



COUNCIL DISTRICT 13 **e*news**

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Many of you noticed that the internal links in this month's e-news directed you back to the homepage of the newsletter service we use. We've asked the folks at SimpleSend to try and fix that one, and in the meantime we're sending out a new version with the links fixed in the code (we hope). We've also taken the opportunity to correct a few of the spelling errors you pointed out—"parrott", really! We apologize for the lapse, and please know that our communications deputy has been sentenced to read the Microsoft Word User's Manual section on spell-checker out loud to passersby at the corner of Temple and Virgil.

City Council Is In The Neighborhood!!! Please join me for a special evening, off-site meeting of the Los Angeles City Council on **Wednesday, October 29th at 6:30 pm at Washington Irving Middle School Auditorium in Glassell Park. We'll be joined by the world-class local talent of the Santa Cecilia Orchestra, and our city business will include presentations on "Sí TV", the first U.S. English-language Latino-oriented television network, and a visual walk through the new Northeast LACC campus coming to the former Van de Kamp's Bakery site. **3010 Estara Avenue at Fletcher**. Open to the public.**

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A Word from Eric

I don't think it's October that traditionally "comes in like a lion," but this one has—and shows no sign of going out like a lamb. From crime to the recall election to a pair of high-impact labor disputes and savage fires beginning to inch into the city, the past few weeks have been full of tumult.



Councilmember
Eric Garcetti

Los Angeles has far fewer police than it needs—Chief Bratton says we lack 3,000 officers, or a full third of our existing force. A year ago, voters overwhelmingly passed Prop Q, a bond that funded the construction of new police and fire stations, demonstrating a willingness to step up and pay for public safety. Would voters tax themselves to pay for the police officers to staff those stations? I have requested a study of a ballot measure to fund the hiring of police officers through a parcel tax or other design. Since the city's gang intervention programs like L.A. Bridges have excellent track records, revenue would also be dedicated towards expanding those

prevention programs. [Let me know](#): would you support such a measure?

Our frustration in hiring police officers in a lean budget year could be doubled if the state slashes the Vehicle License Fee. A loss of this revenue (which is a local fee) would spell real hardship for the people of Los Angeles and other California cities if it were not "backfilled" from some other state source. When I traveled to Japan last year to promote trade and tourism, we were accompanied by Arnold Schwarzenegger, and he was very articulate in promoting Los Angeles. We hope he will continue to look after his adopted hometown. In the face of a state-generated \$47 million budget shortfall, if the VLF is further cut, we could potentially lose \$150 million more, resulting in fewer streets paved, fewer trees trimmed, and fewer police on the street.

Although our city is strained fiscally, our budget discipline for the last two years has led us to be the highest-rated big city in America by the major bond agencies. This is an impressive feat, and one that reflects that our city's fiscal management continues to be very sound.

In the face of these tough budget times, our communities continue to respond to the call for public service. I'm constantly inspired by the number of people who continue to step up to participate in local affairs. Neighborhood councils have taken off in CD13! Within the last few weeks, Silver Lake, Atwater, Echo/Elysian and Elysian Valley Neighborhood Councils all had elections. Congratulations to the new officers! Also, special congratulations to Elysian Valley, where turnout (across a relatively smaller neighborhood) topped 500, according to reports. I look forward to working with you on the problems that our neighborhoods face and the opportunities in front of us.

Additionally, as the region is gripped by wildfires, I want to commend the bravery of Luis Subia, Ruben Arredondo, and Robert Alvarez, three young men from CD13 who have been fighting fires with the Aztec Firefighters. When Atwater Village suffered a spate of shootings two years ago, the Aztecs came in to offer a unique opportunity to the youth who lived there. Luis, Ruben and Robert were among those who decided to change their lives by signing up, and they have been helping defend Southern California from the current fires.

On a lighter note: My field staff informs me that a constituent has called to complain of a neighbor's parrot that swears at her all day. I don't know if the parrot is in fact a difficult neighbor, but the call really came! While my office has no expertise in matters avian, sometimes the [City Attorney's Dispute Resolution program](#) can help ease tensions between neighbors. And finally, some good [pictures of rabbits](#).

