



COUNCIL DISTRICT 13 E*NEWS

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Councilmember Eric Garcetti

Welcome

Welcome to E-News from CD13. I am excited to finally be sending you our first regular e-newsletter. We will be sending this out regularly and would love to get your feedback on any ideas or suggestions that you have for the newsletter--this is a work in progress. Let me know what you think.

All the best,

Eric and the CD13 Team

At the beginning of July, the impact of term limits landed squarely in my lap: with the departure of my colleagues and the arrival of new councilmembers, I became the third most senior Councilmember! The "freshman class" are new to City Hall but they are certainly not rookies. As we welcome these accomplished leaders in their own rights and building on the momentum of the last two year, change and possibility are in the air.

One thing that did not change was the City Council leadership team. We unanimously re-elected Alex Padilla Council President, Cindy Miscikowski as President Pro Tempore and I will continue as as Assistant President Pro Tempore.

We have announced new legislative committee assignments, too. I will chair a new committee named Housing, Community and Economic Development, or HCED, which merges the authority of two former committees into one. This reflects the need to coordinate our economic development, community development, and housing projects throughout the city. This should be a great platform to help building the housing that our city so badly needs and to promote strong communities and a healthy economy in Los Angeles. I will be the Vice Chair of the Environmental Quality and Waste Management Committee (the water, sewer and energy challenges facing our

neighborhoods are immense), I also will continue to serve on the Council's Budget and Finance Committee (in government, as in life, always 'follow the money'), and I now join the Information Technology and General Services Committee. I remain on the Ad-Hoc Committees on the Los Angeles River and on Stadiums.

But life does not revolve around City Hall. On the contrary, our neighborhood needs dictate our City Hall agenda. So I've included an update on neighborhood issues below. From Hollywood to Glassell Park, Silver Lake to Westlake, there are exciting neighborhood initiatives underway.

Lastly, let me announce some changes in my district office operations. For the first two years of my term, no single CD13 district director has been able to say, "The buck stops here." That's changed. I have named Ana Guerrero as my District Director. Many of you know Ana from her leadership of my organizing team over the last two years. She is smart, she's committed to service and she makes outstanding to-do lists (and checks them off!), so I have complete faith that she's up for the job. Please call on Ana at (323) 913-4693. You'll be pleased.

Also, you may have noticed that some of our talented field representatives and community organizers have left CD13 to pursue other goals (grad school, Union organizing, you name it!). I know you join me in wishing them all the best.

While change is never easy, these changes will allow me to re-focus and redouble our efforts at serving the residents of CD 13 tomorrow and beyond. We will launch a new constituent service approach this Fall that should be second to none. I couldn't be more thrilled at the challenges ahead!

CITY HALL UPDATE

Public Safety

I, along with many of my colleagues, was alarmed by a front page *LA Times* story suggesting that certain parts of the City, including much of CD 13, were being short-changed by the LAPD's staffing plan. I am the first to admit that police deployment is a complex science and art, but I joined my colleagues in demanding an explanation from the LAPD. I hope we will have a response sometime in the next quarter.

Speaking of "alarmed," home burglar alarms remain a topic of conversation, news analysis and lobbying. I respect Chief Bratton's analysis that we will have more officers on the streets and be safer in our neighborhoods if the LAPD does not respond to unverified alarms. In the meantime we can move forward with the Police Commission's "compromise," which allows response for the first two alarms. This issue is only the tip of the "proper LAPD deployment" iceberg.

Budget

We adopted a prudent but lean budget, on time and balanced, despite (or because of) some last minute wrangling between the Mayor and Council. The final state budget, when released, will necessitate cuts of at least an additional \$45 million dollars from an already lean budget. Our hit from Sacramento could have been worse, but these new cuts will make it even harder to increase the size of our police force, something all of us want to accomplish. Over the next couple of months, I'll update you on the impact of state decisions on our local services.

Housing

One key element to solving the housing crunch is the production of more affordable housing. 'Inclusionary Zoning' requires that developers of market-rate housing create lower-priced units that are guaranteed to families with lower levels of income. More than 100 California cities have demonstrated that inclusionary zoning laws don't hamper production. At the same time, we must offer real incentives to home builders to turn our housing crunch into a production boom.

