

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OF WESTCHESTER/PLAYA DEL REY



Get involved in your community.



LETTER FROM MIKE ARIAS: PRESIDENT, NCWPDR



We have created this newsletter to update you on the efforts of your Neighborhood Council ("NC"), as well as to request your involvement in the work we do. Let me first start by emphasizing that in order to increase and improve the effectiveness of your NC, it is imperative that you get involved in some capacity. I cannot overstate the importance of your involvement and the need to continually reach out to our stakeholders. I am extremely proud of the work that our committees have done thus far in our efforts to address the issues that affect our community. While many may be content with the "quality of life" they experience, others are always looking for ways to enhance their neighborhood.

Presently, your NC is involved in numerous areas that affect your day-to-day lives. Our Planning and Land Use Committee is constantly reviewing and evaluating development and planning issues that have an impact on your "quality of life." The recommendations of your NC on these projects

are given significant weight by the agencies that consider the requests.

The Public Safety Committee is constantly reviewing and assessing issues raised by stakeholders regarding unsafe or annoying conditions that arise. Determining the cause and effect, and ascertaining potential remedies, are tasks this committee takes very seriously. Additionally, ensuring that the city services we all are entitled to are provided in an effective and prompt manner is the primary goal of the Government Affairs/City Services Committee.

In light of the current and ongoing improvements underway at LAX, the Airport Relations Committee is relentlessly working hard to ensure

that the interests of our stakeholders are recognized and appreciated. The complexity and depth of issues involved are constantly analyzed and evaluated. Your NC will make sure that the concerns of our stakeholders are not ignored.

Another concern that the majority of us may share is the need for quality education in our community. Your Education Committee has taken a very active role in this area. If you have not already experienced these efforts, you will read and hear more in the near future.....please stay tuned!!!

Finally, your Sepulveda and Lincoln Streetscape Ad Hoc Committees are both working arduously to improve the condition of the pedestrian areas and landscapes of these vital areas of our neighborhood.

In the future, should the opportunity arise, please thank the Board Members of your NC. These volunteers spend countless hours working to help sustain and improve various aspects of the quality of life in your Westchester, Playa del Rey and Playa Vista neighborhoods.

If you have any questions or require more information regarding your NC, please visit our website at www.ncwpdr.org. Please join us at our meetings held the first Tuesday of each month at the Westchester Community Center located at 7166 West Manchester at 6:30 p.m.



Mike Arias

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AIRPORT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

It was our pleasure this month to host Chad Molnar, LAX Community Liaison for Councilman Bill Rosendahl. Mr. Molnar presented both a preview of Councilman Rosendahl's policy statement on the modernization of LAX and his views regarding current developments at LAX, including the proposed plans presented by the former LAX litigants to redesign the North Runway Complex.

Most of these plans include moving a runway closer to Westchester/Playa del Rey and other new gate facilities, which we impressed upon Mr. Molnar are viewed as abhorrent by our communities. There was additional discussion about the need for a complete, new Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for any of the proposed plans which exceed the scope of the designs approved by the City Council as part of the compromise to Alternative D. The committee also discussed the fact that the baseline assumptions used for comparison in the prior EIR process are now woefully out of date and need to have new studies of the sound and other impacts of a northerly move of the runway in comparison to current data. The new noise monitoring system will provide far more accurate information than the old noise contours that were based on very few data points and the lines drawn mere extrapolations from the limited data.

Finally, Mr. Molnar was apprised of our strong opposition to El Segundo's desire to move the balance of airport operations toward our communities and away from El Segundo compared to the current mix. We look forward to Mr. Molnar's attendance at our future meetings.

The Airport Relations Committee meets on the last Thursday of each month at 8 a.m. at Panera Bread at 8647 S. Sepulveda Blvd.

STANDING MEETING SCHEDULE

Neighborhood Council Board Meetings	1st Tuesday of Each Month at 6:30 p.m.
Planning & Land Use	2nd Tuesday of Each Month at 6:30 p.m.
Education Committee	4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: CREATING SAFE COMMUNITIES

The Public Safety Committee of the Neighborhood Council was formed in 2007. With committee members from the community and Neighborhood Council board, the Public Safety Committee looks forward to working with the community as we address public safety concerns together.

Our goal is to increase the involvement of members of the community in an effort to reduce the potential for crime, help prepare for the uncertainty of natural events and address other public safety issues in our community. We bring events to the community and discuss topics focused on improving the safety of our community and our members.

Together, we can keep our community safe through the efforts of Neighborhood Watch. Through knowledge, training (CERT, CPR, First Aid, etc.), and working together, we can become a community of individuals and neighbors who are prepared for various disasters, such as earthquakes. By doing our part to keep our community clean and safe, we will live in a better place.

The "broken window" theory suggests there are things that the

community can do to help deter and reduce crime.

