



an insider look at city hall

# CITYWATCH

citywide edition

June 21, 2005  
Volume 3 Issue 5

**CityWatchToday**-Interesting times these. For Neighborhood Councils.

Consider the upcoming Congress of Neighborhoods. Among the morning breakout sessions, at this DONE-managed congress, is one where Neighborhood Councils will gather to discuss a plan to run their own congress.

The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment endorsed Jason Lyon's (Silver Lake NC) initiatives proposal. A move that would enable NCs to submit an initiative to the City Council and receive a file number. A move seen by some Councilmembers as more access than NCs are entitled to.

Earlier this week, a City Council committee voted to endorse full marriage equality for same sex couples. A first. The idea of the endorsement came from an NC.

In the mid-city area, a Neighborhood Council has come up with a Shared Parking idea for alleviating some of the City's parking crises. And, the same NC sent a pilot plan to their Transportation and Streets committee to get more of the City's hundreds of broken sidewalks fixed. It's called Pay-When-You-Sell.

Neighborhood Councils are becoming proactive advisors and sources of influence. It's making some folks uneasy. Find out how and why in this CityWatch.--Editor

### *Say What?*

*"This Congress promises to be a milestone."*

--Greg Nelson, DONE GM

## SLNC/G&L Caucus Prompt Action

# City Committee Endorses Marriage Equality for Same-Sex Couples

By Sara Epstein

The City Council's Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee, this week, endorsed marriage equality for same-sex couples. The action was a first for a Los Angeles City Council committee.

Prompted by a resolution from the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council, Councilmembers, Eric Garcetti and Jan Perry introduced a motion in May supporting State Assembly bill AB-19, the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act. The bill failed in the Assembly and Garcetti's motion was forwarded to the APH&A Committee with a recommendation by the Chief Legislative Analyst to receive and file. Normally that would have shelved the motion.

*Continued on Page 6. See "Equality"*

## Perspective

# BONC Indecision Disappoints on NC Initiatives File Number Issue

By Ken Draper

**How sad. The outgoing Board** of Neighborhood Commissioners had an opportunity to make a statement on the NC Initiatives proposal and passed. Why does this not surprise?

This most recent incarnation of the BONC has not distinguished itself in any obvious way. Over the last two years, they have certified 13 councils with mixed results. They have heard numerous reports on dysfunctional NCs ... that is to say, councils unable to serve their stakeholders ... and decertified no one. Meeting agendas have featured reports on councils seemingly incapable of holding a legal election, but have to date taken no action. They held an abbreviated "retreat" in January that produced only suggestions and promises. The BONC, by ordinance, is here to set policy, certify and decertify and approve bylaws amendments. Their effort at a policy manual has yet to come to fruition.

At the June 7 BONC meeting, the Commissioners discussed Jason Lyon's (Silver Lake NC) proposal that Neighborhood Councils have a shot at providing proactive advice to City Hall by allowing them to send an initiative to the City Clerk and receive a City Council File number and ultimately a committee referral. In spite of the fact that this issue has the support of the DONE, 19 Neighborhood Councils (an estimated 25 or more by mid-July) and the Valley Alliance, the Board couldn't muster up support for the proposal. Worse, they couldn't make a decision. No vote was taken.

*Continued on Page 7. See "Perspective"*

**Report: Congress of NCs and why this one is unique-Pg 3**

Guest Commentary

# Fixing LA's Sidewalks: Dr. Sidewalk Has an Idea

*Here's one man's way to repair sidewalks, beautify neighborhoods, increase property values, and create jobs!*

*By Julie Butcher*

*It's about jobs! It's about economic development! It's about keeping kids safe! It's about enhanced property values! It's about fixing LA's sidewalks!*



About 4,600 miles of the 10,000 miles of sidewalks in Los Angeles need repair or replacement. Because the city has limited funds for this work, it usually makes only temporary repairs or does nothing at all.

In the past several years, the City has finally started building, repairing & replacing sidewalks; this year we did 52 miles; next year we're slated to fix 92 miles.

Councilmember Wendy Greuel tested an innovative 50-50 experiment in her Second Council District, leveraging sidewalk funds to double their number by sharing the cost with volunteer homeowners. There's a waiting list! Greuel's 50-50 program is available in all council districts on July 1.

