

**WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, October 10, 2009 7:00pm
Westside Pavilion 10800 W. Pico Blvd.
Meeting Room A (3rd Floor behind the Food Court)**

1. Meeting is called to order at 7:05 PM.

In Attendance:

**Douglas Butler (1), Lisa Morocco (2),
Paul Reznik (3 alt.), Steve Spector (4),
Sander De Widt (5 alt.), Jerry Asher (6 alt.),
Barbara Broide (7), Terri Tippit (8),
Dick Harmetz (10), Mary Kusnic (11),
Stacy Antler (12), Robert E. Guerin (13),
Ron Stone (14), Charles Horwitz (15),
David Ty Vahedi (17)***

Also attending:

**Tara Bieler (4 alt.)
Shannon Burns (17alt.)**

**Annette Mercer, Jay Greestein, CD 5
Sergeant Mark Durrell & Officer Rashid, WLAPD
Sergeant Mario Gonzalez, WLAPD**

**Terri Tippit, Chair states there is a quorum - with
15 member seats represented.**

**Minutes of the August, 2009 WNC Meeting
were presented and approved as noted.**

**Motion By: Lisa
Second By: Stacy**

2. PUBLIC FORUM:

Residents of the 2200 Block of Veteran Avenue were present to request that the WNC to support speed bumps for this block as was done for the 2300 block. They spoke to the numerous safety issue and stated that 22 families, including seniors and children, live on this block of Veteran Avenue

Officer Rashid and Officer Gonzalez gave an update on crime activity and stated that overall crime was down 7% in our area. They noted that we should all be vigilant given the overall economic condition and the upcoming holiday season.

Sergeant Mark Durrell announced the Halloween Haunted House at the WLAPD Station; open October 30 and 31, 6 – 8 PM.

3.) REVIEW OF AGENDA:

(ITEMS AY NOT BE HEARD IN THE ORDER LISTED)

4.) AGENDA ITEMS

New Business

**A.) City Attorney Carmen Trutanich
Update on City Attorney Office**

City Attorney Carmen Trutanich greeted everyone and presented an insightful overview of the office of the City Attorney. With more than 500 lawyers and 1,000 employees in total, he noted that the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office is among the largest government legal offices in the country. It is the third-largest government law office in California, following the Attorney General and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Offices.

He explained the City Attorney is the chief prosecutor for the City of Los Angeles with jurisdiction to prosecute all misdemeanor criminal offenses. He is also the chief legal advisor and general counsel to the Mayor and the City Council, as well as to all City of Los Angeles boards, departments, and officers.

As the City's General Counsel, Attorney Trutanich stated that the City Attorney provides advice and opinions on matters of municipal concern, drafts contracts and ordinances and approves them as to form and legality, and is frequently called upon

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to interpret the City Charter, federal and state statutes, and other laws that govern Los Angeles. Also he said the City Attorney litigates all civil actions on behalf of the City and represents the City, its boards and officers in all civil trials and legal proceedings in local, state, and federal court.

He highlighted a few of the lead members of his team, including the following individuals: Bill Carter, Curt Livsai, Jane Usher, David Burger, John Pio, Gary Schram and Jim Bell.

He said the office consists of two core legal divisions the Civil Division and The Criminal Division. The Civil Division consists of the Civil Liability Branch and the Municipal Counsel Branch.

The Civil Liability Branch defends the City's interest in claims and lawsuits. The Municipal Branch of the City Attorney's Office serves as the general counsel to all City departments, offices, elected officials and commissions as well as to the Community Redevelopment Agency and the Housing Authority.

Attorney Trutanich stated that the Criminal Branch is responsible for areas which include Theft and Fraud, Gangs, Safer Neighborhoods, Crime Prevention and Youth Protection, Animal Protection, Elder Abuse and the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program.

Now with a little more than 100 days in office, he said that he had to immediately address the City's budget cut for his office. To assist in doing so, he said he brought in Bill Carter. Together, they have worked to reduce costs, implementing a plan that is now \$2 million short of the balanced goal and counting -toward his goal of a balanced operating budget.

He also talked about several of his goals which include cracking down on gangs, taggers and hate crimes, safer streets and neighborhoods and addressing the medical marijuana and billboard issues. There was an extensive discussion with stakeholders present on these issues.

He stated that he has also implemented an environmental strike force and is working on addressing the homeless issue, with efforts to assist all including families

and children to find workable solutions thru working with area shelters. He said he walks the skid row area on the 1st Wednesday morning of every month.

Attorney Trutanich stated the City of Los Angeles is owed \$100 million in taxes alone; he has started a debt collection unit to address the situation. He also commented on several specific cases including the Liberty Media matter and gave an overview of a new mentoring program he is starting to give the “kids who made a mistake” a way to overcome the issue and get a new start.

