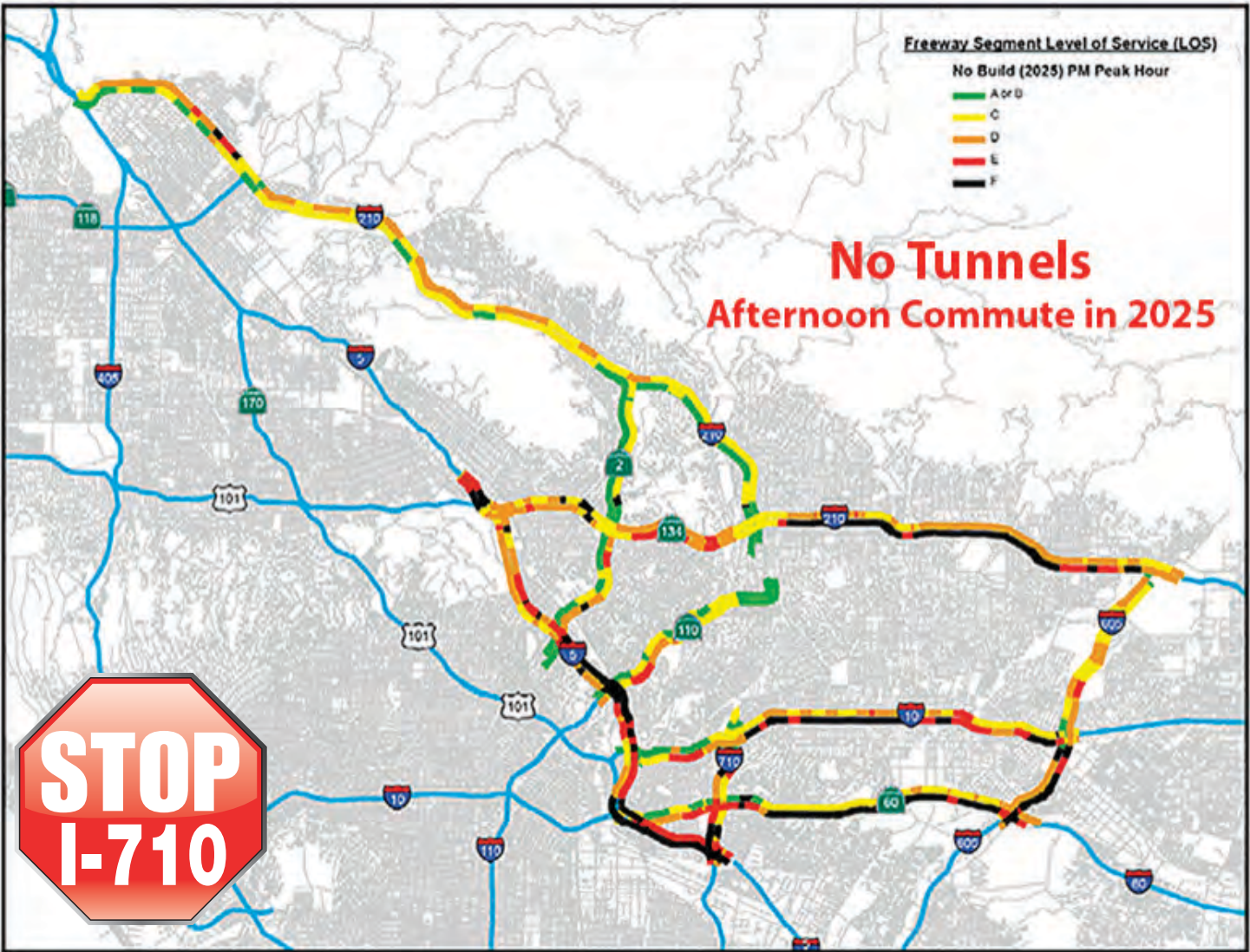


Bill to Stop the I-710 Tunnel Submitted to State Legislature

By Nina Royal

On Thursday, February 9th, Assembly-member Chris Holden, who represents the 41st Assembly District introduced, Assembly Bill 287 that he authored to stop the I-710 Freeway Tunnel, during a coalition of city councilmembers, community leaders, and non-profit organizations who gathered at the Mission Street Metro Station. His AB 287 establishes a local advisory committee and offers a solution to the State Route I-710 corridor gap between the I-710 and I-210 freeways and prohibits the construction of a freeway tunnel. He is presenting an alternative to the I-710 Corridor Gap to improve air quality and public health, improve traffic safety, modernize the freeway design, address projected growth in population, employment and activities related to goods movement.

A portion of his bill reads: "In conducting its study, the advisory committee shall take into consideration the input of residents living in the 710 project Corridor area. The committee shall consider development of open space, light rail options, and traffic calming options, and may consider alternatives not considered in the State Route 710 North Draft Environmental Impact Review. The report to the Legislature shall be submitted pursuant to Section 9795 of the Government Code. The Advisory Committee shall not consider or recommend the freeway tunnel alternative proposed for implementation of the State Route 710 North Draft Environmental



(cont. on page 4)

Modification of Proposition 57 Presented to the CA State Senate



Senator Pat Bates

Senator Pat Bates who serves the 36th Senate District authored Senate Bill 75, which seeks to modify Proposition 57. The contentious Prop 57 presently increases opportunities for early release of supposed nonviolent felons and also allows judges, not prosecutors, to decide if some juveniles can be charged as adults. "Californians approved Proposition 57 last year with the intention of

showing leniency to offenders who are truly non-violent, unfortunately, many voters were not aware that the state's definition of 'non-violent' includes deeply troubling crimes. Said Bates, Her SB 75 bill was introduced last month with an expanded the list of "violent felonies" to include the following:

- Vehicular manslaughter;
- Human trafficking involving a minor;
- Battery with personal infliction of serious bodily injury;
- Throwing acid or a flammable substance;
- Assault with a deadly weapon;
- Assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer or firefighter;

- Assault with a deadly weapon by a state prison inmate;
- Discharging a firearm at an occupied dwelling, building, vehicle or aircraft;
- Rape where victim is legally incapable of giving consent;
- Rape of an unconscious person;
- Rape/sodomy/oral copulation of an unconscious person or by use of date rape drugs;
- Inflicting corporal injury on a child;
- Domestic violence;
- Arson of a structure or forest land;
- Arson of property;
- Solicitation to commit murder;
- Grand theft of a firearm;
- Any felony involving the personal use of a deadly weapon;
- Holding a hostage by a state prison inmate;
- Exploding a destructive device or explosive with intent to injure.

Senator Bates said she believes that though the proposition seeks to save tax dollars, it could lead to more crimes from felons released early. She believes her SB 75 will "help address a major weakness of Prop. 57 and keep California's communities safe."

