

**Linda Pruett**

**Vice President's Report**

**January 4, 2006**

**Happy New Year to One and All – Board Members, Stakeholders and Honored Guests!** Let me begin by saying that I hope everyone's holidays were filled with happiness and the love of family and friends, as my own were.

As we begin our first full year as a certified Neighborhood Council, I believe we have much to look back on and of which to be proud. Yes, there have been a couple "false starts" and a "stubbed toe" or two, but all in all we are off to a flying start!

Committees have been formed, plans are being made, and already work has begun in several areas of major concern to stakeholders! Problems have been tackled, and while solutions have not been found for every one of them, certainly some have been solved and research continues on several others.

We have put together a set of procedures by which we believe this Board and its Stakeholders can work together as a team to accomplish much in making this community a better place in which to live, work, study, worship and meet. And yes, we sometimes still need reminding as to how it all should work in order for it to truly be for the good of all, but we're getting better at it day by day, meeting by meeting.

We've been blessed with a meeting place that is convenient for all and comfortable and pleasant in which to meet and work. We have established an office where we can meet with officials, members of other Neighborhood Councils, or each other, and receive members of the public -- where we can be close to some of the workings of City Government, including one of our City Councilmen and the Mayor's Office.

We are developing a reputation amongst City Officials. Our members are being asked to serve on various committees, and for our opinions and ideas on various topics that arise within City Government. These Officials know that we are dependable, that we stand by

our word, that we try to be thoughtful and wise in our recommendations, and that we truly have the best interest of the entire City and our own Neighborhood at heart!

Yes, we've made a few mistakes. And no doubt we'll make some more! But only those who do nothing make no mistakes. And the good we've accomplished far outweighs our faux pas.

And so it is that I ask all of you in the audience, when we talk about elections a little later in the evening – consider becoming a part of this wonderful experiment of which we here on the Board have decided to invest some time and energy. Join us for the work – for the headaches – and for the fun. But mostly for the feeling of accomplishment we have when someone tells us how much they appreciate our help – or the sense of pride we feel when we see a change in our neighborhood for which we are in part responsible.

There is so much to be done – there is so much that you can do!

And so I close this first report of the new year, not by writing about meetings I've attended in the name of the Council, but with words of thanks to all of you for allowing me to be part of this exciting undertaking, and with words of encouragement to all of you to come join us!

Linda Pruett

Vice President