In closing he said that although it’s only been a 100 days, he feels the ship is turning.

B.) Barbara Briode

Barbara presented the following motion:

“Whereas, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners seeks to acquire authority over actions of individual neighborhood council board members and establish rules to sanction said members beyond what is required by state law, specifically regarding ethics training; and

Whereas, such authority is inimical to the democratic nature of the neighborhood council system and will be a detriment to volunteer participation; and

Whereas, such sanctions create a higher standard than that imposed on other elected officials, *

Therefore, Westside Neighborhood Council opposes granting authority to BONC or DONE to impose sanctions beyond those prescribed by state law, in the matter of ethics training.”

Motion By: Barbara

Second By: Jerry

Motion Passed: Unanimous

C.) Jonathan Weiss

Motion: That the WNC support “Park Not Parking” plan on Expo Row between Overland Avenue and Westwood Blvd.

Jonathan presented an overview of the plan and stating that the area is greatly underserved with respect to park recreational area; he asked for the WNC’s endorsement and support that Expo Row between Overland and Westwood Blvd., be designated for park land not parking. There was discussion with Board members and stakeholders, including Steve, Jerry and Colleen on the issue. Mike Eveloff commented that the final EIR is not out yet.

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Dick moved to:

“Table the Motion - That the WNC support “Park Not Parking” plan on Expo Row between Overland Avenue and Westwood Blvd..”

Second By: Stacy

Motion Passed: In Favor – 13 Opposed: 2

Lisa Morocco

Mobility Update – For full details please refer to the report.

Lisa made recommendations for the Trammel Crow mitigation funds and presented the following motions:

Motion: “That the Westside Neighborhood Council approves and allocate up to \$20,000 for 6 speed humps on Veteran Avenue from Olympic to Exposition.”

Motion By: Lisa

Second By: Ty

Motion Passed: In Favor – 14 Opposed – 1

Arturo Martinez presented the various issues regarding the traffic impacts and safety issues on Overland Avenue. Mike also noted that he had addressed these issues and made recommendations in a previous Mobility Committee meeting.

Motion: “That the Westside Neighborhood Council approves and allocate up to Up to \$10,000 for speed humps on Overland.”

Motion By: Lisa

Second By: Stacy

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Lisa announced that the “Take Me Out To The Movies” event will take place on October 10th, 2009 at 10AM at the Landmark Theaters in the Westside Pavilion. She and Charles said that the event include the 6 schools and a collection for supplies to be donated to School on Wheels. She presented the following motion regarding expenses for the event.

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Motion: "That the WNC fund \$1,500 for swag bags with the WNC logo, snack packs and other related costs for the Take Me Out to the Movies Day event at the Landmark Theater 10/10/09."

Motion By: Lisa

Second By: Mary

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Overland Gateway, Karina Wiesenthal

Update on project

No Report Was Given.

Barbara presented the following motion:

Motion: "That the Westside Neighborhood Council support DWP Rate Payer Advocate."

Motion By: Barbara

Second By: Ty

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Chair's Report, Terri Tippit

Terri introduced Susan Strict of The Neighborhood Prosecutors Program.

Susan gave background on the community based program

Susan explained that the program focuses on fighting crimes in and for the communities: drug sales, prostitution, illegal dumping, graffiti, and street racing.

The Neighborhood Prosecutors aim to identify, prioritize, and address these criminal problems before they grow into more serious offenses that can lead to urban decay in our communities. City prosecutors understand that the ability to respond to neighborhood complaints and address criminal problems proactively is critical to improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods. She stated that prosecution is the last resort if there are other realistic and effective solutions.

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Terri announced that WLA Plan Bike Plan Meeting will take place on 10/28/09, 5PM - 7PM at the Felicia Mahood Center.

She also presented a brief update on Medical Marijuana Dispensary Ordinance, the Expo Light Rail Update and the formation of the Westwood Neighborhood Council. Terri said the City of Los Angeles is implementing a pilot Street Tree Project which will consist of 3 blocks.

Appointment of Election Committee Chair

Terri stated that Jerry del Sol has given notice that he is unable to continue as a Board Member on the WNC.

Terri appointed Lisa to serve as Election Committee Chair

**Deanna Stevenson, DONE Report
No Report.**

Jay Greenstein, CD5 Update

Jay announced that the Pico Street Resurfacing will begin this weekend at Pico and Century Park East and continue West on Pico over the next consecutive weekends toward the 405 to completion..

He stated that CD5 just received notice and that their office was attempting to reverse the starting location to have less impact on Pico businesses, especially as the Holiday season approaches. For additional information call CD5 Office. He also stated that the work on the Overland Bridge is progressing.

**Motion to Adjourn: Jerry
Second By: Lisa
Unanimous
Meeting Adjourned 10:50 PM**

Reviewed and Approved By Recording Secretary