While commenting during a press conference concerning the murder of Whittier Police Officer Keith Boyle on Tuesday, February 21, L.A. County Sheriff

Jim McDonnell indicated that the spike in crime is due to the early release of prisoners. He alluded to the fact that local jails are now being utilized to house offenders who have had their offenses plea bargained and downsized, when prisoners should actually be incarcerated in state prisons. They are also getting lighter sentences in order to qualify for the county jail system and early release. Presently, they are being released early from prisons if they are deemed to be "non violent."

Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas spoke during a news conference last Wednesday saying he is also experiencing a rash of murders in his district. He said he believes there has been an increase in crime since the state implemented efforts such as realignment to reduce prison overcrowding, and voters approved Prop. 47 to reduce many nonviolent property and drug crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. "We're experiencing an increase in crime, and it's not just limited to violence." He added, "Our sense of it is when you have realignment with early release from prison coupled with Prop. 47 a lot of people who would be sent to prison are now going to county jail. We think that's connected to a rise in crime." Rackauckas said his observations were "based on conversations I've had with various police chiefs, and it's not limited to our county. We don't know the amounts yet, but we know that's the trend."

COMMUNITY NEWS

EXCLUSIVE IN THE NORTH VALLEY REPORTER

Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Celebrates 14 Years!

The “Best Of” Awards were presented by the Valley Neighborhood Councils (VANC) to encourage all neighborhood councils to strive for excellence. These awards are intended to honor *extraordinary* efforts by a council or a Neighborhood Council Board member. The awards were presented at the VANC 14th Anniversary Mixer on March 9 at CBS Studios, Studio City.

The Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) was founded by Jill Banks Barad in March 2003. It is an independent organization open to participation by all elected Neighborhood Council Board members, Neighborhood Councils in-formation, and stakeholders of San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Councils. Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Sherman Oaks Hospital, 6:30 p.m. Info: vanc@empowerla.org

VANC “Best of...Awards” are as follows:

Focusing on Ensuring the Safety and Well-Being of All Members of the Community — Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Health and Public Safety Committee

A short while ago L.A. Mayor Garcetti and LAFD Chief Terrazas issued a City-wide plea to encourage all citizens, residents and stakeholders regarding the critical importance of learning the practice of CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) to save lives during a sudden cardiac arrest emergency.

Each day, more than 1,000 persons fall victim to Sudden Cardiac Arrest and more than 90% do not survive the trip to the hospital. Four out of five Sudden Cardiac arrest emergencies happen at home. So, chances are that the life you’re trying to save will be a parent, spouse, grandparent, child or friend. If the victims receive CPR treatment during the critical time it takes for EMS and Paramedics to arrive, we can double or even triple the survival rate. We realize that it’s all about buying time to save a life – before paramedics arrive.

In 2016, the Health & Public Safety Committee of the Lake Balboa NC began an innovative program and set an ambitious goal to help improve the quality of life in their community by helping to improve survival rates of victims of Sudden Cardiac Arrest. The

Council partnered with the well - known American Heart Association health care training organization to provide FREE community CPR training for all residents and stakeholders, not only from the Lake Balboa community, but throughout the San Fernando Valley.

The Committee established a regular monthly schedule of free community training classes at the Van Nuys Flyaway designed to attract and bring in community members from all over the Valley. The class was structured to include easy to learn CPR/AED/First Aid training for both youth and adults. The Optional 2-year CPR certification was also available for those who wanted or needed to show proof of training. Notice of the training class was posted in local social media as well as local newspapers.

In addition, the Council also collaborated with other NC councils, such as Northridge West, and successfully provided education and training to community residents, educators and stakeholders in the Northridge area as well.

The Lake Balboa NC Health & Public Safety Committee also *led the way in successfully gaining L.A. City Council support of AB 1719* which was signed into law in September 2016 which *now requires mandatory hands-on CPR training for all High School/Charter School students (grade 9-12) as a graduation requirement.* Passage of this new law helps to guarantee the next generation of first responders.

In 2016, the Committee successfully trained over 100 LAUSD administrators, staff and school parent center coordinators in both LAUSD District NE and NW. They also trained and certified over 100 West Valley LAPD Cadets to be first responders.

As a result of the Lake Balboa Health & Public Safety Committee’s Free Community CPR program, well over 500 people were trained and certified in 2016.

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council’s *goal is to continue to bring key information, education and service to Lake Balboa* to help ensure the safety and well being of all members of their community.

Civic Engagement — Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council

How can a Neighborhood Council mobilize almost 1,000 people to help its community?

The Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council (SVANC) took on the “Clean Streets Challenge “to create not just clean streets, but to REACH OUT AND ENGAGE their COMMUNITY. 992 people participated in the Challenge.

SVANC Partnerships provided leadership that made everyone proud throughout Sun Valley and beyond. All the local major Waste and Recycling businesses, many pro-active small businesses, City agencies and services, the LAPD and Cadets, the Boy Scouts, local Churches and Schools all worked with the community and all donated generously.

The Council decided to accept the Clean Streets Challenge in August. Its first thought was how to engage the broadest community participant base. They decided to attack this problem on four fronts.

1) Block captains: Coordinated requests for trash cans and alerts in their areas for reporting via the My311 app. Petitions were prepared, circulated and submitted. The app is used to alert the City to

problems and request city services. It uses GPS to pinpoint where help is needed.

2) Engage school children and their parents: Principals and teachers at Sun Valley elementary schools were asked to involve their students in a special coloring/drawing contest. Three schools responded; 363 entries were submitted. The First-Place drawing became the poster for the November 5 cleanup. All finalists received prizes and the teacher of the class that the winner came from received \$100 to be used for her students.

3) Engage young people – teenagers and up – who are frequent users of Smart phones to use the MyLA 311 app. To this end, SVANC enlisted a group of students from John H. Francis Polytechnic High School (Poly) and Sun Valley Boy Scout Troop 79. A core group was trained and then they helped teach fellow students and friends how to use the app. Students were rewarded, for loading their app, with a treat from an ice-cream cart that the neighborhood council rented.

4) Before CLEAN THAT CORRIDOR DAY, the Council asked Sun Valley Waste companies to partner with the community. They got pledges for two skip loaders and a Bobcat loader. Another partner pledged to process the tons of waste through its recycling facility. Volunteer groups provided more than 140 people, and community benefactors came through with food for all those volunteers. No one went hungry, and all worked hard on the project.

Here are some treasured memories that will continue for years for so many in the community:

- 6-year-old Elijah, winner of the coloring contest, having his picture taken with 95-year-old Anthony Severa, who asked to have his picture taken with the “celebrity” Elijah.
- Boy Scouts unloading equipment for others.
- Church ladies constantly checking to make sure food was plentiful.
- A Waste Management manager pushing the wheelchair of a youth community volunteer.

Outreach to Schools — Sylmar Neighborhood Council Pencil in this idea when thinking about Outreach for your council!

