



an insider look at city hall

CITYWATCH EXTRA

December 8, 2005
Volume 3 Issue 20

CityWatch eXtra Today—The sun is about to set on 2005. LA's Neighborhood Councils are engaged in a gang of citywide issues and projects. We offer a brief status report today on some of these.

The report is significant because it offers a glimpse into the issues themes that will dominate the early going in the year upcoming.

It is also important because many of these projects and issues will test the potency of Neighborhood Council influence. If the NC Congress fails, if NCs lose their battle with the City Council members on the File Number proposal, if NCs wind up with limited or no influence on the Review Commission or, if the Planning Department turns out to be less than collaborative in the crafting of an MOU ... it will affect the City's, and some stakeholder's, perception of the real ability of NCs to make a difference.

We will take a look at the City and Neighborhood Councils through the 2006 prism in our special "Movin' On" issue, due out on December 28. A host of different perspectives on the challenges ahead. It will be worth the read.

We hope you find this update helpful. Thanks for stopping by.

--Editor

Say What?

LA Controller Laura Chick "has produced dozens of practical blueprints for improvement."

--LA Times Editorial
December 4, 2005

Status Report: Neighborhood Council's Citywide Issues Agenda

By Sara Epstein

Background

LA's Neighborhood Councils are engaged in a number of citywide issues and projects. This is a status report on some of them.

NC Congress Meets Ratification Threshold; First Official Meeting Likely in Early February, 2006

Twenty-five percent of LA's qualified Neighborhood Councils have now

signed on to the NC Congress Charter Proposal. This surpasses the 20% of all councils threshold required to activate the Congress.

At least another eight NCs have the proposal agendized, which means that as many as 30 could be ready to participate in the group's first official meeting, likely to take place in early February.

The list of ratifiers ranges geographically from San Pedro to Woodland Hills and from Arroyo Seco to Westside. Pico Union became the 18th NC to approve the Proposed Charter and sent the group over the 20% requirement.

The Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Congress (LANCC) will meet next on Saturday, December 17 (10 a.m.) at the DWP, located at Hope and 1st Streets. Parking is free. *(For information on meetings, councils that have ratified, the Charter: www.LANCCongress.org. For background on NC Congress, visit www.CityWatchLA.com, click on archive then click on CityWatch Vol 3 Issue 17 dated November 10, 2005.)*

NCs that have ratified the LANCC Charter

Arroyo Seco
Atwater Village
Bel Air Beverly Crest
Central San Pedro
Coastal San Pedro
Downtown Los Angeles
Granada Hills North
Historic Highland Park
Mar Vista
Mid City West
Pacoima
Pico Union
Reseda
Silver Lake
Tarzana
West Hills
Valley Village
Westside
Winnetka
Woodland Hills-Warner Center

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Inaugural Meeting on Planning MOU Draws Full House

Almost 60 participants, representing at least 38 Neighborhood Councils took part in an orientation meeting expected to be the first step in the creation of an MOU between NCs and the City's Planning Department. Attendees were primarily council Presidents and/or Land Use chairs.

The session featured a look "Inside the Planning Department," by retired Zoning Administrator, Jon Perica. Planning Consultant Robert Lamishaw provided an overview of the proposed MOU and the MOU process. Lamishaw said that "All City Council members, the Planning Department, Building and

See Page 3. "Status Report"

CITYWATCH**The News That Was ...**

DECEMBER 1 – 8, 2005

Chick Says No to State Office: "It's Important to Me that I Stay ..."

LA City Controller, Laura Chick, told the LA Times this week that she will not run for State Controller. "It is important to me," she told the Times' Patrick McGreevy, "that I stay and oversee this critical arm of my office during its infancy." Chick was talking about a fraud and abuse strike force and other city projects on her agenda.

More Chick—As reported earlier, LA's Controller offered to perform a comprehensive and transparent audit of LAUSD's management and operations. "Since that time," Chick says, "I have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support ..." Six members of the LA City Council ... Greuel, Garcetti, LaBonge, Parks, Rosendahl, Weiss ... have endorsed Chick's offer. (See related story by Robert Greene at www.laweekly.com "Antonio's Takedown of LA Unified").

DONE's Dunn is Done with DONE

The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's popular Assistant General Manager, Claudia Dunn has been named the new Director of the Council and Public Services Division of the City Clerk's Office.

"I can think of no one who is more uniquely qualified," noted DONE's Director of Administrative Services, Mike Vitkiewicz.