Broken sidewalks are dangerous for pedestrians and expensive for taxpayers.  
*Continued on Page 9. See "Sidewalks"*

Parking Solutions

## Shared Parking: A Concept Who's Time Has Come

By Ryan Snyder

Ever wonder how older retail districts that were built before parking codes can survive? How can people living in pre-WWII apartments find parking when their buildings have none? How can we bring down the cost of new apartment units? And, how can we develop new, vibrant commercial areas? Shared parking can address all of these issues and Los Angeles could benefit by embracing the concept.

Often the amount of parking available in older neighborhoods built before parking codes won't meet demand. Retail areas in these neighborhoods lose shoppers to newer developments and residents compete for limited spaces.

Merchants Share with the Community

The Mid City WEST Community Council has been working with property owners and merchants along Fairfax and Melrose Avenues to better use existing parking. We recently surveyed the inventory of parking at different times and uncovered a significant number of empty parking spaces. Many stores need parking during the day. Restaurants use more at night. By pooling our parking spaces merchants can have more parking without building new structures, and property owners can get revenue by placing empty parking spaces on the market.

*Continued on Page 8. See "Parking"*

## CITYWATCH

The E-Newsletter for LA's NC's

June 21, 2005

Volume 3 Issue 5

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CITYWATCH is published to encourage grassroots civic engagement through information, ideas and perspective.

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*“This Congress promises to be a milestone”-Greg Nelson*

## Congress Will be Unique: Issues, 2 Mayors, BONC Meet are Examples

By David Lowell

This **June 25 Congress of Neighborhoods** has some potential for the history books. How many others have featured visits by both the incoming and outgoing LA Mayor, a Board of Neighborhood Commissioners meeting and a Congress breakout session where NCs discuss taking over the Congress?

As of this writing, Mayor James Hahn ... who spent much of his time in office supporting and promoting Neighborhood Councils ... will provide a few retrospective moments for NCs in his breakfast speech and Mayor-Elect, Antonio Villaraigosa, could provide NCs with some reassurance and vision when he drops in in the afternoon.

### **Taking Over the Congress**

One of the most fascinating .. if not unusual ...gatherings on the Congress menu is the morning breakout session (Rm 406A) features discussion and planning for Neighborhood Councils to take over the direction of the Congress. Or, at least, a Congress.

More than 50 NC representatives, from more than 40 Councils, have participated in meetings this year, designed to craft a structure, format, bylaws and plan for an issues and networking Congress. Thus far, in their vision, a Senate-like body made up of official reps from participating NCs, would process and vote on citywide and regional issues.

### **Issues Communication Center**

Aside from this deliberative body, the focus of this congress would be an issues communications center that would function year around, tracking, researching and processing issues. It would also help facilitate future agreements with city departments and agencies ala the NC/DWP MOU.

“This Congress,” says DONE GM, Greg Nelson, promises to be a milestone in the evolution of the Neighborhood Councils system. It’s a chance for the Neighborhood Councils to decide if they are ready to stand together, speak with one voice, and play a meaningful role in determining the city’s agenda for the future.”

### **Mock Senate**

The Citywide Issues Group will dovetail to the NC Congress presentation with a mock “senate” discussion and debate the “Clean Money” system that promotes full-public campaign financing. That session begins at 12:15 (Room 406A and runs until 2 p.m.

Also different, and on the Congress program, a special meeting of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners featuring a discussion on successful methods and strategies for outreach to stakeholders. This is a first for the BONC, but offers an opportunity for Commissioner Pat Herrera Duran to champion one of her favorite causes: effective outreach that gets stakeholders involved.

An NC Presidents caucus and the Gay and Lesbian caucus are scheduled for the lunch break from 11a.m. to noon. ■

*(For more information on the Congress, consult your program or visit the DONE website: [www.lacityneighborhoods.com](http://www.lacityneighborhoods.com). For more information, or to participate in the LA Neighborhood Council Congress, visit: [www.LANCCongress.org](http://www.LANCCongress.org))*

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# NC WATCH

## NC Election Spectacular

# Greater Wilshire Sets a Record in Voters, Ballots and Animosity

By Ken Draper

The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council threw an election last week and half of LA came. Or, so it seemed. The Council set a record for voters, with 2,245 and resulting from a complex system where voters actually cast multiple ballots, set a record for ballots cast with an astonishing 29,886. A record that may never be equaled.

The GWNC may have also set a record for participant animosity. The lengthy pre and post certification history is filled with divisiveness, accusations, boycotts and name calling. The group was certified in December of 2003 but divisions within the group postured for months looking for election procedures that favored their interests. One of the parties sued the City after the DONE was forced to take over the election. He claimed, among other things, that the bylaws were being violated and that DONE was not noticing the community meetings properly.