Sylmar Neighborhood Council has done some great outreach over the years. Since last May, Sylmar has literally “taken it to the streets.” From community cleanups to community mixers to community walks to community town halls to stakeholder recognition to the annual “Make Your Horse Count” event, Sylmar NC has extended its influence and presence to every corner of the community.

But it’s not just the number of events that is impressive. Sylmar NC has reached out to partner with all their local schools to show they are serious about their motto to “bring the community together.” With about 90,000 residents, Sylmar neighborhood council has used the schools as force multipliers for informing the public about the Council, its mission, and its activities.

One of their most original ideas was a Pencil Project. Under the leadership of Vice President Maria Silva, an educator herself, Sylmar NC provided each Sylmar student in grades 3 to 5 with a green Sylmar Neighborhood Council pencil, accompanied by a Sylmar NC brochure to take home and share with the student’s family. The result: 3,500 students and their families are now familiar with the Sylmar Neighborhood Council.

Another project that generated enormous good will in a part of Sylmar that the Council has struggled to reach was “Beautification Day” at Osceola Elementary School. This event brought students, teachers and community leaders together to landscape a barren slope of land on the campus, creating a pleasant outdoor space. In the words of one retired

teacher who stopped by to lend a helping hand, “I worked here for so many years and I can tell you this is something I am very emotional about because Osceola just needed someone to care.”

At a town hall and resource fair last fall, LAUSD Board Member Monica Ratliff said, “I have learned a lot from the Sylmar Neighborhood Council because what I have seen them do in the community is amazing.”

Sylmar’s active approach to Outreach has attracted attention from other NCs across the San Fernando Valley. Sylmar NC has partnered with local schools to amplify its message, energize residents and inspire stakeholders. Along the way, they also may be preparing the next generation of leaders.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Best of Awards (cont. from page 2)

Engaging the City to Save the Lives of Hundreds of Animals — Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee

The Tarzana Neighborhood Council has had an Animal Welfare Committee for four years. The committee was originally formed by Deanna Dylan Scott. It now is led by Jeff Mausner who has demonstrated the knowledge and passion for animal welfare by leading the committee to support Rockin' Rescue, an animal adoption center located on Ventura Blvd. in Woodland Hills, and he has inspired other neighborhood councils to form Animal Welfare Committees as well.

The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee helped to institute programs at the City's West Valley Animal Shelter to cut down the killing of dogs and cats during major influx periods. This included a Temporary Animal Foster Program for cats and dogs, using kennels that had not been in use for some time. Over the last July 4th no healthy adoptable dogs or cats were killed at the West Valley Shelter, in comparison to July 4th 2015, when dozens of healthy adoptable dogs were killed at the West Valley Shelter because of lack of space.

The Committee worked with Councilmember Bob Blumenfield's office and helped to save the lives of dozens of dogs and cats. Some of these measures were also adopted at other City shelters, after they were implemented at the West Valley Shelter.

The Tarzana Neighborhood Council helped Rockin' Rescue obtain zoning variances so that the adoption center could continue to operate. In January, the

South Valley Area Planning Commission on an appeal filed by Jeff Mausner, as an individual, unanimously voted to grant the variances necessary for Rockin' Rescue to continue to operate on Ventura Blvd in Woodland Hills. Over 5,500 people signed petitions and over 100 people attended the hearing to show their support. Other neighborhood councils appeared at the hearing and Councilmember Blumenfield and State Senator Henry Stern also supported Rockin' Rescue.

To ensure that no other Animal Rescue Organizations will have to go through a similar zoning ordeal, the Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee suggested that the L.A. Municipal Code be amended to specifically allow Animal Rescues to operate in commercial zones, without the necessity of a variance. On January 19, Councilmember Blumenfield introduced a Motion to that effect. The Motion was referred to the City Council PLUM Committee. The Council File is CF 17-0079.

The Animal Welfare Committee was instrumental in getting the City to issue a Request for Proposal for a Rescue Organization to run the abandoned South LA Animal Shelter. The former South LA Shelter has been closed and unused for many years. This facility can hold hundreds of dogs and cats. What a waste for the building to be sitting there abandoned when

dogs and cats are killed because of lack of space in other City shelters.

Jeff Mausner, the Chair of the Animal Welfare Committee and the guiding light at Rockin' Rescue, contacted Councilmember Herb Wesson's Planning Deputy since the building is located in Councilmember Wesson's district. A meeting was held and Councilmember Wesson attended and the project was approved and is now called the Jefferson Park Animal Shelter. This Shelter will literally save the lives of animals each year and benefit the area where it is located. Jeff is actively pursuing a rescue operation to submit a proposal and to run the Shelter.

The Committee also worked with General Services Department to have delivery of trucks to the Animal Services Department with air conditioning in the compartments for the animals.

The Animal Welfare Committee Liaison is working with LA Animal Services to implement NO-KILL by the end of the year. A meeting was held to discuss implementing specific proposals for achieving No-Kill.

It is an honor to present Jeff Mausner and the Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee, the VANC "Best of... Award" for recognizing the responsibility of City government to deal with animal issues.

Collaboration with the City and Protecting the Environment — Northridge West Neighborhood Council

Northridge West Neighborhood Council listened to the outcries of its stakeholders who have lamented for many years about the dying trees on the Tampa Medians, a stretch of six street medians one mile long, containing 62 trees. Last year the council spent \$3650 to remove dead trees that succumbed to the drought.

This was a project that was too big for the neighborhood council to do by itself, and they couldn't, as the medians are City owned. At the request of stakeholders, a committee met with Bureau of Street Services, Division of Urban Forestry, to develop a plan to save the trees on the medians.

During the process there were numerous phone calls and emails between the team members and Urban Forestry Manager Hector Banuelos, working on coordinating the details regarding repair of infrastructure that Urban Forestry would provide and the technical support of requirements, specifications and drawings that Northridge West needed. The help of

DONE's Analyst Jeff Brill was also critical to the successful outcome.

Urban Forestry approved the plan to install a drip system to save the remaining trees. The idea for the drip system was inspired by suggestions from stakeholders who were involved with the council's committees and attended the meetings with Urban Forestry.

Thanks to the cooperation from the Urban Forestry team, they were able to work collaboratively; Urban Forestry provided the infrastructure and technical support to help obtain bids for the drip irrigation system to sustain the health of the trees.

Work has started on the installation. The impact to the community is a drip irrigation system that will irrigate the existing mature trees on the Tampa Medians in Northridge. This stretch of medians represent the largest visible open space in Northridge with more than 50,000 cars passing it each day .As the gateway to Porter Ranch and Northridge, and the Northridge

Mall, dead trees and weeds growing waist high did not make a good impression for those entering or leaving the community.

