

Follow the bouncing good neighbor prize

FOR his community activism and work fighting graffiti, Gary Hendrickson of North Hollywood was honored by Assemblyman Richard Katz, D-Panorama City, with a Good Neighbor award.

But Hendrickson says he'll hand over the award to someone he believes is "more qualified" — William Masters, the aspiring actor-screenwriter who shot two taggers Jan. 31, killing one of them.



Tipoff

By Rick Orlov

Hendrickson plans to present his award to Masters at a Neighborhood Watch meeting this week. He said Masters deserves recognition not for shooting taggers, but for trying to do something about graffiti vandalism.

"I don't believe in guns. I don't believe in violence," Hendrickson said.

"I think (Masters) found himself in a predicament, and fortunately he was prepared for it."

Katz, whose district has a heavy Latino population, was not pleased with Hendrickson's decision.

"I'm against graffiti as much as anyone," Katz said. "I just don't think shooting somebody is being a good neighbor. I think it shows a lot of disrespect to the group that nominated him."

The decision by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office against charging Masters with murder or manslaughter in the incident caused

The anti-war radical days of state Sen. Tom Hayden are long behind him, but his desire to shake up government hasn't ebbed a bit.

Hayden is looking to hire a second aide to help in "identifying and investigating scandal and wrongdoing by the area's governmental agencies that harm the people," according to a job application his office sent out last week.

Last year, Hayden hired a former newspaper reporter to help him in his review of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Now he says he wants someone to assist in that and also organize residents to fight whatever corruption his office uncovers. Pay for the job is up to \$40,000 a year.

Sandy Brown, deputy chief of staff to Hayden, said the person hired also will help in district matters. "We only have a staff of five for a district with 850,000 people," Brown said.

Los Angeles City Councilman Joel Wachs also is looking to begin organizing constituents into a series of neighborhood councils across the city, as he promised in his unsuccessful run for mayor two years ago.

Last week, Wachs and his chief deputy, Greg Nelson, flew to St. Paul, Minn., to witness first-hand how such councils operate. They paid for the trip out of Wachs' officeholder account.

Part of the problem in drawing comparisons, however, is that the city of St. Paul has a total of 250,000 people — nearly half of what is in one Los Angeles council district.

Nelson said they also learned that Californians are not particularly welcome in the Midwest and that civic pride runs strong.

"In talking to one of the councils,

City Controller Rick Tuttle learned how dramatically the city's cutback in workers has affected services.

Tuttle and a group of city workers who park in City Hall found themselves padlocked in the garage when they tried to leave at 5:30 one night last week.

"That shouldn't have happened," he said. John Cotti, assistant director in the Department of General Services. "Normally, we keep that door open until 11 p.m., but because we have four or five vacancies, we've been closing it earlier. But it should be open at least until 7 p.m."

Cotti said the department is looking to fill the vacancies to accommodate the City Hall workaholics.