Former BONC President Takes Up with the Regulars

Former BONC President, Ron Stone has stashed his Commissioner mantle and take up with the other side. On Wednesday, Stone was named to the Board of the Westside Neighborhood Council, representing Religious Institutions. "It will be fun, interesting and challenging ..." Stone says. ■

CityWatch**Future Assignments**

◆ Is This the Best LA City Council Ever?

Our panel and our readers have opinions

◆ A Look at the New BONC

The reformers, the conformers, the undecided

◆ LA's 90,000 Homeless

Does anyone, other than Jan Perry, care?

◆ Warm & Fuzzy Holiday CityWatch

*Checking our list twice—a must read***December 21**

◆ The City Through a 2006 Prism

*Comprehensive CityWatch Year-ahead issue***December 28****Next CityWatch: December 15 ...****...ON A COMPUTER NEAR YOU!****CITYWATCH****EXTRA***The E-Newsletter for LA's NC's***December 8, 2005
Volume 3 Issue 20**□□□
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Status Report—From Page 1

Safety and the governing City Committees have been advised of the formation committee and the future MOU.”

The next meeting is set for January 7. (Info: www.mouoversight.org or email jlamishaw@socal.rr.com.)



Finally! E & N to Hear Council File Issue

After a bit of goading from several NC members at its last meeting, the City Council's Education & Neighborhoods Committee has finally agreed to revisit Council File #05-0575, the "non-CIS"/"NC initiatives"/council file issue. To date, over 40 certified Neighborhood Councils, DONE, the BONC, the Valley Alliance of NCs, and Council President-elect Garcetti have endorsed versions of this proposal.

The meeting is set for Wednesday, December 14, will be held in Council Chambers (3rd Floor) at City Hall beginning at 2 p.m. The meeting will be televised.

Proponents are expecting a large number of Neighborhood Council representatives to attend in support of the proposal, which allows NCs to originate policy proposals and have those recommendations assigned an official, public tracking number. The File Number issue was first heard by E&N in June but has been held up since the appointment of a new Committee chair. (For background on the NC Council File Number issue, visit www.CityWatchLA.com, click on "archive", then click on CityWatch Vol 3 Issue 4 dated June 7, 2005.)

Jason Lyon Comments—If you agree that NCs should be able to originate policy proposals and have those recommendations assigned an official, public tracking number, PLEASE plan to attend the committee meeting on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14 at 2 PM. This has the potential to be one of the most significant turning points in the neighborhood council movement.

This session will be held IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, and will be TELEVISED. A great turnout will show the committee and the viewing public that Neighborhood Councils stand together in the movement toward real neighborhood empowerment. It is likely there will be serious opposition to this proposal from City Councils members. Your presence is critical. (Jason Lyon is Chair of the Government Affairs Committee, Silver Lake Neighborhood Council.)

NCs to Provide Input on Review Commission

The Education and Neighborhoods Committee will receive at least one proposal recommending perimeters for the soon to be appointed NC System Review Commission. The proposal will also recommend that the Commission include members selected by Neighborhood Councils.

Ongoing discussion on the charter-mandated Review Commission will continue next Wednesday before the E&N Committee. NCs are being urged to provide their advice commission make up, how the commissioners should be chosen and guidelines for their work soon. In order to create the needed ordinance, get it approved and select commission members by June, E&N will need to submit its proposal soon after the new year. (Info: E&N Committee; Wednesday, December 14 [2 p.m.]; City Hall Council Chambers.)

NC Emergency Preparedness Network Takes First Step

A formation committee, headed by former BONC Commissioner Pat Herrera Duran, held its first exploratory meeting this week. The goal is to create a trained NC EP Network, with a communication system that would link councils to each other and to city EP agencies.

CityWatch will keep you updated. ■

**CITYWATCH
DayPlanner**

City Council
Dec 13, 14 & 16 (10 a.m.)

Education & Neighborhood

December 14 (2 p.m.)
City Hall (Council Chamber)
NC Council File Numbers,
NC Review Commission
Meeting will be televised.

Board Animal Services

December 12 (10 a.m.)
City Hall (Rm 1060)

Board Public Works

December 13 (1 p.m.)
City Hall (Rm 350)
Ordinance to prohibit more check
cashing businesses
Clarification on restaurant/night
club liquor licenses

Transportation

December 14 (3 p.m.)
Increase penalties for vehicles
over 6,000 lbs on residential
streets



**Should NC boundaries
correspond with City
Council District
boundaries?
CITYWATCH
DECEMBER 15**