### **“Racial War”**

The election itself was edgy and contentious. Before the first ballot box (there were six) had been opened, the email attack had begun. There were accusations of fraud, intimidation and name calling. One person called it “an all out racial war.”

Election was held on June 16. Elections results were not available until late on Monday, June 20. The ballot volume simply overwhelmed the volunteer counters and the process had to be moved downtown and turned over to hired temps. As of today, no word on any challenges being filed.

### **Hard Part Ahead**

For the good folks, now elected and about to position themselves in the board trenches of Greater Wilshire, the election experience may prove to have been but a tiny bump on the Neighborhood Council road. At least, as compared to the task of bringing these two disparate and contentious sides together in a way that will allow the Greater Wilshire stakeholders to finally be served. ■

## Challenge Outcome

### **HRC Allows CSPNC Election to Stand**

In response to a challenge filed by two former board members, the Human Relations Commission found this week, that the challenge did not hold up and let the Coastal San Pedro May election results stand.

The former CSPNC Secretary and Treasurer, Cathy Beauregard and Russell Moilov, had offered six issues in their challenge: Vague election postings; selective slate, lack of notice, lack of signs, lack of stakeholder information and an attempt to keep union workers from voting. HRC rejected all six claims but did suggest that the contention that International Longshore and Warehouse Union members were told they couldn't vote was “cause for concern” and suggested that the CSPNC Board revisit the issue within 60 days. ■

## CITYWATCH *DayPlanner*



### Congress Of Neighborhoods *“Taking it to the Next Level”*

**June 25, 2005**

Los Angeles Convention Center  
South Hall – 400 Series

### Schedule

**7:30 a.m.**  
Registration

**9:30 a.m.**  
Breakout Sessions

**11 a.m.**  
Lunch Break/Caucuses

**12 n**  
Breakout Sessions

**2:10 p.m.**  
Closing Session  
Prize Drawing

*(Advance registration and  
more program info at:  
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**Next  
CityWatch  
July 5**

**Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!**

## CITYWATCH *Briefly Noted*

### N'hoods Get Video Conferencing

**Councilman Greig Smith's motion** to make Video Conferencing available the LA's neighborhoods is scheduled for final City Council approval this month.

The idea is to use each of the seven citywide neighborhood service centers as a convenient location for residents to give input to the City Council on matters that affect them and their communities, without having to make the long drive downtown.

The first video conferencing pilot will happen at the Van Nuys City Hall. It will then be rolled out to the other neighborhoods. ♦♦♦

### Tolucans Pack Town Hall Meet

**An overflow crowd** of more than a hundred residents jammed the Rio Vista School auditorium in North Hollywood recently to debate the hot-button issue of development in the Greater Toluca Lake area.

The area's master plan and by-right laws that empower apartment developers were the focus of the controversy.

The event was sponsored by the Greater Toluca Lake NC and two other community organizations. ♦♦♦

### LAFD and Discrimination

**Councilmembers Perry and Zine** have asked the LA Fire Department to ensure that its management policies and practices prevent gender and racial discrimination.

The motion asks that LAFD policies are consistent with the following six points:

1. Make discipline fair, consistent and commensurate to the offense.
2. Severely discipline repeat offenders.
3. Hold officers and executive management accountable for work environment issues.
4. Develop a training program for first line supervisors regarding human resource management issues prior to their appointment.
5. Provide on-going training in the areas of sexual harassment, gender bias, retaliation, and hostile work environment.
6. Encourage and promote diversity in upper level management. ♦♦♦

**CityWatch**  
**Know More!**

## Misleading NC/DWP MOU Newspaper Story Sets Off Flap at City Hall

By Ken Draper

The Valley's Daily News newspaper, long with an agenda where the Department of Water and Power is concerned, published a story earlier this month claiming that the DWP had "broken its promise" and violated its recently signed agreement with Neighborhood Councils.

That was followed a day later with an editorial blistering the utility and sub-headed, "Rate hike is just another City Hall betrayal of Los Angeles' neighborhoods."

### Sets Off Flap

Both pieces were strong on implication and short on accuracy, but none-the-less, set off a flap at City Hall worthy of the discovery of an honest-to-god smoking gun.

After reading the first story, Councilmember Janice Hahn sprung into action and put forward a motion summoning DWP General Manager, Ron Deaton to appear before her Education and Neighborhoods committee and explain himself.