The drip system project supports the Mayor's goal of reducing the average temperature by three degrees in Los Angeles by adding shade. Carol Bornstein, director of the Nature Gardens at the L.A. County Natural History Museum said, "Shade from broad canopy trees reduces the urban heat island effect cooling our streets, vehicles, people, pets, and wildlife. These trees reduce also reduce energy costs when properly sited and pruned. ...the cooling effect of a single mature, large healthy tree is equivalent to ten room size air conditions operating 20 hours a day."



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COMMUNITY NEWS

YES! There is a L.A. Mission College Sunland-Tujunga Campus!

By Nina Royal

The L.A. Mission College-Sunland-Tujunga Campus is inviting their entire surrounding communities to share in their Grand Opening Celebration, plus Ribbon Cutting and refreshments, co-hosted by Sunland-Tujunga’s Chamber of Commerce and Neighborhood Council on Tuesday, March 28, beginning at 6:30 pm. Their temporary site is located in the Commerce Center; 7200 Foothill Blvd. on the corner of Commerce Ave. Parking is available beneath the center.

Welcoming the Mission College Satellite to Sunland-Tujunga will be guest speakers Dr. Monty Perez, President of Mission College, Ernest Moreno, newly re-elected College District Trustee, Monique Reneaux, President of the Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce, Krystee Clark, President of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and introduction of the public officials in attendance.

The Satellite College Committee consisting of Chair Nina Royal, Mary Benson, David Barron, Liliana Sanchez, Cindy Cleghorn, Mark Seigel, began their quest to bring the Satellite to Sunland-Tujunga beginning in 2007, with the passage of Measure J. College Trustee Ernest Moreno was the President of Mission College during that time, before being transferred back to East Los Angeles College. However, do to unforeseen circumstances and the changes in administration at the College, as well as the Council District over the years, the project was put on abatement by the district, until Dr. Perez came on board and began to work with the College Committee. Dr. Perez connected with District Trustee Moreno, who recalled his stalled project. He agreed to find the money to finally move this project forward because population has increased even more since 2007, and the closest colleges are in Pasadena and Glendale. A permanent location is being considered depending on population.

Classes are scheduled to begin on Monday, April 10. Visit their website for more information. You can apply online today at www.lamission.edu/sunland. Please submit suggestions for classes to suit your needs because they are flexible and want to meet community needs.

Residents of Sunland-Tujunga, Shadow Hills, Lake View Terrace, and surrounding communities now have access to college-level courses at the new Los Angeles Mission College Sunland-Tujunga Campus.



Site of New Mission College Satellite Campus
7200 Foothill Blvd. Tujunga

A variety of credit and non-credit classes are available right in your own neighborhood. The campus will operate Monday through Saturday for both day and evening classes, and Student Services like Admissions, Financial Aid, and Counseling will be scheduled throughout the week.

Classes Begin Monday, April 10, 2017

L.A. Mission College Sunland-Tujunga Campus
7200 Foothill Boulevard (Near Commerce Avenue)
Tujunga, CA 91042
For assistance with your application, contact Admissions at 818-833-3322.

Bill to Stop the I-710 Tunnel (cont. from page 1)

Impact Review, and the department shall not proceed with implementation of the alternative.”

Holden said, “With billions of state dollars at stake and no hard evidence pointing to traffic relief for the San Gabriel Valley, it is clear that building a free-way tunnel is not a prudent option. Also In light of California’s landmark climate legislation that mandates the rapid reduction of our greenhouse gas emissions, makes clear that the I-710 North tunnel project is a misguided and obsolete solution.”

Damon Nagami, director of the Natural Resources Defense Council’s (NRDC) Southern California Ecosystems Project said “Instead of spending billions on a flawed project that will put more cars on the road and increase pollution, we should invest in solutions that would actually improve people’s transportation options while also helping the environment.”

In a report by the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) Education Fund last year, the proposed multi-billion dollar 710 Tunnel Project made the top 12 list of most wasteful highway expansion projects across the country.

Will Eley, Policy Advocate for CALPIRG said, “Our research tells us that millennials want to live, work, and thrive in walkable, sustainable neighborhoods. They demand transportation options, and another car-centric road or tunnel is just more of the same. A tunnel project would not only be costly for Californians in the short term, but would exacerbate pollution and traffic for decades to come.”

Holden’s Assembly Bill 287 creates the I-710 Gap Corridor Transit Zone Advisory Committee with representation from Alhambra, Los Angeles, Pasadena, South Pasadena, the Department of Transportation,

the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and Members of the Legislature representing corridor gap. Their committee will review a wide range of traffic calming, green space and mass transit options for the 6.2-mile gap and recommend a viable, community supported solution to the Department of Transportation. The bill specifically prohibits the Department of Transportation from constructing a freeway tunnel between the I-210 and I-10 freeways.

Holden said, “As our state and cities integrate smart growth, new technologies and transit oriented development into our evolving transportation infrastructure, large freeway projects like the State Route 710 Tunnel are no longer necessary or environmentally sustainable.”

If AB 287 passes as is, it will be good news for communities along the I-210 corridor. Pasadena, La Canada-Flintridge, the Crescenta Valley Town Council and the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council participate in the No 710 Action Committee and formally voted to oppose the tunnel and its proposed routes. They took their stand because of the negative affect an increase in traffic on their portion of the I-210 freeway would have due to the addition of more cars and big trucks and also the negative affect on the environment in their small valley, which is also considered a sanctuary for persons with respiratory disease.

The Executive Committee of METRO Board will be meeting on March 16 at 11:30 am and Metro Board meeting will be held on March 23 at 9 am. Their committee will be discussing Assemblymember Holden’s AB 287. However, the staff is recommending that the Board Oppose it unless it is amended.

Important submit letters regarding AB287 as follows: **For the Legislature** letters should be addressed to:

The Honorable Chris Holden
California State Assembly
State Capitol – Room 5132
Sacramento, CA 95814

Completed letters should be emailed to:

Naima.Ford@asm.ca.gov
Faith.Lee@asm.ca.gov

For the Metro Board of Directors

It is very important that these letters to the METRO Board are sent ASAP since the Committee reviewing this issue will be meeting shortly.

METRO Board of Directors
One Gateway Plaza – 3rd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Completed letters should be emailed to:

Washingtonp@metro.net
(METRO CEO, Phillip Washington)
jacksonm@metro.net
(METRO Board Secretary, Michelle Jackson)



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles County Sues State of California over Redistricting Law

Claims SB 958 discriminates against voters and eliminates local Control

The County filed a complaint in Los Angeles County Superior Court on Monday against the State of California, seeking to invalidate a new law they say discriminates against independent voters, strips control from local voters concerning the process of re-drawing the county's supervisorial districts, making it much more political. They charge that the law created by State Senate Bill 958 last year, is unconstitutional and are seeking a permanent injunction barring its implementation.

The county contends that the law is unworkable, unconstitutional, unfair and was unnecessarily forced on the residents of Los Angeles County, over the objections of their elected representatives.

