCH

citywide edition

July 12, 2005  
Volume 3 Issue 6

## Insider Edition

**CityWatch Today-** Beginning with this issue, CityWatch will publish weekly. We promised you growth. This is yet another step.

In addition to surveys and Alerts, you will continue to receive the regular complete citywide edition of CityWatch every other week. Beginning today, you will receive CityWatch **Insider Edition** on the alternate weeks.

**Insider Report** is a column collection of brief, sometimes cryptic, notes from our guy inside and from our staff and other sources.

See notes today on the new Deputy Mayor, other of the Mayor's appointees, a DONE audit, the nine challenges filed to the GWNC election and the pizza franchise going into the Neighborhood City Hall in Van Nuys. **-Editor**

### Say What?

*“Some of us feel very deeply and spiritual about this.”*

**-Councilman Eric Garcetti**  
*(on passing same-sex marriage equality resolution)*

## **Insider Report**

### **New Deputy Mayor Frank Responsible for DONE/NC**

Some early AV appointments and what they may mean to NCs:

**Recently appointed Deputy Mayor, Larry Frank**, will be charged with “overseeing” the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. And, in effect, Neighborhood Councils. What we know about him so far: Comes from UCLA downtown Labor Center, member of the National Lawyers Guild, considered a hardcore lefty. Some think the appointment was another outreach to labor.

*Longtime friend and supporter of the Mayor, **Cynthia Ruiz**, reappointed to the Board of Public Works. She is active in NC movement. Serves on the board of LA36NC. Ruiz received first phase approval from the Ethics Commission on July 11.*

Eighth District's **Bernie Parks** named to **MTA Board**, replacing Councilman **Tom LaBonge**. Parks supported the Mayor during his campaign. LaBonge supported Hahn. Parks is not considered knowledgeable about or a friend of NCs. LaBonge is NC friendly. Some folks around the horseshoe aren't certain what experience or vision Parks brings to the MTA Board. LaBonge has worked for years on a vision (transportation and otherwise) for LA.



**Word from three different City Hall sources**, all from discussions with the Mayor: Almost all commissioners will be replaced. Reappointments will be the exception, not the rule. **That includes the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.**

More than **5,000** applications for appointment to commissions have been received.



**City Hall Add:** The search for a Chief Legislative Analyst has narrowed. The Mercer Group, hired to conduct the search, has narrowed the applicant list to 10. The CLA Ad Hoc Committee will cull that to five by Tuesday. Former CLA, Ron Deaton, has been gone since last November. The new guy/gal on the CLA block can earn anywhere from \$180,000 to \$280,000 ... with a bundle of retirement, merit pay, health care, relocation, city auto perks.

**LA Equal Rights on the Move:** *The City is moving its Sacramento office because owners of their current space refused to comply with LA's Equal Benefits Ordinance, which says that employees with spouses and employees with domestic partners have to get equal benefits. The move is going to cost the city about \$60,000.*

**Will E&N Ever Meet Again?** For the second consecutive time, **Education and Neighborhoods has canceled** its meeting. Backers had expected to see the landmark and controversial NC Council File Number, or Non-CIS, proposal  
**Continued on Page 2. See INSIDER REPORT**

**Insider Report**-Continued from Page 1

on the agenda this Tuesday. **Next opportunity will be August 2.** By then, the contestants should be looking at some new faces on the panel.

**Saving \$\$ a Block at a Time:** The Smith/Zine reserve cop team want city engineers to find a way to **repair sidewalks** one nick at a time, as opposed to repairing the entire block-long sidewalk when only one portion needs fixing. Councilman Smith: "The current system appears to be inefficient and costly."



**Newsrack News:** The CLEAN Coalition's Kerry Morrison tells us that implementation of the new **Newsrack Ordinance** may actually be in sight. A note from Greig Smith's CLD says the Street Service folks might be pulling the permits now for the **first racks ... which will be in Smith's 12<sup>th</sup> District.**

**Alger Files for Assembly Seat:** *In case you missed it, Jim Alger, the Northwest Valley firebrand, famous for sparking the opposition to the DWP water rate increase, has filed to run for Keith Richman's 38<sup>th</sup> District Assembly Seat. Speculation earlier had him waiting and running for Greig Smith's City Council seat.*

The city's blogosphere has Alger and his Northridge West NC in a shoot out with Smith over the Northridge Wal-Mart development.



**War Returns to Watts Projects?** Just out, **LA Weekly**, says the gang **peace in Watts is over.** Michael Krikorian writes: "The much heralded, often copied and never equaled Watts housing-project peace treaty of 1992 has officially imploded ... During the wild year of 1989 ... there were 25 homicides. During the height of the treaty in 1997, there were four. So far this year there have been at least seven killings ...dozens of shootings, a reported 187 violent crimes ..." ([www.laweekly.com](http://www.laweekly.com)).



**DONE Stuff:** Controller **Laura Chick** told journalists this week that **DONE** would receive one of her famous **audits** during this term. Audit will not include individual NCs.

*From someone who was at AV's department head meetings: **DONE is not being asked to cut its budget this year.** Everyone was asked to tighten it up for next year.*

**Hearsay:** The **Mayor** tells group of NC leaders he believes **NCs should get more funding.** Also, said \$100,000 NC streets funding is safe.



**Final Notes:** Department of General services asking for approval of a lease to **Domino's Pizza** for the Braude Building ... the Valley's Neighborhood **City Hall** in Van Nuys.

**Nine challenges** have been filed to the record-setting **Greater Wilshire NC** election. You will recall that more than 2,000 people cast more than 29,000 votes. *Accusations, name-calling, threats were also featured.*

**City Council** gave historic **approval** on Tuesday to a resolution supporting **same-sex marriage rights.** Proposal was generated by the Silver Lake NC and supported by the NC G&L Caucus and some other councils.

*Someone torched **Julie Butcher's** car last week. Butcher heads the SEIU347. No leads yet.*

This Tuesday's **BONC meeting canceled.** **No reason** given. Even some BONC commissioners were not told why. ■

-Mr Insider

7-13-05

**CITYWATCH**  
The E-Newsletter for LA's NC's

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# Future Assignments

- The Greater Wilshshire NC election may set another record ...for challenges. Nine have been filed. We'll review them for you.
- City Council revisits the adult cabaret issue. Is the dance on its last lap in LA?
- Who will be named to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners? Better question: Does it Matter? CityWatch will go in search of answers.

**... coming soon to a computer near you.**

## DayPlanner

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- *Citywide Alliance Forum*— Saturday, July 16 at 9:30 a.m. (New Councilman Bill Rosendahl speaks) Info: [www.allncs.org](http://www.allncs.org)
- *Is California Governable?---* Tuesday, July 26 at 7 p.m. (Gray Davis, Pete Wilson, Geo Deukmejian, Jerry Brown discuss) Info: [www.zocalola.org](http://www.zocalola.org)
- *BONC* Tuesday, July 19—Canceled
- *Education & Neighborhoods* Tuesday, July 19--Canceled

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