Economic Development

With Councilmember Ed Reyes, I championed a Superstores Ordinance that would stop Big-Box grocery stores from undermining our economic development by paying poverty wages. Like the Ralph's at the new Hollywood and Western center, grocery stores across the city anchor neighborhoods with community services and family-wage jobs. An influx of big box grocery could shutter those developments and lower wages across Los Angeles. I don't want us to shoot our own economic development policy in the foot by bringing in uses that would drive out the grocery stores in which we've invested public resources. Hundreds came to public hearings at Los Angeles City College in CD13 to speak out against the threat from superstores (and some even came to say they liked them!).

Later this month, I will hold hearings on a No-Sweat Ordinance that would raise the standards of the companies the City uses to purchase uniforms. Working with activists, city staff have researched other local ordinances and are preparing to put Los Angeles at the forefront of the anti-sweatshop movement.

Open Space and the Environment

In a dry year for new projects, I won \$500,000 to seed the Neighborhood Land Trust, which will use even more private funds to turn empty lots and unused parcels into small parks stewarded by community members. Is there a weed-covered lot on your block that would make a good park? Let me know.

Neighborhood Councils

A tip of the hat to the Mayor's Office for aggressively including neighborhood councils in the city budgeting process. A word of encouragement: The more neighborhood councils speak with a coordinated voice on their local issues, the more attention the Mayor and the Council will pay to these issues in the budget. It may not be easy to unite behind a common agenda, but the payoff can be felt at home. Plan carefully!

For my part, I'm pushing the bureaucracy to let neighborhood councils more easily access their own money. It's an uphill battle, but a crucial one. My staff met with DONE officials again during the last week of July. I'll keep you posted.

Cable

Those with Adelphia service will be pleased to know that the City has prevailed at the FCC in its attempt to make Adelphia roll back its rates. Under federal law, cable companies can't be regulated by cities if they can demonstrate the finances of their rate increases. Adelphia couldn't, and the FCC denied their request for an injunction to the City's rate rollback. It's not often that consumers win, and the battle isn't over, but victory could mean up to \$4 million in consumer rebates.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

Atwater Village

On Tuesday, the Zoning Administration held a hearing regarding the Atwater Ranch Market. Along with LAPD Northeast Division, representatives from community groups, and the Department of Building and Safety, I testified in support of strict conditions and called for a second hearing within six months to consider revocation if these conditions are not met. Zoning Administrator Lourdes Green will continue to accept written testimonies through Friday, August 8th. If you wish, please mail your correspondence to Lourdes Green, Asst. ZA, Office of Zoning Administration, 7th Floor City Hall, 200 N. Spring St., Los Angeles CA 90012.

North Atwater is getting brighter! Last year, I requested streetlighting repairs and improvements for North Atwater Village. Early this summer, crews trimmed back the overgrown tree branches that block out the existing streetlights' glow. Soon sixteen new streetlights will appear to brighten the darker corners of the neighborhood. And all existing streetlights will be checked and repaired if needed.

Glassell Park

Juntos Park, opened in May, is off and running -- filled daily with tons of kids. An amazing success story. Come join the neighborhood kids on the splash pad and we'll see you there!

A second McDonald's may NOT be coming to Glassell Park after all. Following an intense community effort, the City's Zoning Administration denied McDonald's request for the right to put up a new McDonald's with drive through at 3901 Eagle Rock Boulevard. We supported the many in the community, but this was a community effort. Congratulations! Now let's get a sit-down restaurant.

Thanks for all who turned out for the Drew/Estara Resource Fair Saturday, July 26. This neighborhood needs the City's attention and we are beginning to see it happen.

Drive by the center median at Eagle Rock Boulevard at Avenue 35. Thanks to the City's Bureau of Street Services for replacing the long-broken irrigation system. The median looks GREAT.

Elysian Valley

Bureau of Street Services (the BOSS) will soon be completing sidewalk replacement between Glover and Elmgrove, bounded by Blake street to the LA River. They have also removed a few dozen hazardous trees and pruned all the trees along the route.