- Quick replacement of broken windows
- Prompt removal of abandoned vehicles
- Fast clean up of illegally dumped items and trash
- Quick paint out of graffiti
- Finding (or building) better places for teens to gather other than street corners
- Fresh paint on buildings
- Clean sidewalks and street gutters

Here are some phone numbers to keep handy and programmed in your cell phone. In the City of Los Angeles, all City services can be found by dialing 3-1-1. Here are some other important numbers to remember:

- Report Graffiti: 310-204-2749
- Report Illegal Dumping: 1-800-773-2489
- Report Abandoned Shopping Carts: 1-800-252-4613

MMMITTEE UPDATE

5 GOALS FOR LINCOLN BOULEVARD

The mission of the Lincoln Boulevard Streetscape Ad Hoc Committee (LSAC) is to help secure the aesthetic appeal and economic vitality of Lincoln Boulevard as a distinctive community-oriented business district. The committee will work to limit the negative impacts of Caltrans' Phase II street widening project, preserve community access and assure a safe pedestrian-friendly environment within the context of Lincoln Boulevard serving as a major regional traffic corridor.

(LSAC) HAS DISCUSSED AND APPROVED THE FOLLOWING FIVE GOALS. OUR COMMITTEE WILL WORK TOGETHER IN 2007 TO:

- Serve as a reliable conduit of information about Lincoln Boulevard among the Westchester/ Playa del Rey/Playa Vista communities, Caltrans, the City of Los Angeles and other local government agencies.
- Serve as a forum to discuss and resolve issues involving Lincoln Boulevard for the Westchester/ Playa del Rey/Playa Vista communities.
- Help assure the vitality of Lincoln Boulevard as a distinctive community-oriented commercial district and limit the negative impacts of Caltrans' Phase II street widening project.
- Improve and maintain the aesthetic appeal of the Lincoln Boulevard commercial district.
- Improve and maintain community access and safe pedestrian-friendly streets within the context of Lincoln Boulevard as a major traffic corridor.

NCWPDR board members serving on the ad hoc committee are: Stephen Bentley, chairman; Judith Ciancimino; Steve Donell; Doug Ehlers; and John Ruhlen. The committee members have chosen to nominate four Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista stakeholders as non-board members of LSAC.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE AIMS TO HELP IMPROVE LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Education Committee has acted upon the challenge of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to all Neighborhood Councils to become directly involved in the effort to improve their local public schools and to reform the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Since the first meeting of the Education Committee in July 2006, it has charted an aggressive course in reviewing the state of our community's public schools, and in particular, Westchester High School. The members of the Education Committee all have a deep interest in education. Committee membership includes professional educators and parents with children in both public and private schools.

Two specific initiatives have been undertaken by the Education Committee:

The first initiative was to study and understand the many nationwide models for autonomous control of local public schools. The Boston Pilot School is a highly regarded model for community control of public schools.

The second initiative of the committee pertained to the process by which

public high schools are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Public high schools are periodically assessed by WASC representatives from outside the schools' district. Much of the assessment is based on written documentation prepared by the school in advance of a four-day visit by the WASC committee. On the recommendation of the Education Committee, the full board passed a motion in December 2006, recommending that this documentation be handled in the same way as draft Environmental Impact Reports such that the public could review, comment upon and receive written responses from the school administration on each issue raised.

The Education Committee then turned its attention to the documentation prepared by the administration of Westchester High School for the schools pending WASC assessment. Upon the recommendation of the committee, in March 2007, the board directed the President of NCWPDR and the Chairman of the Education Committee to submit a letter to WASC pointing out a number of areas in which the community felt the school needed to improve. Improved discipline and better communication between the school and the community were among the board's main objectives.



BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Budget and Finance Committee creates and implements budgets, institutes financial controls to adhere to City of Los Angeles requirements, monitors, manages and facilitates the disbursement of payments for operating expenses, considers and recommends community improvement projects, provides monthly financial reports and performs all other tasks necessary for the implementation of sound fiscal management policies.

As the new fiscal year approaches, the Budget and Finance Committee is preparing the new budget and is ready to solicit requests for new community improvement projects. Funding is available for a variety of projects that benefit the community and provide improvements to City-owned facilities. Be sure to visit the website at www.ncwpdr.org for additional details.



PLANNING AND LAND USE COMMITTEE DISCUSS LMU LIBRARY

The Planning Land Use Committee was pleased to host Clarence Griffith, of Loyola Marymount University, and Paul Danna, architect, with DMJM, to discuss their plans for the new library at LMU.

The planned 88,000-square-foot above-ground library with additional storage space in the basement will be 55 feet tall and will have three-filled floors above ground. Students, faculty and community members will benefit from the upgrades, which include a new café, a colored concrete structure with wood louvers and open spaces to congregate and socialize. There are also open spaces planned around the library. The building will also be LEED certified to minimize energy and resource consumption.

Modernization is key to renovating the library. It will now meet the needs of all the students. It will also allow LMU to expand its library's collection and centralize its location for easy accessibility. LMU advises that it has entitlements for building at that site. The construction haul route will be via LMU Drive and Lincoln Boulevard. The project does not represent any growth in

campus population. The existing library will be re-purposed to meet the needs for office space and will not require any additional parking.

