



an insider look at city hall

# CITYWATCH

citywide edition

## Briefing

July 31, 2006

### Folo-Up: HCNC Election

## DONE has Second Thoughts; Backs off Threats, Demands

By Ken Draper

Management at the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment re-thought its hard-line position on the Historic Cultural NC's choice for a polling site and withdrew its demands and threats. Earlier, the DONE had threatened to withhold funding and election procedures approval if the HCNC held its upcoming election at the Arts District location the board had approved. The DONE warning coming, apparently, as the result of a complaint from a disgruntled board member who wanted the election held in Chinatown.



Just hours after the election story broke in CityWatch, DONE GM Lisa Sarno told HCNC President Charlie Woo of their decision to capitulate. All that remained was a suggestion by DONE ... previously a demand ... that the downtown Council consider dispute resolution help from the City Attorney's office.



Here's the back story as CityWatch reported July 26:

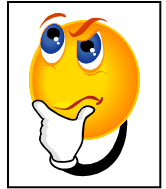
*“So, let's try to understand this. A Neighborhood Council takes a board vote. One member is unhappy with the result and storms out. Now, that board must undergo dispute resolution therapy. Forgetting the abridgement of the democratic process, can you imagine how busy the CA's dispute resolution folks would be if every board, with a disgruntled vote loser, had to attend DR school?”*

*The Council, using the approved Election Procedures template, has submitted its election plan. They voted, with a quorum and in accordance with the bylaws, to locate their polling place in an area of their neighborhood they deemed appropriate. Without citing any violations, the DONE has told the HCNC folks that the location won't fly and they have to get over to the DA's office for some dispute resolution processing or else. Or else they will not get their funding and the vote won't count*

**See next column**

### Just Thinking

## City Council: Model for Brown Act Compliance



The Ralph M. Brown Act is a state law that ensures that the public's business is conducted in public. It provides for criminal penalties. It applies to the City Council, commissions, and Neighborhood Councils.

If just half of the news reports are correct, LA City Council members have been having private discussions about how to deal with the controversy over the proposed term limits ballot measure. These one-on-one discussions are called serial meetings and they are illegal. It would interesting to hear the City Council explain how they decide which part of the Brown Act they choose to ignore. **-CW**

### LA Briefly

**City Council**—City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo says the ballot measure that would extend term limits an additional four years is likely illegal because it mixes procedural apples and oranges. The term limit matter, he says, is a Charter issue. The rest of the plan just requires a motion. Some City Council members have suggested that the CA keep his views to himself and tending to drafting. “We asked him to draft the ballot measure. I don't think we asked for his opinion,” Dennis Zine said.

Councilman Wesson is quoted in the LA Times saying he hadn't read Delgadillo's opinion but that he is disappointed. He also said he would “talk to his colleagues on Monday to see how to proceed.” Since Monday is not a council meeting day, some critics wondered who and how many colleagues he had in mind ... and, if those discussions might violate the Brown Act.

...

**Los Angeles**—Mayor Villaraigosa will meet with British Prime Minister Tony Blair today (Monday) and then host a reception in the Prime Minister's honor at the Getty Villa in Malibu at 6 p.m. ■

. *There are those who think that what won't fly are the DONE decision and the DONE threats.”*



The HCNC election is on the calendar for this November. The council is one of the oldest in the city. They were certified in April, 2002. ■

**NC Week Ahead****NC Input-Calendar Jammed**

Be forewarned, NCs. Pack a lunch and bring a change. Your input is in demand. So much advice to give. So little time. Have you looked? Your advice calendar is on overload.

Consider what lies just ahead: Your BONC convenes on Tuesday to tackle some tricky issues; Controversial agendas at City Council on Tuesday and Wednesday; the NC Review Commission gathers again on Thursday; Education and Neighborhoods is holding a hearing on your new DONE GM on Friday; the LA NC Congress brings some heated issues to the table on Saturday and the Rules folks meet on Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> to take up the NC File Number proposal.



Sell the kids and give up your day job, NC volunteer advisors. Your views and your neighborhood voice are in demand. (Remember when nobody cared?)

**Tuesday—BONC**

6:30 p.m.

City Hall (Rm 1060)

- Recommendations on next DONE GM
- Problems with NC elections
- NC Self-assessment survey

**Tuesday/Wednesday-City Council**

10 a.m.

City Hall (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

- [www.lacity.org](http://www.lacity.org) for agendas

**Thursday-NC Review Commission**

6:30 p.m.

Metro Water Dist Headquarters

700 N Alameda St

- Agenda still largely about organization of Commission

**Friday--Education & Neighborhoods**

8:30 a.m.

Van Nuys City Hall

14410 Sylvan St

- Hearing: Public testimony on hiring of next DONE GM

**Saturday—LA NC Congress**

10 a.m.

DWP Building (Portland Rm)

First and Hope Streets

- Why NCs were not included in the affordable housing billion dollar ballot measure discussion

**Wednesday, August 9—Rules Committee**

City Hall (Rm 1070)

- NC Council File Number motion. More than 50 NCs have sent Community Impact Statements

**CityWatch  
Future Assignments**

- ◆ **The Zine Motion Asking for a Moratorium on NC Election Rules**  
*Supporters re-energized by DONE treatment of Historic Cultural NC*
- ◆ **Has Eagle Rock Found the Solution to LA's Parking Crisis?**  
*CityWatch reports*
- ◆ **Is This the Best City Council Ever?**  
*CityWatch poses the question*
- ◆ **NCs were Ignored on Affordable Housing Bond Measure**  
*Some want to help defeat it in November*
- ◆ **November Ballot is a Big \$\$ Ticket**  
*CityWatch will count the \$\$ signs*

**Next CityWatch:****August 2 ...****...ON A COMPUTER NEAR YOU****CITYWATCH  
BRIEFING**

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