
The Valley model

MAYOR Richard Riordan's plan to appoint at least three San Fernando Valley residents to the commission overseeing the newly created Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is more than a gesture of good will to help prevent Los Angeles from splitting into two or more pieces.

More significantly, it is recognition by the city's highest elected official that the Valley has much to offer all residents of Los Angeles, in terms of carrying out Riordan's priorities for his remaining 23 months in office.

The department, as outlined in the City Charter that was overwhelmingly approved by the voters in June, will set

up and coordinate the system of neighborhood councils. Those citizen panels will have a hand in determining the makeup of their communities that everyone hopes will lead to an overall improvement in public safety, quality of life and business climate.

When it comes time to select the members of the panel — and we hope the City Council will get to it expeditiously — Riordan will find a long list of Valley residents from which to choose.

No group of people in the city knows more about empowering neighborhoods than the one residing north of Mulholland.
