

Date: February 7, 2002

To: Neighborhood Council Leaders

From: Greg Nelson, General Manager, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

ELECTION HELP

Within a few days, we hope to have a list of ways in which the department can help certified Neighborhood Councils with their first elections. These will include assistance in complying with the requirements of the City Charter and the ordinances, and advice on how to avoid pitfalls that might give someone an opportunity to protest and invalidate your election. We don't want to go through another Florida.

CERTIFICATION UPDATE

Certified:

Wilmington, Coastal San Pedro, Glassell Park, West Hills.

Scheduled for hearings:

Central San Pedro, Northwest San Pedro, Feb 12, 6:30 p.m., Banning's Landing, 100 East Water Street, Wilmington.

West Adams, Mid City, Feb 19, 6:30 p.m., Vineyard Recreation Center, 2942 Vineyard Ave., Los Angeles 90016.

Hollywood Hills West, Franklin-Hollywood Hills, Hollywood Alliance, February 26, 3:30 p.m., Selma Avenue Elementary School, 6611 Selma Avenue, Hollywood.

Pacoima, Woodland Hills-Warner Center, March 6, 6:30 p.m., Location to be confirmed.

After that there are 35 other applications being processed. A couple may drop off the list because there are some areas where there are two applications for the same area, and they might still come together a present a single unified application.

A complete list is available upon request.

GRANT WORKSHOPS

Some neighborhood council leaders were unable to attend the grant workshop that was held recently at CSUN. We did some checking, and found that the next workshop probably won't be until summer. We'll hope they give us more advance notice this time.

UTLA

I met with the United Teachers of Los Angeles, and they are very anxious to participate in helping neighborhood councils flourish. They have an amazing ability through their newsletters, teachers, Web site, and other means to communicate with stakeholders. We'll be directing the individual teachers toward the neighborhood councils in which they live and work. And we'll be working with the union on matters that affect the entire system.

HELPFUL HINTS

I can't reach the minds of the members of the Board of Commissioners who must certify the neighborhood council applications. But, from time-to-time, I try to help you with inspired thoughts.

Everyone hopes that a unified application will result in those areas where two groups have applied for the same area. If not, the Board will have to make a decision. Some applicants seem to think that getting "endorsements", or showing up to the hearing with more people than the other applicant will help their case. Some think that the Board will end up choosing one group over another.

My best guess is that the Board will put all or most of its emphasis on setting the most appropriate boundaries, and selecting the bylaws and election procedures that will produce the fairest, most open, and most inclusive election. It's important to remember that the results of any fair election are unknown beforehand. One group could, in fact, dominate the election, but it might not be the group whose bylaws were selected. Or the election could produce a governing board of unknowns, or a mix of everyone.

POLICIES

Because people are always been added to this mailing list, it's often difficult to know who may have missed out on some of the earlier newsletters. Whatever you missed can be sent to you upon request.

Of special interest are: Restricted Voting on 1-10-02, and Governing Board Models on 1-31-02.