

Item #1 Cop Walk

It's a good thing to go on a walk with a cop. I highly recommend it. You feel safe, you get a little exercise, and your biceps get bigger from two miles of carrying the sign he gave you that says, "Keep Our Streets Safe."

This month, I was privileged to go on two community walks that LAPD Senior Lead Officer Ron Carter organized. Ron Carter's commitment to our community is amazing. He is very approachable, highly energetic, returns phone calls – and if you don't return his phone call returning your phone call, he'll call you again, and he is always looking for ways to improve the safety and security of our neighborhoods. Bottom line is; he's invested, he cares. Next month, on Wednesday September 21st, Senior Lead Officer Ron Carter and the West Van Nuys Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council will host a special get-together for stakeholders looking to start neighborhood watch groups. Our council has already approved \$1,000 to pay for new signs for new watch groups and already, we have two new groups ramping up; Densmore Avenue and Haskell/Sherman Way. Special thanks go to stakeholder Kevin Clayton for seeing the need and getting Haskell/Sherman Way started. Our target for starting new neighborhood watch groups is one a month. That would be great for our community. So, if you want to "take a bite out of crime" and start your own watch group, please see me at the end of the meeting.

Item #2 Cardenas Cleans Up

Also this month, there was a special District 6 clean-up sponsored by Councilmember Tony Cardenas and organized by CD6 Field Deputy Lynda Levitan. Some trouble spots around Louise and Saticoy got cleaned up. Special thanks to Ms. Levitan and neighborhood council member Shawn Moradian for their part in this event.

Item #3 Cardenas Coffees

If you have the chance to attend a neighborhood coffee with Councilmember Tony Cardenas, go. I've been to three now and the typical first part of a meeting is the Two P's – potholes and parking, but then it gets interesting. If you listen hard enough, you will hear that there is a new animal cruelty task force and also that our district is working to rid our streets of vendors and the health hazards they may bring for our children. A case in point is the vendor who sells corn slathered with mayonnaise from a cart. At three o'clock in the afternoon. To kids just out of school. That vendor does not have a health permit from the city. And, probably, that vendor has been walking around in the sun all day. Can you imagine the sickness a vendor with a bad jar can spread? That's only one reason why we need to get these vendors off L.A. City streets.

Item #4 MTA Graffiti

Last month, you heard me harping on the MTA for importing K-rails and other signage with graffiti already on them and how it took a couple of weeks to get the job site at Densmore and Victory clean. In the last few weeks, I've met and traded emails with Richard Katz, a man everybody in the Valley should be familiar with, and also a man who was recently appointed to the MTA Board of Directors by Mayor Villaraigosa. Mr. Katz was very quick in his research and response to me and the bottom line is, "current graffiti abatement is the responsibility of the contractor until the line is turned over to Metro in the late September time-frame, and that both the contractor and Metro have a 24-hour turn-around to remove graffiti from all Metro-owned transit properties. Staff indicated that there are sections of adjacent properties on the line containing graffiti that are on private property, which the agency cannot clean up. Metro is asking the public to report graffiti in the short-term via the agency's construction hotline." Since Mr. Katz had my imported graffiti pictures in hand, he acknowledged that "**Clearly they have a little follow through problem with the 24 hour clean up, and I'll be working on that.**" Thanks, Katz!