CITY HALL UPDATE:

Housing

When I won the Council and Mayor's support for a \$100 million Housing Trust Fund, our aim was to use that money to leverage even more funds for the development of affordable housing. We have been more successful than we expected! In the first round of funding of the state voter-approved Proposition 46 Multi-family Housing Program, 25% of the \$100 million in competition went to the City of Los Angeles! By comparison, we have 10% of the state population, proving that our city is at the forefront of affordable housing construction and design. Efficient government not only saves money, it earns it too.

Last Wednesday, City Hall heard from supporters (and a few opponents) of an inclusionary zoning policy, which would require builders of market-rate housing to set aside some units for subsidized housing. Developers and affordable housing advocates alike expressed support for an inclusionary housing requirement coupled with development benefits (like slashing red tape) that would facilitate more housing development. It's a way of addressing the housing crisis and creating mixed-income communities at the same time. As developer Doug Ring said at the hearing, "Inclusionary housing is absolutely critical if we have any hopes of our economy surviving...not because it's the morally right thing to do, although it is, but because it is in the self-interest of every person in our society to make sure that everyone is adequately housed."

Los Angeles has long been criticized for its lack of a plan to deal with its severe homelessness crisis. My voice has long been with those critics, but I'm pleased to announce that we're beginning to turn that ship around. At the beginning of October, we announced the receipt of \$5.7 million in federal funds to help the chronically homeless and to bring together the resources of the many agencies that haven't always acted in sync. The homelessness we see in our city represents our most basic failure as a society. These grants represent a serious effort on the part of the federal government to turn that failure around by helping our communities integrate their resources and commit to valuable, intense aid.

Economic Development

The grocery strike nears its third week, and many are saying that Wal-Mart is forcing the companies to lower wages. Why? Wal-Mart is planning a push into California with its Superstore model, which combines a full-service grocery store with a big box format—and poverty-level wages. The grocery chains say they have to lower wages to compete, but they are negotiating for a future that may or may not come to pass. To ward off this kind of 'race to the bottom', I am working on a Superstores Ordinance that will be considered by the Council soon. This would reassure both the workers and the management of grocery stores and hopefully give them some room to settle the strike. It wouldn't prevent any company from coming to Los Angeles, but it would prevent superstores from lowering family-wage standards. For more on the importance of the grocery strike, see www.saveourhealthcare.org. And honk as you pass the picket lines!



Eric speaks to a locked-out Ralphs worker.

I am also helping to launch a new initiative to promote and support small businesses in Los Angeles. Over 90% of our new jobs in Los Angeles come from small businesses, and small business development has been a cornerstone of my work in City Council. As a result, the mayor has asked me to co-chair a Small Business Advisory Committee with himself and Councilmember Wendy Greuel that will look at how the city can help small businesses. While we continue to press forward for reform of our unfair Gross Receipts Business Tax, I am hoping that this Advisory Committee will give businesses the legislative, economic, and administrative help they need to keep our economy moving.

Lastly, I'm committed to models for urban development that raise standards. At the same time as the Community Redevelopment Agency is considering requiring Community Impact Reports (CIR), I have asked the city to study their application citywide. Community Impact Reports would bring developers into the community to answer questions about the impact their development would have on the local economy. Will it bring new jobs, and will they raise wage levels? Will it tear down housing? If so, will it replace it with more? Too often, developers and communities fight one another when both sides could win by early cooperation. I've often said that we need to grow our city to keep up with our urban pressures; I'm working to design a CIR policy along with the Growth With Justice coalition and our developer community to try and make that a reality.

Community Development

I'm pleased to announce the release of the www.healthycity.org webpage. Use it to find out what kind of health, education and human services resources are located near you. The map tool was developed by the Advancement Project. It's a real eye-opener.

Letting people know about the resources available to them is a major goal of mine for the upcoming year. I successfully passed a motion that funds a city position to better leverage existing entitlement programs for families in Los Angeles. This initiative should bring millions of dollars into the local economy and we are working closely with family advocates and the L.A. Chamber of Commerce on this project. Find out more about the city's efforts to educate people about their eligibility for the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) and [Free Cash For College](#).

