



Volume 1, Number 2
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A Word From Eric

Summer's over. The same week that children all over Los Angeles returned to school, I returned earlier this month from City Council's August recess to a Saturday full of Council District 13 events.

My first stop was in Little Armenia in East Hollywood, at a community clean-up. 400 people came out to make the neighborhood more beautiful, one trash bag at a time. Thanks to hundreds of students and community members as well as folks from Clean and Green, the Hollywood Beautification Team, and the East Hollywood Community Association. According to the Department of Sanitation, we picked up **12 tons** of trash.

I raced from that event to my regularly-scheduled office hours, where I met with community members on a host of different issues, then departed my field office for a

block party on Coronado Street in Silver Lake. More than 100 people attended the block party, celebrating recent improvements in the neighborhood and meeting representatives from different governmental and community agencies. Coronado Street is in transition -- going from a blighted street left behind by the Silver Lake Renaissance to a vibrant community with strong bonds among neighbors. Our most recent accomplishment there was the closing of a troublesome neighborhood liquor store. The community's leadership on this was invaluable.

From Coronado, I drove back to East Hollywood, to the one-year anniversary of the Community Development Department's Community Services Center on Vermont. Tenants like the Armenian service organization the MAK Foundation and the Department of Aging were celebrating together with the Congolese community and youth intervention specialists from LA Bridges II. The search for homes for these organizations in a community that needed their services took up the better part of my first year in office, and it was thrilling to see them settled into the neighborhood.

And after all of that, I took to the streets. Literally. As many of you know and as I described above, I have open-door office hours (call 323/913-4693 to check for the schedule), to hear constituent concerns face-to-face. Saturday afternoon, I added a new regime to my outreach—I walked, door to door in East Hollywood, proactively learning about the concerns and ideas that people have about their neighborhoods. My monthly neighborhood walks will help me hear the concerns of people who don't even think they can access City Hall.

It was an exhausting day but a thrilling one—a day that demonstrated and reminded me of the diversity, the vibrancy, the community-mindedness and the just plain fun of Council District 13. Thanks to all of you who were working to make community in your neighborhood. You are the heart of CD 13.

The pace of life in City Hall has been just as rapid. We are nearing a final hearing on the Superstores Ordinance. As the Los Angeles Business Journal noted last week, union grocery store workers have been told by their employers that they may face wage and benefit cutbacks because of the unfair competition from superstores which don't pay their workers a decent wage. The Superstores Ordinance takes up some of the most pressing questions facing us as a city. Will we insist on development on our own terms? Will we protect the economic development policy we've followed for years that help build and support locally-owned businesses? Do we believe in jobs that support a family with health benefits, or are we prepared to see the retail sector overcome with poverty-level employment?

While you consider that, let me announce three new additions to our team. In City Hall, we've been joined by Alex Paxton, a lawyer who comes to us with experience helping the Los Angeles Unified School District build new schools. Among other jobs, Alex will be helping us plan for new schools in CD 13. In the field office, new community organizers Shane Goldsmith and Joe Bernardo will be taking on projects around the district, working with District Director Ana Guerrero to build strength in communities that may not yet have the kind of strong organizations that actively lobby City Hall.

Our last e-news was a great success, bringing in hundreds of electronic and written responses. We're still sorting through them, and much of the content of this newsletter responds to your suggestions. We still have some outstanding concerns due to the overwhelmingly positive response, and we promise to close the loop with each of you this month. Also, please forward this letter as far and wide as you like; at the bottom, there's a sign-up feature that you can use to receive e-news from CD13 in the future.

CITY HALL UPDATE: Focus on the Environment

This week is Pollution Prevention Week, a nationwide call to action. Neighborhood activities

are online at www.healthebay.org. Let me tell you about some of things we're doing here in City Hall.

Since my arrival on the Council, I have taken a strong stance that Los Angeles must lead, not follow, in calling for appropriate and aggressive environmental laws and regulations. For too many years, the City's response to new environmental regulations has been to sue to get out of them—with the city usually calling for lower, "cheaper" standards. This focus on "cheaper" always has been short-sighted. It may be "cheaper" today to ignore pollution, but it is not cheaper in the long run.

This approach has been most controversial in response to new "Total Maximum Daily Load" regulations, or TMDLs, which set limits on the amounts of pollutants that can enter the environment, usually through bacteria or trash. My position, which I've discussed with many of you, has been that we must recognize our responsibility of stewardship. Instead of spending precious funds on lawsuits, let's address the problem.

