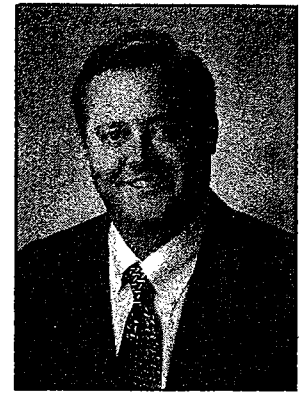


## legislative

By James B. Clarke, Local  
Government Relations Manager

Become a Decision Maker in L.A. City!

# Local Legislative Review



I hope that many of you in L.A. are involved with your local Neighborhood Council. It is one of the best ways you can help your industry. If you are not, here is a way you might be able to participate.

The City of L.A. is beginning the recruitment of volunteers for special training sessions that will help Neighborhood Councils with their elections. Trained volunteers will serve on a small panel of "final decision makers" and will decide Neighborhood Council election challenges.

After a year of endeavor, a working group comprised mainly

of Neighborhood Council representatives from across the city teamed with staff from the Department of Neighborhood Em-

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***We are making some headway; however, there are still 58 families or individuals who were displaced by the gulf hurricanes and living in shelters here in the greater Los Angeles area. If you have an apartment unit that you are willing to provide for a discounted rent to an evacuee from Hurricanes Katrina or Rita, please register your unit by calling Suzette at 213-808-8648.***

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powerment, the offices of the City Clerk and City Attorney, and the League of Women Voters to cre-

ate a new set of rules for how Neighborhood Councils plan and conduct elections.

The procedures, approved by the City Council, are designed to balance the City Charter guarantee – that each Neighborhood Council is able to determine its own method of choosing its members and that the business of a Neighborhood Council is conducted in an open and fair manner.

It was the desire of the working group that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

be able to act as neither an independent election administrator nor a final decision maker. Very shortly, Neighborhood Council stakeholders will have the opportunity to resolve the election challenges of other Neighborhood Councils. In accordance with the new procedures, the department will soon be creating a pool of those residents who wish to serve on the "final decision maker" panels. The details will be forthcoming. Questions can be directed to the department election specialists at [done.election@lacity.org](mailto:done.election@lacity.org).

In many ways, the Neighborhood Councils are independent from City Hall and are becoming more and more powerful. This could be very helpful to our industry – especially if property owners participate. As many of you know, all politics is local. Neighborhood Councils are a great way for AAGLA members to boost our grassroots strength and political clout.