New schools are on their way! LAUSD has embarked the second phase of its major push to build new schools for our kids. In addition to the 159 new construction projects (15 in CD13, including nine new schools) already in progress, they plan to develop another 35,000 new seats in the next few years. My office is eager to facilitate community input into the design and siting process in this second phase. If you would like to be involved with the new schools project, please call (213) 633-7616 to find out about LAUSD community meetings in your area. You can also get a schedule of meetings and a lot of other valuable information from their website: www.laschools.org. The next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday Oct 30, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Gratts Elementary School Auditorium at 309 Lucas Avenue.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT:

Atwater Village

Many of you have spoken to me about the proposed Perlita Avenue development that would add a net fourteen apartment units onto the parking lot of an existing multi-family property. Your input has been invaluable to me, and I thank you for it. I have joined the community in opposing any wholesale rezoning of this neighborhood. As to the specific development, I have asked the developer to meet directly with the community to see whether community support can be developed for this project of some amended project. Neighborhood-level dialogue is crucial to shaping our streetscape block-by-block, and I thank you for working with and through this

project.

The Richard "Moe" Montanez Baseball Field was dedicated on Saturday, Sept. 27th. Over 200 people attended. "Moe" was responsible for the City obtaining the property and turning it into a Baseball Field, and coached North Atwater Village area children in baseball for thirty-plus years.



Honoring "Moe" Montanez

The bump-out on Glendale Bl. at Madera Ave is almost completed. Once this sidewalk extension at the crosswalk is finished, pedestrians will have a shorter walk across this busy intersection. After a series of pedestrian accidents, my office lobbied to get this improvement made. Next we want to see a blinking yellow traffic signal in the months to come.

Glassell Park

The child care center at the Glassell Park Recreation Center is open, funded by city Prop K funds. Many thanks to Joan Lundy's tirelessness on this and other efforts in the general Glassell Park renaissance.

New all-way stop installed at Estara and Andrita! This was the 4th request in 10 years and it was finally approved. A safe city comes one block at a time.

The nuisance commercial trucking lot at Delay Drive is finally closed! It took a little over one year but the property owner, a local, finally moved his commercial trucking storage operation away. This lot is directly adjacent to a residential neighborhood but, because of the strange zoning, a permit was issued to park commercial trucks there. We negotiated an agreement for him to re-locate his trucks, and now we're now working with him to turn the lot in to a badly needed automobile parking lot for local industries and a school.

The much-heralded pocket turn lane near the Ribet Academy has finally opened after various fits and starts. (Some of the fits may have been thrown by our own Glassell Park deputy Mitch O'Farrell, but you know what they say about the squeaky wheel... .)

We've been working with LAPD to get trees strategically trimmed along Drew Street for public safety reasons. This is another step forward in changing the culture of the area away from gang and narcotics activity to a safer, cleaner neighborhood. We've spoken to the City departments of Animal Control, Building and Safety, Housing, Police, Public Works, and Street Services in the Drew/Estara area over the past year in a concerted effort, and we're starting to see reduced crime and blight. Next step: the area's first-ever neighborhood watch.

Elysian Valley

I was honored to recognize Phil ("T.J.") Taylor-Jones in a formal ceremony in City Council Chambers for his hard work, dedication and volunteerism over the years at Allesandro Elementary School. T.J. formed the Allesandro Entertainment Company, an after-school program for area children to learn about the performing arts. His students learn to act, dance, sing, and learn technical aspects of the theatre. T.J. and his kids just debuted their new play, "Double Dose" at the Allesandro Theatre. My congratulations to them!



Honoring T.J. in City Council Chambers

Thank you to all who have helped start off the Elysian Valley Revisioning Project. There's more potential tucked between the 5 Freeway and the Los Angeles River than in many American counties, and I'm eager to see how local creativity sees Elysian Valley in the future. Will we orient towards the river? What kind of development do we want to attract, whether residential or commercial? And who will be our partners? Special thanks go to the neighborhood council for organizing these discussions, which continue.

