

Letter to the Editor

Los Angeles Daily News

April 13, 2003

Nelson responds

Your recent editorial "Meaningless reform" (April 9) was a poorly crafted attempt to demean the city's new citywide system of neighborhood councils by highlighting the troubles of one neighborhood council.

The Van Nuys Neighborhood Council, which was mentioned in your editorial, is just one among 42 that have had elections. Van Nuys is having trouble getting started and understanding how people who represent the diversity of the area can get along. That's hardly cause to condemn the whole system.

To set the record straight, the city attorney had no problem with them reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and they did. Contrary to your editorial, there wasn't a secret vote or discussion by the governing board members to determine if the pledge should be recited.

We love Van Nuys. They are having troubles. We'll help them solve those problems as we have done in other neighborhoods across the city. It is my hope that the Daily News editors join us in trying to bring the community together, and not try and tear it apart.

Greg Nelson
General Manger
Department of Neighborhood Empowerment