

Westchester/Playa del Rey: Neighborhood Council will ignore DONE urging for third-party election arbitration this week

BY ROB WASSERMAN, The Argonaut, February 12, 2004

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa del Rey has turned down a recommendation that its election this week be arbitrated by a third party.

The City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) has suggested several times to the Neighborhood Council that a third party be selected to arbitrate the election Thursday, February 12th, but Neighborhood Council leaders have decided not to heed the advice of the city department.

Instead, the Neighborhood Council plans to arbitrate its own election Thursday and handle any challenges that might arise after the election.

"That's how it's stated in our bylaws," said board member and bylaws committee chair David Voss at a council meeting Tuesday, February 3rd.

"It's too late to rewrite our bylaws," said Voss.

Three representatives from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment attended the Neighborhood Council meeting Tuesday, February 3rd.

"We highly do not recommend you arbitrate your own election," said Jamiko Bell, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment senior project coordinator.

Voss replied that the Neighborhood Council would violate its own bylaws by not having its election committee arbitrate the election and handle any challenges to the election.

But Bell suggested that the Neighborhood Council could still follow the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment third-party arbitration recommendation.

"It's not too late for them to assign a third party to arbitrate their election," Bell said Monday, February 9th. "They could have their elections committee assign the third party. That way it would not violate their bylaws."

Despite the Neighborhood Council's plan not to have a third party arbitrate the election, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is supporting the council's election procedures.

Neighborhood Council president Gwen Vuchsas said the El Segundo Rotary Club would administer the election.

CANDIDATES — Thirty-two candidates are seeking 11 seats on the Westchester/Playa del Rey Neighborhood Council board Thursday.