Specifically, the new law violates two sections of the State Constitution, one that prohibits the legislature from imposing special laws on particular counties (Article IV, Section 16); the other requires county offices to be nonpartisan (Article II, Section 6). SB 958

also contradicts the voter-approved County Charter, which assigns the job of re-districting to the Board of Supervisors.

Under the new law, membership is based on political party registration, which discriminates against independent voters who make up 25% of more than 1 million registered voters in the County. The new 14-member Citizen Redistricting Committee will be responsible for creating County Supervisor district boundaries after each U.S. Census every 10 years.

Based on current registration numbers, 70% of the commission members are Democrats, 25% Republicans, and 5% are from other, smaller political parties. Voters who register without a party preference, the fastest-growing segment of newly registered voters, will not be given equal consideration.

According to the suit, the new law imposes an experimental system that selects a citizen redistricting commission based on luck and chance, not proper

public deliberation with the citizens of Los Angeles County voters, who cannot change the law if they are dissatisfied.

Sacramento passed the law over the objection of County Supervisors, without holding any meetings in Los Angeles County. The measure is also opposed by the California State Association of Counties, the Urban Counties of California, the County of Riverside, Common Cause and the Los Angeles Times editorial board.

The last apportionment based on the 2010 Census, included extensive input from County voters and was never challenged in court.

For more information contact: Lennie LaGuire,
Countywide Communications. County of Los
Angeles, Office: (213) 974-1311, Email: llaguire@ceo.
lacounty.gov

You Should Know....

- **The Dept. of Sanitation** will replace or repair your missing or broken trash bins. To report a missing or damaged bin, which will be replaced at no charge, call their 24-hour Customer Care Center at 800-773-2489
- **Roaring Twenties Formal Dance for Teens** is being sponsored by the STNC Youth Advisory Council on **Thursday, March 30**, 7:00 pm to Midnight. It's an opportunity to show off the glam! Dress in black and/or white formal in 1920's costumes! Touch of Gold welcome. The location is at The Great Caesar Banquet Hall, who is also a co-sponsor, at 6723 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga.
- **Brainard Elementary School** is celebrating their 50th Anniversary on **Tuesday, April 5**, beginning at 4:30 pm. with a Happy Days Bee-Bop Celebra-

tion featuring an Open House, Art Show, food and more. The location is 11407 Brainard Ave., Lake View Terrace.

- **A Mobile Medical Clinic** will be held on **Saturday, April 8**, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Free Medical, Dental and Optical care. Location is Chapel of the Hills, 11120 Oro Vista Ave, Sunland. For more information contact Medical Mission Adventures, 818-890-3656 or Making It Happen, Inc. 818-433-2148.
- **A Mission College Satellite Campus** in Sunland-Tujunga on schedule to open Monday, April 10, at the Foothill Commerce Town Center on the Corner of Commerce Ave. and Foothill Blvd. in Tujunga. Visit the College website at <http://www.lamission.edu/sunland/> for more details and to sign

up for classes. Grand Opening celebration will be **Tuesday, March 28** at 7200 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga co-hosted by the Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce and the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council. On-site financial aid and class counselors.

- **A Spring Carnival** sponsored by the Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce is being held in Sunland Park on Foothill Blvd in Sunland-Tujunga, beginning **Friday, April 14** through Sunday, April 16. Sponsorship begins at \$250 up to \$5,000. For further information, contact the Chamber at 818-352-4433 or at www.stchamber.com

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11053 No. Trail Rd., KC
7:00 pm

Valley Alliance of NC’s
Sherman Oaks Hosp.
4929 Van Nuys, Sherm. Oaks
6:30 pm

Sylmar Equestrian Commit.
Sylmar Rec Center
13109 Borden, Syl
6:30 pm

Friday, April 14
Good Friday

Sunland-Tujunga Chamber
Spring Carnival
8651 Foothill Blvd.
Free – 6:00 – 10:00 pm

GHNNC Policy & Rules Comm
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
4:00 pm
Saturday, April 15

Sunland-Tujunga Chamber
Spring Carnival
8651 Foothill Blvd.
Free – 6:00 – 10:00 pm

Sunday, April 16
Happy Easter

Sunland-Tujunga Chamber
Spring Carnival
8651 Foothill Blvd.
Free – 6:00 – 10:00 pm

Monday, April 17

Valley Vote
Galpin Ford
15555 Roscoe Blvd., NH
6:30 pm

GHNNC Land Use Comm
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
7:00 pm

STNC Land Use Comm
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm

BONC
LA City Hall, 10 Floor
200 No. Spring, LA
11:30 am

GHNNC Gen. Meeting
Rinaldi Adult Center,
17450 Rinadli St., GH
6:30 pm

Tuesday, April 18

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Lights & Sirens”
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm – 4:0 0pm
818-352-3420

Arleta NC Gen. Meeting
Beachy Ave. Elem. School
9757 Beachy Ave., Arl.
6:30 pm

S-T Neighborhood Watch
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
6:30 pm

Green Commit. Meeting
Sylmar Rec Cener
13109 Bordon, Syl
7:00 pm

Wednesday , April 19

LAPD-CPAB
Mission Division
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm

Rotary Club
Coco’s Restaurant
10521 Sunland Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm818-951-5299

Pacoima NC
Gen. Meeting Pacoima Comm.
Center
11243 Glenoaks Blvd., Pac
6:30 pm

Northridge East NC
Northridge Academy HS
9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge
7:00 pm

North Hills West NC
New Horizons
15725 Parthenia St., NH
7:00 pm

Strathern Nh’brh’d. Watch
Church of the Nazarene
12120 Strathern St., NoHo
6:30 pm

Sylmar NC Green Comm.
Sylmar Park & Rec. Cent.
Susan B. Anthony Bldg.
Polk & Bordon Ave., Syl
7:00 pm Hansen Dam Park

Advisory Board
Lake View Terr. Rec. Ctr.
11075 Foothill Blvd., LVT
7:00 pm Thursday, April 20

FTDNC Gen. Meeting
www.ftdnc.org for location
7:00 pm

Neighborhood Watch
Block Captain’s Mtng.
Sylmar High School
13050 Borden Ave., Syl
6:30 pm

Northridge East NC
Northridge Academy
9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge

NHNE NC Board Meet
Arminta Elem. School
11530 Arminta St., No Ho
7:00 pm

Sunday, April 23

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Lights & Sirens”
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Tuesday, Mar 28

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Arleta NC Gen. Meeting
Beachy Ave. Elem. School
9757 Beachy Ave., Arl
6:30 pm

Ham Radio Club
Kaiser Permanente
393 E. Walnut, Pas.
7:00 pm

Sunday, April 23

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Lights & Sirens”
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Tuesday, April 25

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Lights & Sirens”
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Arleta NC Gen. Meeting
Beachy Ave.Elem. School
9757 Beachy Ave., Arl
6:30 pm