This month, we took two big steps towards better stewardship. The City dropped its Storm Sewer TMDL lawsuit against the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and settled its lawsuit over the Trash TMDL. These two actions will mean many technical changes you cannot see (such as the installation of miniature screens in our storm pipes), the improvement of our management practices, and—most importantly—cleaner water draining into the Los Angeles River, Santa Monica Bay and San Pedro Harbor. Councilmember Jack Weiss was an invaluable ally in the fight to get the City to focus on the environment, not the courthouse.

In the district, you can see another part of our city's new environmental strategy emerging from the ground: the Bimini Slough. Tucked away behind the corner of 3rd and Vermont is a little park under construction across from the Bresee Foundation, which provides a community space and technology center for kids from the surrounding neighborhood. As Bresee worked with us to build a park that the kids could play in, local environmental activists from Eco-Village and Northeast Trees suggested a way to incorporate forward-thinking environmental design into the project. When it's completed, pollutants will either be trapped in the grassy swale of the park, or absorbed into the environment – a mini-water treatment facility made of grass instead of concrete! Bimini Slough will be beautiful, environmentally sensitive and full of kids playing and learning about cleaning up the environment.

A few miles east of Bimini Slough sits Echo Park Lake. Last year, tests revealed that high amounts of Coliform bacteria and other pollutants were present in the lake. These pollutants ended up in the lake from stormwater runoff—which can only be prevented by reducing pollution. The innovative solution? Install floating islands that clean the water. The islands arrived at the end of August and have been churning away. You can see them from the shore, or from a paddleboat.

Bimini Slough Park, Echo Park Lake, the Council's Ad Hoc Committee focusing on the future of the LA River and the TMDL lawsuit settlements are examples of (and show the need for) creative, innovative and local solutions that are the future of pollution prevention in Los Angeles—not to mention each of us taking responsibility for his or her own garbage. The task ahead of us is daunting: we have 67 TMDLs to meet, but each method of pollution prevention adds to our efforts in all areas.

And back to you. What are you doing in your neighborhood? A great place to learn about the things you can do in your neighborhood is at CD13's Guide to the Urban Environment: http://www.cityofla.org/council/cd13/ERIC_GARCETTI_page/ERIC_GARCETTI.htm

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

Atwater Village

Good news. The Zoning Administrator (ZA) has issued its determination regarding the operation of Atwater Ranch Market. Unless appealed, after September 23, these strict

conditions will be imposed: the troublesome on-site recycling center will be prohibited; use of garages for any sort of storage, living space, or recording studios will be prohibited; no open-air sales or amplified music will be permitted; and lighting and fencing will be repaired and replaced. All in all, twenty-four conditions will be imposed, based on testimony that I personally provided along with members of the community. The ZA will review this case in 6 months to ensure compliance, and failure to comply could result in the revocation of the market use itself. This has been a community effort for the neighborhood. Thanks to you.

We've heard from many of you regarding a proposed housing development on Perlita in North Atwater. We completely agree that the prospect of rezoning the whole block from single family to multi-family is a bad idea. That idea is a non-starter and we are working with the community to fight that proposal. We'll have more news next month.

Glassell Park

At a clean-up and block party at the Crestmoore Place steps next to the Glassell Park Childcare Center, I joined about 100 people and welcomed my new colleague Antonio Villaraigosa to the neighborhood. We cleared brush and cleaned around the steps, preparing them for refurbishment by means of a \$10,000 Neighborhood Matching Fund grant won by the Glassell Park Improvement Association. (Great job, GPIA!) Those steps have sat neglected for nearly 30 years. I'm happy to work with the community and the 14th Council District to give them long overdue attention.

Traffic improvements are here. At your request, we installed a pocket turn lane at San Fernando Road near Ribet Academy in time for the start of the school year! This will bring traffic congestion relief and results from a series of community meetings held over the past year.

My office joined Northeast LAPD for a door-to-door outreach effort in the Drew/Estara area. We supplied neighbors with resource information provided by the city and local organizations. We are now starting the first ever neighborhood watch in the area.

Due to heavy demand and an unusually hot summer, the Department of Recreation and Parks agreed to keep the Glassell Park pool open three weeks longer this year. We are grateful, and the kids and families who swim there are thrilled.

LA's BEST, the nationally recognized after-school program, is coming to Fletcher Drive Elementary, as part of a brand new expansion of this program. Now kids can get the kind of after school care supervision they need before going home. This includes sports activities, meals, and completing their homework.

