

NEWS

From

Richard Alarcón

Councilmember, 7th District



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 23, 2007

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ALARCÓN WORKS TO MAKE EDUCATION & NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE MEETINGS MORE ACCESSIBLE

Van Nuys, CA – In a move to strengthen community participation in the City’s political process, newly-elected Los Angeles City Councilmember Richard Alarcón moved this week’s Education and Neighborhoods Committee meeting to the Van Nuys City Hall. The meeting will be held tonight, **Monday, April 23 at 5:00 pm**. The Van Nuys City Hall location was chosen because the agenda includes an item on expanding the Lake Balboa neighborhood, which is adjacent to Van Nuys.

“We need to give community members the opportunity to weigh-in on issues that affect them,” said Councilmember Alarcón. “Having meetings during the work day, Downtown, makes it hard for citizens to participate. When there are issues relevant to a particular community, I intend to hold the meetings at a time and place that is convenient to the wider audience.”

Councilmember Alarcón continued, “Yes, it’s costing \$500.00 out of the Seventh Council District budget to hold this meeting in the community and in the evening, but it’s important to me that we create new opportunities for individual involvement on the issues brought before this Committee.”

This evening, Councilmember Alarcón will also be announcing his plan to hold a hearing in response to today’s announcement of the Loyola Marymount University Study on Neighborhood Councils, which reported a drop in confidence in the Neighborhood Council system. The hearing will focus on the issues flagged in the study and proposed solutions on how to increase participation in the Neighborhood Council system and where Neighborhood Councils can focus to have the greatest impact.

“I plan to ask the hard questions, so we can find concrete solutions on how to increase the Neighborhood Council’s relevance in their communities,” said Councilmember Alarcón. “I’m committed to working with the community members to find solutions on how to fix the problems in the system, including improving our outreach into the community and making the system as user-friendly as possible.”

Councilmember Alarcon represents the Seventh Council District, including the neighborhoods of Pacoima, Sylmar, Mission Hills, North Hills, Panorama City and Lake View Terrace. He is the Chair of the Education and Neighborhoods Committee and Vice Chair of Rules and Elections.

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