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LAFD Captain Tamara Chick Heads Women's Recruitment Section

Captain Tamara Chick is serious about recruitment.

As the new head of the Los Angeles Fire Department Women's Recruitment section she is on a mission: to increase the number of women in LAFD.

Currently, there are 97 uniformed women in LAFD. Twenty of them are captains; one has made it to the ranks of Assistant Chief.

"Women do have a place in Fire Services," Captain Chick said. "There are opportunities for promotion and growth," said Captain Chick adding that many women don't know about these opportunities because they haven't been exposed to what LAFD can offer.

Captain Chick was once one of those women. While studying Biomechanical Kinesiology as a student at Cal Poly Pomona, she happened to hear a LAFD re-

ruitment advertisement on the radio. She attended the recruit-



Captain Tamara Chick

ment fair and said within the first hour she "was hooked."

Fifteen years later she is playing a leadership role in sparking that same interest in other women that was ignited in her. However, she emphasizes that being in Fire Services requires

physical strength in addition to a commitment to public service.

"There are no concessions for being a woman in Fire Services. We are all graded on our ability to do the job."

Captain Chick does a lot of recruiting at colleges and universities of women athletes who have made a commitment to fitness. And she is committed to serving as their mentor to help them get through the lengthy application and training process.

"This is a great time for women to join LAFD. The environment has changed," Captain Chick explained. "The best way to silence the critics is to put great women in uniform. I am committed to doing that."

If you would like to get information about joining LAFD, call the recruitment office at (213) 485-8032 or visit www.joinlafd.org.

Happy Holidays from the Commission on the Status of Women

Whether you are decking the halls with boughs of holly or roasting chestnuts on an open fire, we hope that your holiday season is a joyous and safe one.

The holiday season can be the most stressful time of the year with all the shopping, parties, baking, managing kids on school break, entertaining out of town

guests or caring for elderly parents. To make the season bright means knowing your stressors and managing them.

According to experts, the three main trigger points of holiday stress are relationships, finances and the sheer physical demands of the season. So make a promise to plan ahead, learn to

say no, stick to a budget, forget about perfection, set differences aside, take a breather, and ask for help when you need it. Happy holidays!



LACCSW Staff Completes Their HomeWalk



Commission staff Home-Walk team. Left to right: Sally Anderson, Rayshell Chambers, Anne Dunn, Veronica Hendrix, Kellie Hawkins

When the Mayor asked the City family to do their homewalk, the Commission on the Status of Women heeded the call.

Homewalk is a 5K run that raised funds to end homelessness. Last month the Commission on the Status of Women, along with 4,000 people from various city departments, corporations and non-profits organizations participated in the event which was held at Exposition Park. Over \$740,000 dollars were raised by participants and sponsors.

There are over 80,000 homeless people in the in Los Angeles County. Approximately 30% of them are women and children who are homeless for a myriad of reasons such as fleeing from domestic violence, lack of affordable housing, low paying jobs, unemployment, and reduction in public assistance.

Homewalk is part of the United Way's new initiative called *A Pathway Home*. This unique initiative is committed to preventing and ending homelessness in Los Angeles

County not only through advocacy, volunteerism, fundraising, but through building a stronger system of care that links homeless agencies and services with permanent housing.

Homeless is one of the priority areas that the Commission has identified as part of our Legislative Policy Statement on Women's Issues. We would like to thank the Mayor's office for putting the City on the front line in the fight to end homeless, particularly among women.

Commissioner Profile



Commissioner
Susan Fogel

Susan Fogel was appointed to the Commission on the Status of Women by Mayor Villaraigosa in August 2006. Commissioner Fogel consults with non-profit organizations, labor unions and funders on issues of women's health, reproductive rights, and health access. She serves as co-chair of the Health Rights and Bio-Ethics Committee of the American Bar Association (ABA) Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities, and serves on the ABA Special

Committee on Bio-Ethics and the Law. She is also founder of the Pro-Choice Alliance for Responsible Research, and is the co-conveyor of the National Advisory Board on Religious Restrictions in Health Care.

