

Westside Neighborhood Council

Moves Into Its Third Year

The Westside Neighborhood Council was formed two years ago. It is one of 103 neighborhood councils mandated by the 1999 revision of the Los Angeles City Charter. The purpose of the Councils is to give citizens greater access to City Hall and a more effective voice in city affairs. (Each council represents between 30 and 70 thousand stakeholders.)

The Westside Neighborhood Council, of which the Tract No. 7260 Association, Inc., is a part, meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Westside Pavilion.

In its two years of existence, the Council, under its president Terri Tippit, has had a number of successes including

- Sponsoring a six session Community Emergency Response Team which received eighteen hours of training from the Los Angeles City Fire Department
- Stopping the City from emptying dumpsters in the Cheviot Hills Park area in the early morning hours
- Persuading a Jack in the Box operation to replace its outside speaker box in order to cut down on noise
- Working with Catalina Pacific Concrete Company to effect changes in its operations to minimize noise, dust, and traffic from its plant.

In addition, the WNC has been working with the City and the County to find an acceptable use for the old Social Services building at Pico and Veteran. It also successfully supported the designation of buildings on Kelton Avenue as historic landmarks. In addition, it is working to place restrictions on the growing number of adult entertainment businesses on the Westside. It also is leading efforts to stop the FBI from constructing a new FBI headquarters building adjacent to the Federal Building on Wilshire.

The WNC's Land Use Committee worked closely with Macerich, the Westside Pavilion's owners, and Landmark Theatres to modify Landmark's new art house movie theatres at the Westside Pavilion Too. One of the effects of that work is that none of the new theatres will exceed a 300 seat capacity.

The Council's Public Safety and Traffic Committee has been working intensely with City agencies and departments on such issues as traffic flow, street and sidewalk repair, freeway sound walls, and the effects of new commercial construction. The Committee also hosted a presentation by the Police Department's head of homeland security.

So far the WNC has had one significant failure. It requested information from the City's Department of Planning as to why it did not follow Environmental Impact Report guidelines for determining how much *new* traffic would be created by the Trammell Crow office building that will replace the ABC Entertainment Center in Century City. Both the Planning Department and the City Attorney's office refused to give the Council any reasons for the Planning Department's failure to follow the EIR guidelines.

Believing that the councils were set up to weaken the strength of Homeowners Associations, some HOAs have resisted cooperation with Neighborhood Councils. Tract No. 7260's board, after intense debate, decided to participate in the formation of the Westside Neighborhood Council. The feeling was that 7260 should support the Council unless it took action against the interests of homeowners associations.

So far, the WNC has never been in conflict with HOAs and has shown no sign of any such future conflict. Relations between the homeowner and business representatives have been cooperative and effective, according to former 7260 president and WNC member Dick Harmetz.

Seat Ten on the WNC essentially belongs to Tract No. 7260 since it has the same boundaries as 7260: Santa Monica Blvd. to Pico Blvd. and Beverly Glen Blvd. to Fox Hills Drive. Harmetz's alternate for that seat is 7260's president, Mike Eveloff.

. **The Council's newly launched website is at www.wncla.org.**

An election to fill all elected seats on the Westside Neighborhood Council will take place December 2. All Tract No. 7260 stakeholders are eligible to vote for Office No. 10.

(A stakeholder is anyone connected to 7260 as a resident, worker, student or participant in the work of a non-profit within 7260.) Seven council seats represent residents in various sub districts; six represent large and small businesses. One seat is at-large and represents the entire district. Three non-elective seats represent schools,

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HOA Attitude

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