

August 20, 2002
Editor
Daily News

The Daily News editors finally “got it.” At the end of a recent editorial, they understood how powerful neighborhood councils could be if they could join together and support each other.

In fact, this is the essence of Los Angeles’ new system of independent, citywide neighborhood councils. Thank you Daily News!

Los Angeles is light years ahead of all of other cities in connecting neighborhood councils to their government, and in connecting them with each other. There is strength in unity, and power in communication.

Other cities are at the place where Los Angeles was until recently. If a neighborhood group wanted support from other groups for a crusade, they had to stuff and lick envelopes day and night, and spend hours on the telephone. That is changing.

Using a new communication network, 800 neighborhood council leaders were brought together in just a few short weeks at the Congress of Neighborhoods in the Valley. They came to the event as strangers with common goals, and left as friends pledged to help each other reach those goals.

This is the farsighted approach to neighborhood empowerment that Mayor Hahn and the City Council are promoting through the neighborhood councils.

For more information about neighborhood councils, call the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment toll-free at (866) LA HELPS.

Bill Christopher
President, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners
(323) 966-2610