Ham Radio Club
Kaiser Permanente
393 E. Walnut, Pas.
7:00 pm

Friday, April 28

JOB Fair & Open House
10:30am–1:30pm
North Valley Occupational Center
11450 Sharp Avenue Mission
Hills, CA 91345

Thursday, March 30, 2017
California High-Speed Rail Authority
Los Angeles to Anaheim Project Section
Community Open House Meeting

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

SoCal Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc)
W.M. Keck Hall
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- 2 Actively listening to every community’s needs & being responsive to community concerns.
- 3 Putting children and families first by improving existing parks and libraries, building more, and making sure they are always safe and clean for everyone to use.
- 4 Fighting to reform the DWP to serve the needs of the residents of our neighborhoods, to prevent unnecessary rate increases.
- 5 Working with local businesses to grow and create more good-paying jobs and revitalize our commercial corridors.
- 6 Bringing more fire companies and ambulances to our community to increase safety and reduce response times.
- 7 Making sure our police officers have all the resources and moral support they need to continue protecting our communities.
- 8 Opposing the building of the High Speed Rail Project through environmentally sensitive areas.
- 9 Working to get homeless out of our parks and streets and into permanent supportive housing programs.
- 10 Preserving our open space and protecting our environment.

COMMENTARY

Little Need for WikiLeaks in Los Angeles to Reveal City Hall’s Secret

By Dick Platkin*



In the past few days the foreign media, like the Guardian, and even most of the U.S. media, have blasted out the story of the 9,000 CIA hacking documents that WikiLeaks made public after redacting critical information. Based on press reports, these documents reveal a long list of cyber tools that invade computers, cell phones, and smart TV’s. The release’s long-term impact is hard to know, but before WikiLeaks went public with this information, one scholar already concluded that World War III would likely be a cyber-war.

In the words of the University of Wisconsin historian Alfred McCoy, a WW III conflict between the United States and China will end with an electronic whimper, not a bang:

As the Chinese virus spreads uncontrollably through the F-6 satellite architecture, while those second-rate U.S. supercomputers fail to crack the malware’s devilishly complex code, GPS signals crucial to the navigation of U.S. ships and aircraft worldwide are compromised. Carrier fleets begin steaming in circles in the mid-Pacific. Fighter squadrons are grounded. Reaper drones fly aimlessly toward the horizon, crashing when their fuel is exhausted. Suddenly, the United States loses what the U.S. Air Force has long called “the ultimate high ground”: space. Within hours, the military power that had dominated the globe for nearly a century has been defeated in World War III without a single human casualty.

But, without WikiLeaks and Professor McCoy, in Los Angeles we can figure out the city’s deep politics and players without a City Hall deep throat. Even though Measure S, the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative, lost in the March 7 election, it allowed us to learn the following about the inner workings of LA’s urban growth machine:

Based on the extensive research of the Los Angeles Times and Patrick McDonald for Measure S, real estate developers and City Hall’s elected officials engage in extensive pay-to-play. We now know who exactly make the payments, who receives the payments, and what goes on between them: money buys discretionary planning and zoning approvals.

We also have a better idea of what these many land use entitlements are worth to property owners and investors, although more research would be helpful for the certain planning-related fights to come.

We also know who financed the no on S campaign to ensure that the cozy and lucrative status quo continues. The big funders were 10 large real estate companies, who openly contributed \$8-10 million.

How to Improve L.A. City’s Budget

By David Barron



My suggestions to Mayor Garcetti and city council to reduce city expenditures, fund employee’s retirement, lessen the cost to taxpayers and divert these savings to city core services for the benefit of City residents.

The benefit of this plan is that current employees in the same classification are not affected and it would create more job opportunities for advancement. New city employees would pay the cost through a slightly lower starting wage, a slightly higher contribution to their retirement and a slightly lower benefit package.

I’ve advocated for several years that employees should share the cost of benefits and not expect taxpayers to pay 100% of employee benefits. The key is to provide a benefit for both employees and taxpayers.

The mayor could hire a couple of thousand new hires at a lower starting wage to help increase city services. The City would gain the respect of taxpayers, as unemployment numbers drop and city work crews continue to make needed repairs. The Mayor’s office could promote this city as one whose wages and expenditures are starting at lower rates and workers are happy to have more promotion opportunities.

All other Early Retirement Investment, ERIPS, (early retirement incentive program), involve cash bonuses to leave...this plan would not. Employees, who want extra years of service or age, would pay with their

Furthermore, their accomplice was Rusty Hicks, the well-paid director of the L.A. County Federation of Labor, who ponied up more than a \$1 million of his members’ dues. According to the LA Times, Hicks is also close to Parke Skelton, whose SG&A firm lead the campaign against Measure S.

We also know that the no on S campaign strategy focused on LA’s housing crisis, an approach SG&A gleaned from focus groups.

For that matter, reading between the lines, we also know the “economic” theory that the no on S funders wear as a fig leaf to justify their private greed. It is neo-liberalism, especially its belief in trickle down economics. Its other principles are deregulation of land use and elimination of Federal and CRA urban programs, except for policing. Even though City Hall’s elected officials are nearly all corporate Democrats, they are fully onboard with this once Republican approach to municipal governance.

For that matter, without WikiLeaks the no on S campaign also revealed another supporting player for their “urban growth machine.” These are the non-profits that the SG&A campaign operatives drew into their top-down “coalition.”

We also learned about the contentious role of the non-profits. They maintain the status quo by (inadvertently) putting balm on the wounds created by their affluent funders and board members, especially those who maximize profits through real estate speculation. While the supporters and staff of the non-profits usually have the best of intentions, they rarely examine the cause of the problems they address, such as real estate speculation. Likewise, because of their close relationship to their funders, they have incrementally absorbed their trickle down theories. As result, the non-profits no longer call for the restoration of slashed urban programs or local laws regulating land use. Even though it is still too early to know which non-profits experienced direct economic pressure to oppose Measure S, the broad outline is already visible. Most of them are ideologically lined up with the large real estate companies and City Hall politicians who ardently campaigned against Measure S.

How should we now use all of this information? One of the most useful long-term lessons from this campaign was, “There are no permanent defeats, and no permanent victories.” I interpret this to mean several things:

First, the election results are obvious; the status quo prevailed, so the no on S boosters now need to put up or shut up. Based on what we have learned, my crystal ball tells me to expect following, all of which conflicts with their often-vituperative no on S message.

- City Hall’s soft corruption will hardly miss a beat.
- Despite a glut of luxury housing, home prices and rents will continue to rise until the next great re-

cession hits and/or rampant foreign speculative investments in local real estate dries up.

