



an insider look at city hall

CITYWATCH EXTRA

July 7, 2006

CityWatch Special Issue

CityWatch Today—The fledgling NC Congress has faced a few turns in its young life. Now comes another test: finding a chairperson with the vision, energy and commitment to lead and inspire.

The election is just hours away and CityWatch recaps it for you on this page.

Next CityWatch: Among other things, the City Charter charges Neighborhood Councils with the monitoring of city services. We suggest that NCs remember that that includes the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

Why should Neighborhood Councils hold the DONE to a lesser standard that, say, Public Works? Or, Planning? We'll expand on that question in the upcoming CityWatch.

Thank you for stopping by.
--Editor

LANCC Report

NC Congress to Hold Elections; Some Feel Results will be Critical

By David Lowell

LA's Neighborhood Council Congress will be electing new officers on Saturday and there are those who believe the results could critically affect the future of the coalition. The group is now at 40 NC members and has spent much of its first five months organizing itself. Some of those members are becoming impatient at the lack of issues action they believe they signed on for.



"It's time for some action," one regular Congress observer observed. "They've spent a lot of time talking but not much time doing. Maybe some new blood at the top could energize these people."

Eight candidates, so far, are running for five officer positions. Other candidates can be nominated the day of the election. Candidates include: Chair—Len Shaffer, Charley Mims, Brady Westwater and Jim Alger; Vice Chair—Luciana Dar, Gregory Martayan and Gary Baratta; Treasurer—David Strouse. There is no candidate for Secretary. Jeff Jacobberger withdrew after his appointment to the 912 Commission.

(Candidate list & Meeting Time-Pg 2)

The plan to be submitted to the board, calls for the new officers to serve until May of 2007, with annual elections each May thereafter. It also provides for input from the public and questions from senate members prior to the vote on each position.

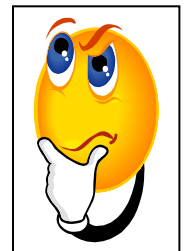
See Page 2. "Elections"

Perspective

To Recuse or Not to Recuse: That is the Question for LANCC Reps on 912 Panel

By Ken Draper

At least five Neighborhood Council representatives, currently serving in the NC Congress Senate have been appointed to the 912 Commission. One of the first cross roads they may come to as commissioners is whether that creates a conflict. Consider this.

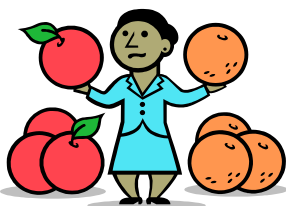


Among the things the Review Commission will surely be asked to consider is the process NCs use to come together as a citywide voice. Among those processes currently is the NC Congress. The Commission will be reviewing its effectiveness. Its right to exist. Whether the NC Congress is an appropriate vehicle for city agencies to turn to for input. For advice, if you will. The Mayor's Budget process and MOUs with city departments come to mind.

See Page 2. "Perspective"

CityWatch Lite

One NC Delegate ponders whom to vote for



Perspective-From Page 1

On the other hand, the LANCC is designed to be independent of the city. Able to lobby on behalf of Neighborhood Councils. In fact, the NC Congress may choose to lobby the Review Commission itself on certain issues.

Imagine for a moment, that LANCC members ... five of which are now serving on the Commission to be lobbied ... decide to lobby the Commission on a new definition of stakeholders. A decision reached by the LANCC Senate ... including these same five Review Commission members. How awkward does that look?



It is not impossible then, that these talented and valuable NC leaders, sooner rather than later, will face a dilemma: To recuse or not to recuse themselves from any NC Congress business that relates to the work of the Review Commission. Even if all of they're work is above board, to protect public perception of the Commission and the effectiveness of the work of the Congress, it's the right thing to do. ■

Elections-From Page 1

The campaign heat has been turned up over the past 72 hours as candidates reach out for support. Stakeholder observers, still undecided councils and a fair amount of grassroots LA will be watching from the wings on this one, looking for signs that the NC Congress recognizes that it's time to move forward and is taking its choice of leaders to help accomplish that seriously. *(The LA NC Congress meets at the DWP Building (Portland Room) at 1st and Hope Streets. Meeting is open to the public and begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 8.)* ■

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LANCC ELECTION

July 8 (10 a.m.)

Chair Candidates

- Charley Mims
(Greater Griffith Park)
- Brady Westwater
(DowntownLA NC)
- Jim Alger
(Northridge West NC)

Vice Chair Candidates

- Luciana Dar
(W. Van Nuys Lake Balboa NC)
- Gary Baratta
(Mid-Town No. Hollywood NC)
- Gregory Martayan
(Encino NC)

Secretary Candidates

None

Treasurer Candidates

- David Strouse
(Mid City WEST CC)

■■■

CityWatch

2006 Assignments

◆ The 912 Players have been Picked.

CityWatch takes a look at what they've been picked to do. Nelson, Draper, Wiseman and Villaraigosa weigh in

◆ Council File #'s for NCs.

Proposal Languishing in Committee.

Doesn't the delay demonstrate the need?

◆ November Ballot is a Big \$\$ Ticket

CityWatch will count the \$\$ signs

Next CityWatch:

July 11 ...

CITYWATCH

The E-Newsletter for LA's NC's

July 7, 2006
Special Report

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