The essence of the two reports was the claim that in including a rate increase in their 2005-2006 budget proposal, the DWP had violated the 90-day advance notice provision of the NC/DWP MOU and had failed to the City Council requirement that an independent third party audit precede any rate increase request. Neither claim was true.

### NCs and DWP on Same Side

For the first time in months, the Neighborhood Councils and the DWP found themselves on the same side of the table, explaining that nothing had been violated yet and that the DWP had done everything they agreed to do and more. In fact, Hahn was told, the DWP told NCs about the rate increase at its NC Budget Workshop last December and that the 90-day notice applies to the submission of a rate increase proposal to City Council, not the submission of the budget to the DWP Board.

The Daily News followed the E&N hearing with a story headed, "Local Councils, DWP Making Up." That too came as a surprise to most NCs, not having been aware of an NC-DWP tiff in the first place. ■

## CITYWATCH Coming Attractions

- √ Details on the Trash Talk  
Coming out of the NW Valley
- √ Story Behind the Other MOUs ...  
And Why they Haven't Moved Forward
- √ Will the IZ Ordinance Ever Resurface?  
... to a computer near you.

## We've Got Mail

### Negotiating the Brown Act: A Different Take

It looks to me like there is a lot of interest in changing the Brown Act. Maybe it's the requirement of the 72 hour notice of an agenda.

Instead of trying to get around this by changing the law, I suggest a simple solution: send all new business voted worthy of consideration by the board to a committee for research and agendizing. Then the committee is acting under the direction of the board and can present its findings, with or without having conducted a public hearing at the committee level, at a properly scheduled public meeting of the board at which public testimony may be given. If the committee oversteps its bounds and takes a partisan position it will be exposed at the public meeting.

#### Put Weight on Board

Most important, though, following this procedure puts the weight of decision making squarely on the shoulders of the board, where it belongs.

In conclusion I want to say it is my personal belief that the more NC's can conduct themselves as public forums, the more useful the NC's will be to the city and the more satisfaction citizens will derive from their NC's.

--DeDe Audet  
Venice

### NCs 101: Political Savvy

There is absolutely no question that this administration does not hold the NCs in anywhere near the regard that James Hahn did. And I agree completely, the NCs are likely to be JH's most lasting legacy. That having been said, I was, am, and continue to be an enthusiastic supporter of Antonio Villaraigosa as the better man to be sitting in the Mayor's office, and also believe that the City will be a better place for this fact.

#### Out of the Doom

But within this scenario of doom for the NCs, there is something that has the potential to be equally as important in terms of their development. Specifically, learning to be political savvy --- whereby their "advice" is to be ignored at the peril of the electeds and other City officials (not anywhere near the situation today).

To my way of thinking, it was massively important for there to be a wide-eyed advocate in the form of the Mayor in order to get the system up and running. JH has been that. And here we are --- warts and all --- running.

But, if we don't learn to become politically savvy, and to be effective players on one of the most high-stakes

**Continued Next Column**



## Villaraigosa

### NC Report Card

- √ Mentioned in 1<sup>st</sup> Exec Summary-**NO**
- √ Mentioned in Holly Chamber Speech-**YES**
- √ NC Reps on Transition Team-**YES**
- √ Support in DWP/Rate Flap-**YES**
- √ Appearance at NC Congress-  
**As of 6/23, MAYBE**

#### Mail-Continued from previous column

chess games in the world (with us in the role of lowly pawns), we'll never be much more than window dressing. And the role of window dressing is not my idea of effective neighborhood advocates.

#### What the Doctor Ordered

So it is quite possible that our less-than-enthusiastic-about-NCs Mayor might be just what the doctor ordered in order to force the NCs to become politically savvy --- because we're going to have to be able to outmaneuver him in order to continue the growth of our effectiveness.

Bottom line, I hope you'll consider this, and use your bully pulpit of CityWatch to help nurture politically savvy NCs into being.

—Paul Waters  
Studio City



*(Letters to CityWatch may be edited for brevity and/or clarity. Send you thoughts to: [LACityWatch@aol.com](mailto:LACityWatch@aol.com))*

#### Marriage Equality-Continued from Page 1

On Tuesday, members of the LA Gay and Lesbian Caucus showed up at City Hall and urged the put off the filing and to amend Garcetti's motion to express support for full marriage equality for same-sex couples. Committee members Tom LaBonge and Alex Padilla were convinced, added the endorsement to the motion and then added the item to the State Legislative Program in perpetuity.

