

Linda Pruett

Vice President's Report

February 1, 2006

Meeting with the Mayor's Office – Last week we were invited to participate in a meeting with Fortuna Ippoliti, Area Director of Neighborhood & Community Services for Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. She explained that they are interviewing the Neighborhood Councils to learn about the positions on our Board, our various committees, and our past, present and future projects.

I told her about our efforts to encourage the formation of Neighborhood Watch groups in the area, about our meeting with the folks at the Tilman Plant concerning expansion and odor control, and our continuing efforts to rid the area of the illegal street vendors around our schools. And while pleased and interested in these things, two other subjects seemed to be of special interest to her.

The first was our efforts to get the Illegal Street Racing Posters printed and distributed to the local schools and to auto shops in the area. She was so impressed with the small sample I had printed out to show her, she asked if she might have that one to show to others in the office who might be interested. (I am, of course, hoping [assuming?] that her boss might be one of those with whom she will share it. We even spent a few minutes considering other applications for the “Dummy Tested” theme, e.g., how about a “dummy” dressed in a gang-style T-shirt with a weapon lying in his lap? Certainly other possibilities are out there! Regardless, Ms. Ippoliti has asked that when we get the posters, if we will be so kind as to have a few earmarked for the Mayor's Office!

The other project that she seemed most excited about is the formation of our Emergency Preparedness Committee. She explained that E.P. is going to be a high priority on the Mayor's agenda, and that she will be asking to talk with us about this in the near future. (I should also report that Manuel Durazo from DONE attended our last Committee Meeting with a message from the Mayor saying how important he feels efforts in this area are, and that he is working toward getting grant monies available to Neighborhood Councils for this purpose!)

Ms. Ippolitti and I agreed that, after watching coverage of the hurricanes this past year, and the response (or lack thereof) from government at all levels, we have much to do in the City of Los Angeles! (And while I'm on this subject, please note the bright pink announcements on the back table for our next E.P. Committee Meeting which will take place on Saturday, March 4th. We hope to have a speaker from the Fire Department that morning, and I do hope you will all attend!)

Also, on this same subject, I have received an invitation to attend a meeting with the Emergency Preparedness Department of Los Angeles, and to take a tour of the Emergency Operations Center on February 8th. We will be joined by the E.P. General Manager, Ellis Stanley, and the DONE Asst. General Manager, Lisa Sarno. It is my understanding that DONE will be working hand-in-hand with both the E.P.

Operations Center and the Mayor's office to assist Neighborhood Councils in building a network of Emergency Preparedness.

Swinging – Some time before our Council was certified, we were asked to investigate the possibility of getting a swing replaced at Louise Park on the corner of Sherman Way and Louise. Seems one of the three swings there had broken, and a new one had not been installed. I tried calling several different governmental offices, but got the brush-off from all of them. No one seemed to know who should take responsibility for replacement. Earlier this week I drove past the park and noticed the swing is still missing. I tried calling the 311 number and was transferred to Recreation and Parks Construction, [(818) 756-8192], where I left a message on their voice mail. I'll let you know next month how successful we are at this small attempt at making life a little more fun for some of our youngest stakeholders. Stay tuned!

Elections -- Don't forget! Elections are coming up and we want to encourage ALL of you to consider running for a Board Seat. Be aware, however, it does take a commitment of time and energy. If you can't devote the required hours to attend meetings (on time!), and put in some extra time on various projects and meetings that come up now and then, consider lending your support in other ways, such as serving on Ad Hoc or Standing Committees, doing some research for us, helping with mailings, etc. There's plenty fun and work to go around for everybody, so just pick the area you're most interested in, and come join us!

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Pruett

Vice President