



an insider look at city hall

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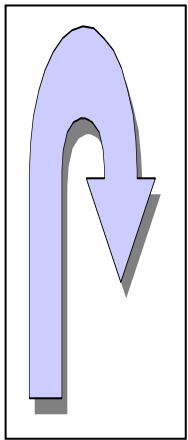
CityWatch Special Report

DONE Does U-Turn. Agrees to Full LANCC Participation in June Forum

Asst DONE GM: 'Problem was just a misunderstanding'

By David Lowell

The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment reversed itself today and restored all of the pieces to the LA NC Congress participation in the June 17 Congress of Neighborhoods. The reason for the glitch, says DONE Assistant GM, Lisa Sarno, was some miscommunication.



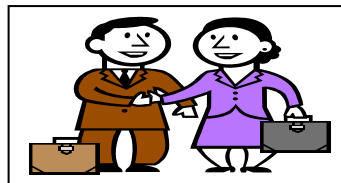
For those of you who stepped out of the room for a bit, here's some back story. The DONE scheduled the next Congress of Neighborhoods for June 17. The NC Congress (LANCC) asked to participate again, as it had last year. General Manager Greg Nelson gave the OK. A LANCC representative participated in the planning sessions for the June event.

Now comes the resignation of Mr. Nelson followed instantly by more active participation in the DONE decision-making by Deputy Mayor, Larry Frank. The LANCC representative calls to reconfirm participation in the June event and is told his name is no longer on the welcome list. Discussion ensues. Mr. Frank agrees to a room but none of the other usual courtesies that

accompany participation, like being mentioned in the program so attendees might find their way to their room.

Sensing an attempt by the Mayor's office to make them invisible, the LANCC leadership fired off a letter to His Honor looking for relief. It came today with DONE's agreement to not only provide a room for the event, but listing on the program and in the pre-registration materials. They also agreed to space at the hospitality table outside of the main room and table in the Trades Showroom, if space is available.

Sarno said the LANCC-DONE misunderstanding was the result of miscommunication within the department and then between DONE and the LANCC. It was not an attempt to derail or diminish the new NC Congress.



Leonard Shaffer, LANCC Chairman, says he's "Gratified by all of the support we saw from individuals and Neighborhood Councils and I'm pleased that it turned out to be nothing more than a misunderstanding."

Nothing provokes and unites Neighborhood Councils like being ignored or treated as though they are insignificant. It was that perception that fueled the NC demand for an agreement with the DWP. Northridge West President, Jim Alger, who sparked the DWP rate increase

See next column

CityWatch Today—This is a **Special Report** and a **Preview** of the April 20 CityWatch ... due out tomorrow.

The DONE and the LA NC Congress have reached an agreement on participation in the June 17 Congress of Neighborhoods. That break-in story, and an opportunity to provide a preview of the upcoming and chockfull April 20 CityWatch are the reasons for this **Special Edition**.

Next CityWatch— Due out tomorrow, Friday—includes:

- Encino Board Officers own story
- Review Commission will Have NC Reps
- Council File # Gets Good Hearing
- Analysis: NC Congress – DONE Resolution
- NCs & Mayor's Office: Issues Remain Unresolved
- Hot New NC Issue: Saving Animals

revolt two years ago, was back in the fray again, demanding a boycott of the June Congress. Other NC leaders urged picketing or demonstrations.

Whatever the motivation, the LANCC letter to the Mayor, the call for a boycott, the growing restlessness of NC or simply the discovery by the DONE and Frank that they may have erred, both sides appeared happy that the brief skirmish had been resolved and everyone was ready to make nice again. ■