"This is huge," says Silver Lake Co-Chair, Jason Lyon, "while the City Council has long been supportive of domestic partner rights, they have never voted to expressly endorse marriage equality."

The matter now must come before City Council. Best estimates say that will happen in the next few weeks. ■

## Perspective-Continued from Page 1

At the suggestion of Commissioner Lucente, Commissioner Christopher made a non-committal motion saying that the Board "...has indicated a general level of support for empowering Neighborhood Councils and for clarifying the procedure by which Neighborhood Councils communicate with ...departments in the city, including the City Council." The motion was neither seconded nor withdrawn. Instead, Board President, Ron Stone, questioned the wisdom of a motion and directed the Board Executive Secretary to draft a letter to the Education and Neighborhood Committee summarizing their discussion. Yea or nay on the issue, another opportunity to take a stand evaporated into the ether.

Christopher supported the idea, "I, again, really support the idea of having the Neighborhood Councils have the ability to communicate directly to the City Council."

### Commissioners with Reservations

Stone and Lucente had reservations. Lucente: "I just wonder if we are ready for this." Stone: "I do have questions about the initiation of council (files by Neighborhood Councils). We already have in place Community Impact Statements."

Commissioner Herrera Duran came down somewhere in the middle: "I'm glad that this is happening now, but I do have some concerns."

The essence of the dissenter's "concerns" was whether Neighborhood Councils are "ready for this." Which generates a list of questions and concerns of its own. Short list: Who is to decide when NCs are ready? How many more MOUs and actions must citywide NCs come up with before they are ready? Were the Colonies-to-be "ready" for democracy when the Declaration was signed? Does the BONC, which spends the entirety of its meeting time listening to whiners and reports on the city's 10 dysfunctional Neighborhood Councils, have a realistic perspective on the readiness of the dozens of successful, functional and productive councils?

### What Does "Not Ready" Mean?

And, of course, there is the question of what "not ready" means. Lucente was concerned that certain groups, as in homeowners, might control certain NCs and could potentially use the Initiatives measure to promote an agenda. On the same theme, another commissioner says that not all NCs are inclusive. Might we wonder then, if either of those premises are true, why the BONC certified them? Or, better still, why they haven't decertified them?

Then there is the argument that some of the "not ready" councils could flood the Clerk with frivolous and foolish initiatives. Possible. But, whether a proposal ever hits the committee agenda is still in the hands of the committee chair. Anyway, have you looked lately? The City Council itself is not without its share of silly motions.

### "How Much More Are We Going to Give Them?"

"Not ready" to some also means, not ready to gain any more power to influence. Anymore power to keep track of the accountability meter. As one City Council Deputy said, "How much more are we going to give them?"

Why is this File Number issue so important to Neighborhood Councils? One answer is: Why not? Why not allow NCs to become proactive advisors. Why not allow NCs to continue to experiment and to grow to the full potential of the Charter mandate?

"It's the ability to ensure that issues that are important to (NCs) make it to the table," says Greg Nelson.

**Continued Next Column**

## City Hall: We've Gotcha Covered !!

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**Cont from previous column**

"Regardless of how definitively the City Charter ... states it," he says further, "there is little argument that one of the expectations that people have of the Neighborhood Councils is that they become effective at holding their elected officials accountable."

It is a certainty: The makeup of this current Board of Neighborhood Commissioners will change in a few weeks. Some, if not all, of the Commissioners will be different. The Board dynamic will change. This NC Initiatives issue was, in effect, one last opportunity for this Board to make a statement ... of any kind ... that might define it or distinguish it. But, the fact that they chose not to and, instead, chose to send an innocuous letter to the Education and Neighborhoods Committee, supporting neighborhood empowerment in general but taking no stand on the issue at hand, may, in the end, be the most appropriate statement (read: epitaph) for this edition of the BONC. ■

## Parking-continued from Page 2

Private arrangements can be made between businesses whereby merchants rent empty spaces for their employees, for valet parking or for customer parking. Larger lots can offer attended public parking. The Los Angeles Unified School District has agreed to open their 100+ space Fairfax High School lot during specific evenings and weekend times when they don't need the parking. This will benefit merchants along both Fairfax and Melrose. Attendants will manage the lot and Fairfax High hopes to gain some revenue.

### NC Goes in Search of Tenant Parking

The Mid City WEST Community Council also surveyed property owners along Wilshire Boulevard and discovered hundreds of parking spaces available for tenants to rent who live in older apartment buildings constructed without parking. The tenants get parking and the property owners gain revenue. It's a win-win.