Elysian Valley

I have written to the MTA expressing my opposition to a reduction in service on the 96 line that travels along Riverside Drive. The MTA had planned to reduce service there to one stop per hour. Elysian Valley deserves better public transportation, not reduced options.

The City's Bureau of Street Services is wrapping up its sidewalk replacement in South Elysian Valley. These new sidewalks are something I heard many residents complain about when I was a candidate, and they are long overdue in the community. Congratulations and thanks to the Bureau for its good work!

Bus Shelters are coming to Riverside Drive. The City's bus shelter vendor, Viacom-Decaux, is working with the Department of Transportation to provide sorely needed shelters in the City of Los Angeles, and we are making sure we get our fair share in CD13. Hopefully, in the coming months, we will begin seeing 14 new shelters begin to pop up in time for the rainy season.

Echo Park & Historic Filipinotown

At the Bellevue cul-de-sac near Westlake, the Department of Sanitation and the Lot Cleaning division of Bureau Of Street Services have removed tons of bulky items and trash at this neglected corner of Echo Park.

Logan Street Elementary was the CD13 choice for the Department of Public Works' "Adopt a School" project. For the remainder of the school year, the DPW will work with administrators there on projects such as field trips, recreational activities, recycling programs, community corps outreach, Principal-for-a-Day and Executive-for-a-Day projects, shadow day activities, National Public Works Week activities, LAUSD Adopt-a-School and partnerships council, and many other school-based projects.

The lights of Radio Unica will decrease intensity soon due to an FAA-granted waiver! Our office met with VP/General Manager Bill Jenkins at the site, and he informed us that the details will be worked out in the coming week. Local residents (including me from my house) should see relief from the glaring, blinking lights very soon. We will monitor the situation closely. This is happening because many of you have joined me in demanding fair treatment. Thanks and congratulations to you.

The hillside lot located at Laveta Terrace and McDuff by the pedestrian staircase will be cleared of dumped items, overgrown brush, and discarded drug paraphernalia under a nuisance compliance order. If the property owners do not comply, the lot will be cleaned by the city, and a non-compliance fee will be imposed on the property owner.

Now, some not-so-good news. Due to the budget crunch, no unimproved streets (streets not developed by the city, usually in hillside areas) will be paved this year. Landa Street at Echo Park Avenue is one of those unimproved streets sorely in need of resurfacing. Until we can identify funding for that, we will send street repair crews out as needed to make repairs, as we did at the beginning of the month. But we know there is a need for a paving budget, and we'll continue to look for this.

Silver Lake

Allessandro Elementary joins Fletcher as a new home of LA's BEST after school program. A great day (well, afternoon) for the kids.

Thanks to all of you who joined Councilmember Tom LaBonge and me on Wednesday, September 17, 2003, at Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, for the first step in the environmental review process of the Department of Water and Power's "Silver Lake Reservoir Storage Replacement Project." As many of you know, for years the DWP has been looking for a way to ensure cleaner water by building underground water tanks to replace the open water storage at the Silver Lake Reservoir. At Wednesday's meeting, the DWP set forth its recommendation that these tanks should be constructed at the "Headworks" site adjacent to the Mt. Sinai Cemetary, north of Griffith Park. We will keep following this.

We are working with residents surrounding Mayberry Elementary to provide traffic improvements to ensure the safety of the children. Stay tuned for more details.

Thanks to all for a successful Sunset Junction and the first-ever companion neighborhood festival at Micheltorena Elementary.

East Hollywood and Hollywood

Little Armenia's brand-new banners have been hung! See them on Sunset Boulevard. They were paid for entirely with private donations.

Barnsdall Art Park recently opened George Stone's retrospective, "Probabilities: A Mid-Career Survey". It includes large-scale multi-media installations from the years 1979-2003. The show was curated by Carole Ann Klonarides and runs into November. I hope you saw the great review in the LATimes (the second great review shows have Barnsdall have received in recent weeks). We're pleased to see Barnsdall swinging back into action; as they were hanging the exhibit, we were pushing the City to get the air conditioning working again. It does. If you haven't been to the "new and improved" Barnsdall, you are missing a true City treasure.

John Singleton got his star on the Walk of Fame on Tuesday August 26th: the 2,235th one to date. And there are always more to come Each star seems like a little thing in itself, but, at the same time, reminds us of the importance of the entertainment industry to tourism and our overall economy, and also reminds us to thank the Hollywood Historic Trust for its work in promoting Hollywood. Speaking of tourism, the Los Angeles Business Journal this week identified the Hollywood Renaissance Hotel as the hotel with the highest occupancy rate in the city. Tourist dollars, from near and far, are helping build neighborhood jobs and a healthy tax base for city services.