- As for LA’s housing crisis, the city’s inclusionary zoning programs, existing and proposed, will not keep up with the loss of affordable housing through demolitions, displacement, and gentrification.
- Ditto for Measure JJJ since its loopholes will prevail over its promises.
- Measure HHH will also prove to be a disappointment. Cronies will get fat contracts through insider deals, followed by relaxed scrutiny.
- Traffic congestion will worsen because nearly all new projects, both by-right and spot-zoned mega-projects, are automobile-centric.
- Bicyclists will still face dangerous roads with serious accidents because LA is not following the example of cities, like NYC, where the City builds separated bicycle lanes.
- As for the planning process and its anticipated General Plan updates, the City Council will quickly render them useless through unanimous spot-zones and spot-General Plan Amendments.

Second, the resurgent status quo creates enormous opportunities for the organization, energy, and knowledge that the Yes of S campaign mobilized to morph into a permanent organization, such as United Neighborhoods for Los Angeles. Even without a City Hall WikiLeaks, we know more than enough to take on many important tasks, such as:

Strategic support for the many future local campaigns against City Council approved but un-planned mega-projects.

- Networking these local ad hoc organizations together into a permanent, citywide organization focused on good city planning, especially through the (promised) updates of the General Plan’s different elements.
- Strengthening CityWatch and other alternative news and information outlets so they can engage in relentless exposes of City Hall’s continued skullduggery, including pay-to-play and the exceedingly poor planning outcomes it inflicts on Los Angeles neighborhoods and residents.
- Developing a progressive planning agenda based on three principles: sustainability, equity, and community-based planning. In future columns I will attempt to flesh-out this agenda, such as a focus on public improvements in lieu of private real estate deals.

Your help is greatly appreciated in all of these efforts.

Editor’s Note: Dick Platkin is a former Los Angeles city planner who reports on local planning issues for City-Watch and the North Valley Reporter. www.plan-itlosangeles.blogspot.com Please send any questions, comments, or corrections to rhplatkin@gmail.com.

vacation time. This Plan would reduce any burden placed upon the city. City unions would be happy because contributions would go up. This transition could be over a one year period.

Win - Win System: It is a system which consists of an early ERIP that would help make the city more sustainable, improve the quality of life, while reducing the city’s budget by 10 to 15%. The Basic concept is: Offering an early out for our long term and aging staff. New employees would be hired at a lower starting salary and pay raises would be at a slightly smaller percentage.

The key is the accumulated savings.

- 1) Existing possible retirees who qualify: allowed to retire at age 50. There is no extra money provided. Candidates can receive 5 years of age or 3 years of time. To receive these extra years of service the employee shall pay using their vacation time. An example: one weeks’ vacation for each year of service.
- 2) Existing city staff: Early retirement will provide more promotion opportunities for existing department personnel. New positions shall be paid at 1.2% less than the existing pay scale, saving 1.2%. All new promotion positions will be hired at a slightly lower rate. All new hires will receive a wage increase after an additional 6 months term, prolonging salary increases. Additional steps can also be considered.

- 3) New positions, less unemployment. More prosperity and jobs.

Salaries for entry level and new outside replacement staff will be reduced by 10%, deductions for their benefits will also be increased and they will receive 15% less paid vacation, (approx. 2 less holidays a year.) Remaining employees, who do not promote, will not be affected by this plan. However, by agreeing to this plan, they will help build sustainability for their retirement.

- 4) By Product of Plan
 - a) New promotions will increase job satisfaction.
 - b) Less medical time off as presently required by long term aging employees.
 - c) It also reduces overhead costs.
 - d) Increased job perception, increased efficiency and rebirth of prosperity.
 - e) Less unemployment in Los Angeles.
 - f) Protect health care cost by the retirement of elder members who used the service more often.
 - g) Reduce paid vacation time, 15%. (Additional savings approx.) for new hires

If you agree with these suggestions, please let Mayor Garcetti hear from you.

Editor’s note: Mr. Barron is a Civil Servant, local community activist and a Commentator for the NVR.

PUBLIC SAFETY

“Top Cop” in the Valley is Moving On

By Nina Roy



Deputy Chief Robert Green, Commanding Officer of Valley Operations Bureau is leaving the Valley to head-LAPD’s new Transit Division. The Division will include the County’s Metro Link Service, formerly handled by the Sheriff’s Department, along with Los Angeles International Airport and bus service. Ultimately, he will be overseeing the safety of the entire traveling public. Chief Green’s long list of accomplishments include assignments in Narcotics, SWAT, Canine Unit, Underwater Dive Unit, Bomb Squad, Pilot at Air Support Div., local Incident Command and National Incident Management Systems, planning of large sporting and entertainment events, Port of Los Angeles security, 2004 Winter Olympics, He

served as the Commanding Officer at Operations South Bureau before being assigned to the Valley Operations Bureau which is the largest in the LAPD, comprising of seven divisions along with specialized units. He also participated and was very supportive of valley issues. He held “Day of Dialogues” community meetings throughout the Valley and was an integral part of the Gang Coalition of the San Fernando Valley and attempted to find resolution of the Homeless issues in the San Fernando Valley and also attended Town Hall Community Meetings.

Report Storm Related Damages to L.A. County

The storm season is continuing and L.A. County is requesting that residents and businesses report storm related damages in L.A. County to them. “It is important for residents and business owners to become familiar with the process used by the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to collect damage estimates caused by the recent storm” stated Leslie Luke, OEM Deputy Director. “This information will be used to determine if the County has enough damages

to seek a Federal declaration for assistance through the U.S. Small Business Administration.” To complete the online damage assessment survey, residents and business owners can visit www.211la.org and click on the banner for Damage Assessment Survey. They can also call 211 LA County by dialing 2-1-1 to complete the survey and get information and referrals for assistance. The 211 LA County website also provides up-to-date weather outlooks, road closure notices, and information on being prepared for emergencies.

Persons with disabilities and others with access and functional needs may call 211 LA County at any time for emergency preparedness information, and other referral services. The toll-free 2-1-1 number is available 24 hours a day and seven days a week. 211 LA County services can also be accessed online by visiting www.211la.org.

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Foothill Station Participates in Fellowship



Captain Ernest Eskridge
Commanding Officer
Foothill Area Station
Los Angeles Police Department

Foothill Division served over 800 meals and gave away Bicycles and Prizes at the Pacoima Winterfest. It was a packed house with approximately 1200 in attendance.

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An Open Conversation with LAPD Valley Bureau Chief Bob Green and Foothill Commanding Officer Captain Ernest Eskridge

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Annual St. Baldrick’s Fundraiser Held



Sr. Lead Officer Gabriel Ahedo from LAPD’s North Hollywood Station was one of many people of all ages who volunteered to have their locks sheared off during the Annual St. Balrick’s Fundraiser at Fire Station 89 in No. Hollywood. The fundraiser is sponsored by the LAPD and LAFD together to help fight childhood cancer and the collected hair is used for wigs.