The cost of new development can be dramatically reduced through in lieu fees that go towards new shared structures, rather than building parking at each new building. This could go a long way in making new housing less costly to build. Shared parking also enlivens streets by putting people on sidewalks, making our streets safer and more commercially viable. Shared parking won't work everywhere. But it is an underutilized strategy that deserves more consideration. ■

*(Ryan Snyder is President of Ryan Snyder Associates, an urban planning firm. He was Vice President of the LA Board of Transportation Commissioners from 1993-1994. He Chairs the Transportation, Parking and Streetscape Committee on the Mid City WEST Community Council.)*

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Photo by Donovan Marshall

## E&N Cancelled



### File # Motion Likely in July


The motion, permitting NC initiatives to receive City Council File #s was scheduled to be heard again in the Education and Neighborhoods Committee on June 21. That E&N meeting was cancelled.

It is now likely that the File #'s motion (05-0575) will be heard on In E&N on July 21. ■

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## Sidewalks-Continued from Page 2

### ***Point-of-Sale Plan***

Other cities require owners to repair the sidewalk before they sell their property. In the point-of-sale case, owners pay for sidewalk repairs when they cash out their real estate profits, which is often when they are leaving the city.

LA's blue-collar workers have been working with Dr. Donald Shoup of UCLA (we call him Dr. Sidewalk) to come up with a plan to fix LA's sidewalks.

### ***Point-of-Sale Strategy***

City workers will fix sidewalks, affordably, and homeowners can pay for these repairs when they sell their homes.

Before real estate is sold, the city inspects the sidewalk fronting the property. If the sidewalk is in good condition, the owner is not required to do anything. If the sidewalk is damaged, the owner is required to repair it before the property is sold.

Beyond improving sidewalks, the point-of-sale strategy has several advantages. Owners don't have to pay anything until they sell their property. The sale provides the cash to pay for required repairs. Owners fix only the sidewalk on their own property. Improved sidewalks increase the value of property and may persuade owners to make repairs early.

### ***Sold Once a Decade***

Half of all properties are sold at least once every decade. Because the turnover rate is about the same all over the city, sidewalks will be repaired at about the same rate. These repairs cost the city nothing. In fact, the city saves money because better sidewalks reduce the number of trip-and-fall lawsuits.

**Did you know that if you call in a request for sidewalk repair today that the Bureau of Street Services will be out to fix your sidewalk in 83 years?**

Half of what the City will spend this year paying off "trip-and-fall" lawsuits can serve as seed money to start. Given the rate at which houses change hands in LA, a revolving fund could build quickly.

### ***Economic Development Benefits***

Shoup, Chair of Urban Planning at UCLA, estimates that in the first year of a point-of-sale program, **460 miles of sidewalks would be repaired, total local wages would increase \$102 million, and 2,600 new jobs would be created with average wages and benefits of \$39,000.**

City workers in the Bureau of Street Services can make the required sidewalk repairs for a fee that recovers costs. Compliance with the repair-at-sale regulation will not impose an unnecessary regulatory burden on property owners if the Bureau takes care of all the permits, repairs and inspections. The cost can be secured by a lien, and the City can be paid from the escrow proceeds at sale.

The City of Los Angeles has been cited as one of the nation's most dangerous places for pedestrians. The repair-at-sale program will provide the needed investment in sidewalk repair and keep Los Angeles on its feet. ■

*(Julie Butcher heads the Service Employees International Union 347.)*

**NC may become pilot for Dr. Shoup's plan. See next column**

## NC Likes Plan

On May 17, the Mid City WEST Community Council's Transportation, Parking and Streetscape Committee entertained a presentation on sidewalks-at-sale by Donald Shoup and Julie Butcher, SEIU Local 347.

Butcher asked for the committee's help in vetting issues and identifying the potential pitfalls. By the conclusion of the committee meeting, a motion supporting the concept and proposing Mid City WEST as a pilot area for testing the Pay-at-Sale Sidewalk Repair Plan had passed unanimously.

### ***Motion Considered***

The motion was considered by the entire Council Board last week. According to a member of the Neighborhood Council, "Mid City WEST rejected the Pay-at-Sale Sidewalk motion because it was too broad and simply 'urged' the city to create a 'mechanism' for implementing the pilot program.

"They like the program, however, and voted to send the project back to committee to develop more detail and then partner with SEIU, and others, to push the program thru the Public Works Committee and City Council."

## Make Contact!

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