Commissioner Fogel is the Board Chair of Maternal and Child Health Access, and is a founding board member of the Progressive Jewish Alliance. She serves on the Los Angeles County Women's Health Policy Committee.

Commissioner Fogel is the author of numerous articles, publications and amicus briefs on the issues that impact the lives of women and girls, and teaches at the UCLA Graduate School of Public Health. She is the former Legal Director of the California Women's Law Center where she worked with policy makers, legal services agencies and community-based organizations to overcome barriers to women's self-determination.

Commission Takes Meetings to the Community

The Commission took its monthly meeting to the community by holding its regularly scheduled board meeting in Council member Herb Wesson's district office.

The agenda covered many of the Commissions programs and included discussion about proposed initiatives, pending legislation and the upcoming 2008-2009 budget submittal.

The meeting, which was well attended, was announced during the *Front Page* public affairs radio show, hosted by LACCSW Commissioner Dominique DiPrima on KJLH.

Community members said they were pleased that the Commission brought the meeting to them and they were glad to hear first hand what is being done by the City to improve the quality of life

for women and girls city-wide. Residents also expressed concerns about teenage pregnancy, job training for youth and internship opportunities with the Commission. Some thanked the Commission for their work in domestic violence, human trafficking and violence prevention among young women. The board noted that more community meetings will be held in other council districts.

Special thanks to
Councilmember
Herb Wesson,
CD 10 and staff
for their help in
making the
community
meeting a huge
success

Best Practices Shared With Japanese Women's Delegation



Wings Delegation and Commission Staff

Last month, the Commission on the Status of Women hosted a delegation from Naka, Japan. The group, which is called the Women's Wings, represented over 20 com-

munity organizations and government personnel from Naka City government's Gender Equity division focusing on women's issues. The delegation requested the meeting to discuss some of the best practices the City has used in combating domestic violence.

Commission staff members Anne Dunn and Julie Heifetz talked about the power-control relationship dynamic used by abusers in intimate relationships; and the Commission's domestic violence advocacy, outreach and training protocols.

The delegates were also provided with information about the City's

Domestic Violence Policy, policy guidelines about our Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) that assists employees dealing with domestic violence, and information about the City's law enforcement-service provider response team. The delegation was particularly interested in victim services such as shelters, counseling, and batterers' education. They saw new possibilities when Commission staff talked about our collaboration with Verizon Wireless which refurbishes old phones for use by domestic violence victims, and our Cut it Out Campaign which mobilizes Los Angeles' hair salons to fight domestic violence.

15,000 residents of LA County have HIV and don't know it.
In LA County, Latinos constitute 41% of new cases; African Americans constitute 22% of new cases.

Just The Facts - World AIDS Day

Since 1988, the first day of December has been observed as World AIDS Day. This year's slogan is "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise" which is an appeal to governments, policy makers and regional health authorities to ensure that they meet the targets they have set in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

On World AIDS Day, the City launched a HIV Testing initiative aimed at testing 1 million Angele-

nos by 2010. Interim Executive Director Kellie Hawkins appeared on several local talk shows to talk about the City's new initiative and why it is important that the Commission on the Status of Women join the City's efforts in encouraging women to know their status by getting tested.

"Women have to empower themselves by protecting themselves," Hawkins said. "By getting

tested, women will not only know their status, they can ensure that the transmission of the disease stops with them by getting tested and protecting themselves."

The City's new HIV Testing initiative has expanded HIV testing capacity by working with more hospitals, medical groups, clinics and non-profit organizations. To find a testing site near you visit www.hivla.org or call (866) 772-2365.

