

# GROUND BREAKING

Thursday, June 5, 2008

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Greig Smith Council District 12



## LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

### Groundbreaking Signals Start on PALS Youth Center

We were proud to put shovels in the ground to kick off construction on the new LAPD Devonshire Police Activity League Supporters (PALS) Community Youth Center at a groundbreaking celebration Thursday, June 5 in Northridge.

We were joined by local Police Officers, residents, members of community groups, and Board Members of Devonshire PALS as well as many of the young people who participate in the PALS and Police Explorers programs who will benefit from the center.

We heard moving testimony from current and former PALS and LAPD Explorer participants whose lives have been turned around through the outstanding programs that will have a permanent home at the new youth center. Among them were LAPD Officers who said a major reason they attended college and became Police Officers was because of the support and opportunities they had through Devonshire PALS.



Councilman Smith speaking about the benefits to the community that the new PALS youth center will bring.



From left, PALS President Lorraine New, Councilman Smith's Chief Legislative Deputy John Lee, Councilman Smith's Chief of Staff Mitch Englander, and Board Member Nancy Cartwright.

The Devonshire PALS programs offer local at-risk youth constructive alternatives to gangs and crimes, through mentoring, education, work training, sports and other activities. It also helps build constructive relationships between the Police and the community.

A surprise announcement was made that the center would be named "The Councilman Greig Smith LAPD Devonshire Area Youth Center" in honor of Councilman Smith's contributions to making the center possible.



The LAPD Explorers color guard participated in the groundbreaking ceremony. The Explorers will have activities at the youth center.



Councilman Smith, Chief of Staff Mitch Englander, and Chief Legislative Deputy John Lee with members of the LAPD Explorers.



An LAPD Officer whose life was turned around by the PALS and Explorer programs and went on to become a Police Officer, together with current participants in the PALS program.

For more information on Devonshire PALS, please visit [www.Devonshire-PALS.org](http://www.Devonshire-PALS.org).