A skate park is coming to Elysian Valley this fall! The Elysian Valley United (EVU) Community Service Center has been granted money through the City's Community Development Department to build and manage a skate park on Marsh Street. Our office will work with EVU and residents in the coming weeks on design and programming.

Echo Park

We're cleaning Echo Park Lake! The first "floating island wetlands" have been installed. They drift through the lake -- cleaning the lake and looking natural and great at the same time. We also expect more planting to make it even cleaner and more attractive.

No response yet from the FCC and FAA regarding the GIANT red blinking lights at Radio Unica. While this is a federal issue, I can see the lights from my own house every night and we continue to push the federal agencies and our federal colleagues. We will keep up the fight until we get the lights changed!

The Lotus Festival has come and gone, and Team Garcetti continues to rule the lake. I am pleased to report that Team Garcetti won the elected officials category for the second year in a row and was only 7 seconds off the fastest time on the lake. Thanks to all in the community for making this year's festival, which welcomed its one-millionth visitor, such a success!

Congratulation to El Centro del Pueblo on the grand opening of its new recreation center. Echo Park badly-needs recreation space and this will be a great public asset for the neighborhood.

Historic Filipinotown

With the help of savvy community partners, we are working to develop a streetscape plan for Temple Boulevard, HiFi's main address.

Construction is going well at new Lake Street Park. We've got a way to go, but we are on schedule and within budget!

Silver Lake

We are working to maintain the historic Red Car property above Fletcher and Riverside as open space. One positive new development: recently, the City's Cultural Heritage Commission recommended that the red car trestle footings at the end of the property near Fletcher and Riverside Drives be designated as cultural monuments. This designation does not prohibit development, but it creates additional issues which any potential developer must address.

The Bellevue Park will be enjoying a facelift over the next few years. I want to thank the Park Advisory Board and area residents who are working to ensure that the money is well-spent by demanding strong planning upfront.

For years, residents had to endure public drinking and loitering encouraged by Coronado Market. The community worked with my staff and I to organize neighbors, petitions, and public hearings. Your hard work has finally paid off: The Coronado Market was shut down in June!

East Hollywood and Hollywood

Hollywood commercial property, unlike much of the City, continues to attract investment. Working with the Community Redevelopment Agency, we recruited the Nielsen Company (of the TV ratings fame) to Hollywood, where it is consolidating hundreds of high wage entertainment industry jobs. We also celebrated the grand opening of the Hollywood History Museum in the Historic Max Factor Building.

The Hollywood Chamber is hosting a lunch meeting on public safety on Wednesday, August 6. Join Hollywood Captain Mike Downing, Neighborhood Prosecutor Bill Kysella and me for what I hope will be an informative discussion. Call the Chamber at 323/469-8311.

We celebrated the completion of construction of Yucca Park a few weeks ago, and as

soon as the phones are installed, this incredible new park at Yucca and Cherokee will be open for business. Check it out.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join your local police station for National Night Out, "America's Night Out Against Crime" on Tuesday, August 5, 2003. Hollywood PD, 1358 N. Wilcox, 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Rampart PD, Walk and Rally meeting at Rosemont Elementary at 5:30 p.m.

I have the honor for the third year in a row of crowning the Queen of Silver Lake, at the biggest event and biggest party put on by the Silver Lake Chamber of Commerce. This event doubles as a fundraiser for the Sunset Free Clinic to boot. It is on Saturday, August 9th at the Silver Lake Recreation Center. For more details, visit the chamber web site at www.silverlakechamber.com.

Historic FilTown Anniversary Celebration. A parade and festival celebrating Historic FilTown on Saturday, August 2, starting bright and early in Historic Filipinotown.

Sunset Junction: All of Silver Lake and then some comes together for a walk in the street. The weekend of August 23-24. Check out the schedule at www.sunsetjunction.org.

There is work to be done, but with a grant for neighborhood matching funds, the "new and improved" Crestmoore Steps are just around the corner. But we need your help. Come to the first work day (and party) on Saturday, August 9, at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the Glassell Park Recreation Center, 3650 Verdugo Road.

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, is the Vice-Chair of the Environmental Quality and Waste Management Committee, and sits on the Information Technology and General Services and Budget and Finance 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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