YWAR Launches New, Interactive Website for Teen Girls

Young Women from Adversity to Resiliency (YWAR) Intervention Program, created by the Commission and currently delivered at 12 schools throughout Los Angeles Unified School District, has launched a new interactive, teen-friendly website.

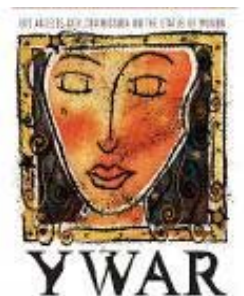
The website is a virtual community that gives teen's 24-hour access to helpful information, community resources, and updated

YWAR news and accomplishments. users can email staff, view fun pictures, and read and respond to inspiring stories written by YWAR participants.

This month, YWAR features Janice Hahn and the students of Sojourner Truth High School at the 7th annual graduation. At the click of a button, teens have access to services such as substance abuse assistance, teen dating violence

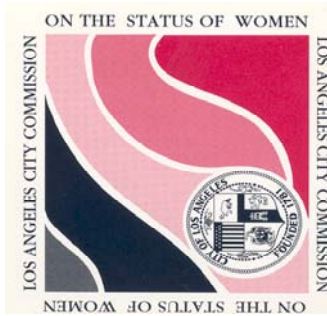
hotlines and shelters, medical clinics, maternity housing, counseling services, and employment assistance services throughout the greater Los Angeles area.

The new and exciting YWAR Lounge features the creativity and talents of empowered young women, and allows students to post comments.



Visit ywar.typepad.com

LA Woman



**Los Angeles City
Commission on the Status of Women**

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**Next Board Meeting December 7, 2007
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

Location: City Hall
Room 1050

The Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women was established by ordinance by the City Council and Mayor in 1975. In 1980, the Commission was made a permanent department of City government.

The Commission assists in assuring to all women the opportunity for full and equal participation in the affairs of City government and promotes the general welfare of women in the Los Angeles community. The Commission is authorized to:

INFORM AND ADVISE the Mayor and City Council of the needs and problems of women in the City of Los Angeles, with special emphasis given to women in City government

INVESTIGATE problems and conditions affecting women adversely, and

RECOMMEND programs which offer to women in the City of Los Angeles, a greater opportunity and ability to pursue life choices without discrimination

PROPOSE methods of alleviating inequities in pay and job opportunities between men and women

PROMOTE awareness of changing life patterns, opportunities and responsibilities of women

MAINTAIN an active liaison with citizen groups concerned about identifying and removing obstacles to the development of a woman's full potential.

California Women's Law Center Honors Icons of Abortion Rights

Under increased security provided by the Los Angeles Police Department, the California Women's Law Center honored three of the most controversial and preeminent advocates for abortion rights last month at the annual Abby J. Leibman Pursuit of Justice Awards. The honorees were abortion provider Dr. LeRoy Carhart, Kathy Spillar, Executive Vice President of the Feminist Majority Foundation, and Jon O'Brien, President of Catholics for a Free Choice were honored for their significant contributions to the lives of women and girls.

"Today we have the honor of celebrating three people who have helped untold millions of women fulfill their constitutional

right to terminate a pregnancy, often at great risk to their own lives," said Katie Buckland, Executive Vice President of the California Women's Law Center and Vice President of the Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women.

"Whether by giving support to the religious among us who believe in abortion, by ensuring a safe path to the clinic door, or continuing to provide safe abortions in extremely hostile territory, Mr. O'Brien, Ms. Spillar and Dr. Carhart have taken the assault on choice personally."

Each year, the CWLC honors those who have made significant contributions to the lives of women and girls at the annual Abby J. Leibman Pursuit of Justice

Awards. Since its founding in 1989, the California Women's Law Center has used its expertise to address the societal and legal issues that perpetuate ongoing gender inequity, women's health issues, reproductive justice and violence against women. To learn more about the CWLC, please visit www.cwlc.org.



Left to right: O'Brien, Leibeman, Spillar, Carhart, and Buckland