Echo Park and Historic Filipinotown

Work has been completed on the well-used staircase leading from Sunset Boulevard up to Laveta Terrace and McDuff. Take a walk!

A victory: The lights are dimmed at Radio Unica's towers. Thanks to all of you who lobbied with me to get rid of those bright, bright lights.

Check out Echo Park Avenue in the 1400 to 1700 block: there has been, and will continue to be, an ongoing city-service focus along this stretch. Property owners are being brought into

compliance regarding neglected parkways and visual blight, and bulky-item sweeps from the Department of Sanitation will be done weekly.

The Silver Lake/Echo Park Community Plan Update has had tons of attention this month, with a workshop and a joint -neighborhood council community forum. The update should be reviewed by the City Planning Commission early next year. We're heartened by the early, favorable feedback. The emerging "smart growth" land use strategy encourages mixed-use development on transportation corridors—all part of LA "growing up".

The EP Community Action Committee continues to meet with LADOT and the Bureau of Street Services to finalize plans for the Glendale Boulevard Improvement Project. All parties are working to ensure that the Board of Public Works can authorize contracts for construction by the end of this year. The major elements of the project include enhanced traffic signal coordination to facilitate traffic flow during peak commuting periods and almost \$1 million in streetscape enhancements designed and supported by the community. Thanks to the CAC for its incredible, years-long dedication to this project.

Under the Neighborhood Traffic Management project, we have won funding for speed humps in the areas listed below, and installation can proceed *as long as the people who live on the specific streets are supportive*. If you want to help with a petition drive to demonstrate support, please call Mitch O'Farrell in our field office at (323) 913-4693. The petition drives should be completed by mid-December. Speed humps have been proposed for the following blocks—check to see if one of them is yours, and get involved!

1. Benton Way, between Berkley and Effie
2. Benton Way, between Berkley and Scott
3. Berkley Ave., between Alvarado and Benton Way
4. Coronado Terrace, between Scott and Sunset
5. Lake Shore Ave., between Avalon and Branden
6. Mayberry St., between McCollum Pl. and Mohawk
7. Portia St., between Scott and Sunset
8. Scott Ave., between Allesandro and Alvarado

Silver Lake

As many of you know, a young man was tragically shot and killed in South Silver Lake. This killing has inspired much speculation about the level of gang activity in the area, and the resources we have, working together, to prevent future tragedies. My office hosted a neighborhood meeting where residents could address these issues with my staff and representatives of the LAPD.

Captain Charlie Beck, the new Rampart Division captain, responded to concerns, joined by officers from the patrol and gang units. Violent crime is down 13% in the area. Nonetheless, Capt. Beck has stepped up patrols of the "hot spots". Residents asked that brighter lights be installed in the Laurel and Hardy Park to make it safer at night, and my office has named this as a priority.

My deputy Shane Goldsmith continues to work on a comprehensive strategy for dealing with crime in Silver Lake. We've held one neighborhood watch meeting in the area, and I attended Chief Bratton's "CompStat" meeting, where the Chief gets up-to-date statistics on the presence and trends of crime neighborhood-by-neighborhood.

Also, check out the update on the [Community Plan](#) above.

East Hollywood and Hollywood

My second district walk took place around Melrose Hill. On a Saturday afternoon, I knocked on East Hollywood doors and got a sense of the problems facing people in the neighborhood who aren't connected to city government.



Eric, Rev. Troy Perry, and Johnny Grant at Morris Kight Square

The corner of McCadden and Hollywood Boulevard has a new name: Morris Kight Square. Morris Kight was a civil rights leader for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people who came to Los Angeles from Texas in the late fifties and started the Christopher Street West pride parade down Hollywood Boulevard. He was a leading light in Los Angeles until his death January 19th at the age of 83. For the unveiling, I was joined by dozens of Morris's friends, like the Reverend Troy Perry, who worked with Morris for decades. Johnny Grant put it best at the ceremony when he said: "Morris showed us that Hollywood is big enough for everyone's dream. We're proud to have your memory preserved on



Eric in East Hollywood

Hollywood Boulevard, Morris."