I was pleased to host the Little Armenia Chamber of Commerce formation meeting on Thursday, August 14th at the Hollywood Renaissance Hotel. We had about 60 business owners from Little Armenia in attendance. This will be a valuable organization to help the blooming of Little Armenia.

PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) is opening a new 65-bed adult homeless housing program in Hollywood and will relocate its street outreach program to that new facility. This new program will be linked directly to the PATH Regional Homeless Center, where more than 19 government and private agencies are located in one building. Beds will be available to people who are homeless in the Hollywood area. The program will work directly with businesses, faith communities, law enforcement, and community members. For those interested in helping PATH break the cycle of homelessness and help people achieve self-sufficiency, the organization can especially use donations of hygiene products. They have a website at www.findchangehere.com, and you can call (323) 960-3333.

Some good news about the development at Hollywood and Western. We have learned recently that the legal issues delaying the opening of the new senior housing above Ralph's finally have been solved. We look forward to the occupancy of these apartments later this year.

The Bureau of Street Lighting will be upgrading lighting on Alexandria Avenue. This will be an important tool to combat prostitution in that area.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bob Hope's Memorial scheduled for Thursday, August 28th at the Kodak Theatre has been postponed. Stay tuned for further information.

The second annual **Precious Cheese Feast of San Gennaro, LA presented by Ralph's** is taking place on September 17-21, 2003 at Hollywood & Vine (1749 N. Ivar, Hollywood, CA). The Feast of San Gennaro LA is hosted by Jimmy Kimmel, Adam Carolla and Tommy Lasorda and offers three days of enjoyment for the entire family. This celebration of Italian culture, entertainment and food, popular in New York City for 75 years, features live music, carnival games, street performers, strolling musicians and cultural exhibits, in addition to wine from local wineries and food from more than 35 of the city's best Italian restaurants. Guests will be invited to play bocce ball with some of Hollywood's most prominent Italian-American celebrities, and much more.

Proceeds from The Feast of San Gennaro LA will benefit the LAPD Children's Support Group (a not-for-profit organization that provides assistance to children of police officers who have died while in active duty); Hollywood PAL (Police Activities League); and Christ the King Church and School of Hollywood. General Admission is FREE. For additional event information please call 323/969-8688 or visit www.feastofla.org. New York may have started this tradition, but

New York is no Hollywood. Come out and see who's better.

The Silver Lake Art Crawl is September 19, from 6-10 pm, and September 20th from 12-6 pm. See <http://www.ceart.com/artcrawl> for a map of galleries that will be open for your enjoyment.

The Silver Lake Film Festival ends this weekend. See <http://www.silverlakefilmfestival.com> for details.

On September 25, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce will host its 15th Annual Hollywood Business EXPO from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Roosevelt Hotel. The EXPO draws crowds of 300 to 400 executives, business owners, and professionals annually because it offers the ideal atmosphere for networking and meeting new clients. The Business EXPO gives attendees the chance to meet new clients, network, and win great prizes in the business card raffle. Admission is \$10 per person and includes two drinks and appetizers. Come and mingle in a mixer setting with hundreds of Hollywood professionals! Call (323) 469-8311 to RSVP.

PATH, L.A. Bridges, MJJ Corp, LAPD, Safe Passage, Mackintosh & Mackintosh, Robert Crowder & Co. and the Westmoreland, Beverly and Madison community will be hosting a community block party "A Taste of Rampart" tentatively scheduled October 4.

Concerned about your cable service? Call (213)485-2751. The City's Information Technology Agency has a special unit for addressing cable service quality.

CONTACT US

Tell us what you think. garcetti@council.lacity.org

Councilmember Eric Garcetti represents the Thirteenth Council District which includes all or part of the communities of Glassell Park, Atwater Village, Elysian Valley, Echo Park, Historic Filipinotown, Silver Lake, East Hollywood and Hollywood. Councilmember Garcetti serves as Assistant President Pro Tempore of the Los Angeles City Council. He chairs the Council's Housing, Community, and Economic Development Committee, and sits on the Environmental Quality, Information Technology and General Services, and Budget Committees. He also sits on the Council's Ad Hoc Stadium Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles River.

Councilmember Garcetti and his staff can be reached via e-mail at garcetti@council.lacity.org or by mail or phone at City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street, Room 470, Los Angeles, CA 90012, (213) 473 7013 and 3525 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90026, 323/913-4693.
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