Certain neighbors who live along McConnell Avenue are hesitant to support the project, and their concerns were addressed at a hearing on May 1, 2007. The appellants concerns were with the existing recycling centers/facility management yard near their homes including those issues associated with its operation. The basis for the appeal is the concern that a new, larger library will generate more activity at the recycling facility. The LMU representative advised that this was unfounded and that there will be no change in the volume of recyclable materials as this will be a replacement of the existing library and does not represent an increase of activity. LMU also advises that they are taking every measure possible to address concerns about recycling operations by revising work schedules, routing trucks via LMU Drive and performing a feasibility study of moving the facility to another location.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee's mission is to explore and develop an effective means to keep our community's stakeholders informed of Neighborhood Council meetings and events.

This includes developing a system to manage stakeholder registrations, develop numerous information outlets that include our website, eNews (news

emailed to all stakeholders), email subscriptions of various Neighborhood Council news and agendas and merging it all together.

Stakeholders can visit our website at www.ncwpdr.org for the latest Neighborhood Council news and subscribe to any committee news and agendas.

MEETING AGENDAS ARE POSTED AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE START OF MEETINGS.

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Mike Arias	Residential District # 15	John-David Webster
Vice President	Francis Stronks	Member at-large #1	Pam DeArmas
Record Secretary	Judith Ciancimino	Member at-large #2	Judith Ciancimino
Corresponding Secretary	David Coffin	Member at-large #3	Lynn Katakoa
Treasurer	Steve Donell	Member at-large #4	Mary Taylor
		Member at-large #5	Cozette Vergari
		Business	Sibyl Buchanan
		Community Organizations	David Voss
		Education	Richard Nelsen
		Income Property Owners	Patricia Lyon
		LAX	Nancy Niles
		LMU	Lisa Farland
		Recognized Community	
		Volunteer Organization	Geoff Maleman
		Religious	David Gray
		Senior Citizens	Doug Ehlers
		Service Clubs and	
		Fraternal Organizations	Tom Flintoff
		Youth Organizations	Mike Arias
Residential District # 1	Don Doyle		
Residential District # 2	Terry Issac		
Residential District # 3	William (Bill) Ballerini		
Residential District # 4	Terry Marcellus		
Residential District # 5	Stephen Bentley		
Residential District # 6	James Ferro		
Residential District # 7	John Ruhlen		
Residential District # 8	John Ramey		
Residential District # 9	Francis Stronks		
Residential District # 10	David Coffin		
Residential District # 11	Robert Dalton		
Residential District # 12	Denny Schneider		
Residential District # 13	Kathy Santos		
Residential District # 14	Steve Donell		



ABOUT WESTCHESTER/PLAYA DEL REY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

The NCWPDR is a quasi-governmental agency of the City of Los Angeles intended to give the residents, property owners and persons working in the Westchester-Playa del Rey neighborhood a stronger voice in the governance of the City. NCWPDR is a part of the City's neighborhood council system that was established in June 1999 following the passage of the new Los Angeles City Charter.

NCWPDR went through a two-year process of organization, was certified by the City and held its first meeting in November 2001. The purpose of this meeting was to elect a board of directors. The new board held its first meeting December 3, 2002. There are 31 members on the board of directors, representing the various stakeholders in the Westchester-Playa del Rey neighborhood. Today the NCWPDR has 7,335 registered stakeholders, who by their participation, help influence the direction of our community.

A stakeholder is defined as any person living in, working in or owning real property within the boundaries of the NCWPDR (see map on back page). Stakeholders must register with NCWPDR in order to become voting members or to hold elected office. The responsibility of the members of the board of directors is to determine and to

communicate to the pertinent city officials those issues, needs and concerns of importance to the stakeholders. NCWPDR will be an integral part of how local government operates, providing a direct line of communication between the community and its elected officials and the city departments. NCWPDR will also be privy to an early notification system to make certain that City Hall doesn't do anything to impact our neighborhood without first letting us express our views on the matter.

Your participation in our Neighborhood Council helps influence the direction of our community in its city chartered advisory capacity to our city leaders and departments.

The registration form can be downloaded from www.ncwpdr.org. Proof of eligibility must accompany the form. A driver's license, identification card, utility bill or rental/lease agreement, payroll check or company badge and a real property tax bill or deed to real property may be used depending on which status one qualifies as a stakeholder.

TODAY OUR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL HAS 7,335 REGISTERED STAKEHOLDERS.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Notices and meeting agendas will be posted on www.ncwpdr.org site as well being posted at five community locations in Westchester:

Westchester Community Center/ Municipal Building
7166 W. Manchester Ave.

Loyola Village Library
7114 W. Manchester Ave.

Commercial Capital Bank
7151 W. Manchester Ave.

Westchester Senior Center
8740 Lincoln Blvd.

Westchester Family YMCA
8015 S. Sepulveda Blvd.

Neighborhood Council Map



Residential Districts of the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa del Rey (amended September 7, 2004)

In addition to the 15 residential seats identified on the map at left, the NCWPDR board of directors includes five at-large members and seats reserved specifically for groups such as Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles World Airports, the business community, clergy, community organizations, income property owners, education, volunteer organizations, youth groups, seniors and service/fraternal organizations.



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