Dr. Doris Pichon Givens was recently named interim president for Los Angeles City College and began her tenure there on Sept. 2. She is a nationally recognized educator with more than 23 years experience in community college administration and teaching. She came to LACC from Spokane Community College where she was president for the past three years. Dr. Givens succeeds former LACC president Dr. Mary Spangler, who accepted the post of Chancellor of the Oakland Community College District in Michigan.

One question on everyone's lips is, "What will the Governor mean for the film industry?" Speculation has already appeared about the revival of wage tax credits for small productions that shoot in California, but Arnold's promises to rein in the budget may come first.

The Legacy project at Hollywood and Vine had its first unveiling in a public forum last night. Although presentations have been made to individual groups, this time more than 150 people clustered in the Roosevelt Hotel to see designs and traffic impact studies. If you missed it but you want more information about this mixed-use project that will include market-rate and affordable housing, a W hotel, and a transit plaza, please contact [Marathon Communications](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

STREET RESURFACING ACROSS THE DISTRICT: The following CD13 streets are slated for resurfacing in the next few days!

- Ardmore Ave., Melrose to Maplewood Ave. on 10/27
- Bemis St., west of Brunswick Ave. on 10/27
- Council St., Rosemont Ave. to Carondolet St. on 10/29
- De Longpre Ave., Western Ave. to St. Andrews Place on 10/31
- London St., Coronado St. to Benton Way on 11/1
- Park View St., Temple St. to Council St. on 10/27
- Plata St., Coronado to Rampart Blvd. on 11/2

The regular Board meeting of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council will be on October 29 at the Micheltorena Street School, 7:00 - 10:00 PM (yes, 10:00 PM...) Stakeholders are very much encouraged to attend. *For comprehensive neighborhood council meeting times, please see our [CD13 Community Calendar](#).* And [let us know](#) if you have events or meetings you would like us to consider putting up on the calendar.

The Hollywood Wilshire YMCA invites you to fall into the arts this autumn with a free series that will bring a taste of culture and the arts to the Hollywood community. This is a new and exciting initiative and part of an overall long-term commitment to the arts here at the Hollywood Wilshire YMCA. This program is an excellent way for the children, families, adults and seniors of our community to gain exposure to the arts as well as an opportunity to explore their creative side through various arts workshops. Whether attending a movie screening, a discussion group with a prominent Hollywood actor or a performance by a swinging jazz quartet, community members can discover a more artistic side to the YMCA. For more information, please contact Natasha at (213) 639-7549.

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Community Foundation invites you to the Halloween Fundraiser on Thursday, Oct. 30. Proceeds from the party, held within the gates of the Hollywood Forever Cemetery, will go to the Community Foundation and will directly benefit local charitable organizations through grants given throughout the year. From 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., guests at the fundraiser will experience numerous Halloween activities. Highlights of the event include a celebrity hunt by the renowned Alma, psychic and paranormal investigator, mind-boggling displays of courage by fire performer Citronella, psychics, palm and tarot card readers, a scavenger hunt, magicians from the Magic Castle, professional DJ courtesy of the Palace, and lavishly decorated grounds courtesy of Universal Studios Hollywood. More than a dozen restaurants will be preparing their specialties for guests to sample, with Karl Strauss and The Avalon providing alcoholic beverages. Reservations for this event are highly encouraged, as registration is limited to the first 600 people. Tickets are on sale now and can be obtained by calling the Chamber at (323) 469-8311.

The [Hollywood United Neighborhood Council](#) will host a fundraiser for Cheremoya Avenue Elementary School on Sunday, November 9th from 4 pm to 7 pm at Joseph's Cafe, 1775 Ivar. Tickets are \$35 per person or \$60 per couple and include wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres. For more information, please call (323) 957-7967 or email info@hollywoodunitednc.org.

Join over 10,000 students and families discovering firsthand how a college education can be affordable and accessible at the City's second annual College and Career Convention, from November 12 to 13 at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Students and families can sign up

at 213-978-0721 or visit www.lafreecashforcollege.org.

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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