The name St. Baldrick, a combination of bald and Patrick, was held February 27 this year, but it is usually held in March to commemorate St. Patrick. The beautiful day featured a House of Pancakes breakfast with pancakes/sausage, Coffee Bean coffee, and orange juice, UCLA Blood Drive and Be the Match Bone Marrow Registration, Other free events included children’s face painting, balloon artists, and caricature drawings, kids’ toys, live entertainment, Fire and police apparatus displays, silent auctions, prizes, music, photographers, vendors, and more!

THIS 'N THAT

Nikki's Neighborhood

By Nikki Pelley



Real Estate has never been more exciting and challenging as it is in 2017. We are starting off with great speculation on the part of sellers and are seeing price reductions. As the reluctant (buyers) are not jumping in, the investors and the savvy are gobbling up the properties. I feel that the overpricing of sellers is just a little early as the prices always rise in the spring. The political climate is confusing buyers and sellers. No one wants to sell too low or buy too high. The market will pick up in the spring, in the form of more sales, as it always does as summer approaches.

Now is the best time to buy as sales prices are low and interest rates are low. It looks like the job market will be picking up, so it should be full steam ahead for buyers. Baby boomers need to sell for retirement and to rearrange their portfolios, and/ or relocate to be closer to grandchildren or a warmer climate, so it is a good time to buy. Prices are expected to rise and regardless of what the government does, people need to live somewhere. So the sales will be steady this year, as long as sellers don't continue to overprice. Advice to sellers, check with your realtor and your accountant to see when you need to sell buy to capture the most value. Sometimes holding out for the extra amount cost sellers in the long run. Hidden costs like taxes, insurance, HOA fees, moving costs,

etc. can add up. Also, if purchasing another property, you can take advantage of the lower prices that are out there right now, so you aren't really losing equity, but buying at the same level. Advantages to home ownership include the income tax deduction, establishing a home base in a community, equity building, and the security of not having the worry that a landlord will ask you to move. It all looks great from here! Feel free to contact me with comments or questions at homes4Ubynikki@gmail.com
Nikki Pelley Realty One Group BRE# 1320648
951-202-6677

SOUND OFF Congregate Living Facilities Why I Support Them

By Garry Fordyce, North Hills

On the surface it is easy to present subjective arguments! Ultimately these boil down to: Not in my back yard and result in discrimination, segregation and prejudice. Then there is the moral issue and reality! We are a rapidly aging society and like it or not, many will find their way to Assisted Living and Convalescent Hospital settings. This results in institutionalism and in many circumstances, deemed discrimination! Yet, what if there was something better? Congregate Living is nestled between these two extremes providing a homelike setting, both on the outside and within, and at a cheaper cost! Now the issue spirals into a more complex multilayered set of laws, regulations and rulings. However, in the end is quite simple, providing for moral, humane and legal protections, ultimately benefiting every one of us.

The Supreme Court then goes further, requiring states to place these qualified individuals in community settings. The Department of Justice Regulations, implementing Title II of the ADA, required public entities to administer in the most integrated settings. So here we have it! Community settings in the most integrated setting in a homelike setting. This, is not commercial zoning nor on the boulevard, but in fact within the communities where we call home. Interestingly, President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13217 (Olmstead Executive Order) on June 18, 2001, reinforcing both the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice. President Bush then implements additional mandates requiring the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to fully enforce Title II of the ADA, to investigate and resolve complaints on behalf of individuals, who allege that they have been victims of unjustified institutionalism. Now lets bring this home to California. The California Health and Safety Code, Section 1250 permits up to 18 beds in a mandatory non -institutional, homelike environment. The facilities are under the control and supervision of the Department of Public Health and

the Department of Health Care Services. My understanding is this qualifies Congregate Living Facilities as a public entity connecting them to the Department of Justice regulatory mandate. So the issues boils down to subjective discrimination without justifications against these homelike facilities. It is uninformed communities failing to investigate and to understand the intense scrutiny already visited by all levels of government. These poor souls simply deserve the dignity and solitude of a homelike environment. They are bed bound or wheel chair bound yearning for the same pleasures in life, family and home that we each desire. These Seniors are not part of parties, gatherings or disruptions to the community. The bottom line is humane morality supported by laws, regulations, rulings and ultimately our conscience. But By Gods Grace, There Go I.
**Mr. Pichon is former treasurer of the Pacoima Neighborhood Council and Community Activist.*

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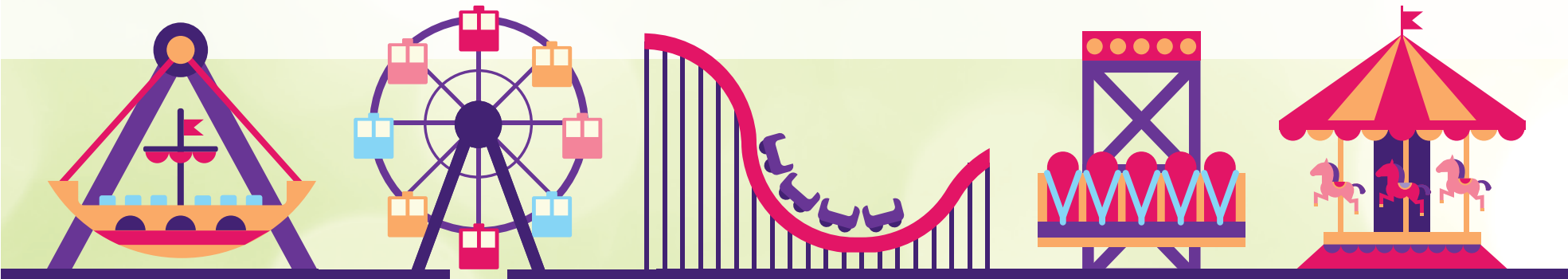
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Lets face it,
I have a tough name
to pronounce!




I know my name sounds different, so let me tell you my story. I was born and raised in the East San Fernando Valley, the son of a small business owner and an aerospace factory worker. My parents immigrated to America so their children can grow up in a country where what matters is your merit and not your name or where your family comes from.



I attended Valley public schools from kindergarten through high school before going to LA Valley College and then UCLA, while working as an electrician to pay my way through college. I went on to complete coursework for the master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning at California Polytechnic University, Pomona.



Since 2009, I have had the honor of serving as City Councilmember Paul Krekorian's Director of Planning and the Environment, overseeing policy and planning matters affecting land use, economic development and the environment. We worked together to cut red tape and create jobs, fight homelessness, build 3 new parks that helped reduce crime in those communities and preserve more than 280 acres of pristine open space in Sunland-Tujunga.



One of my proudest moments was working with Habitat For Humanity to begin building much needed housing for our veterans and their families. I believe it is not enough to honor our warriors only while they are serving our country. We must also commit to helping our veterans and their families when they return and to ensuring that they integrate successfully back into civilian life.



Dear Voters:

I am running for the city council as the community backed candidate and will be a strong voice for change at City Hall. I will always put your interests ahead of those of the special interests.

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Karo Torossian

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