

Date: February 8, 2004

To: Neighborhood Council Leaders

From: Greg Nelson, General Manager, Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment

Subject: FORM 700 EXEMPTION APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL TODAY.
FUNDING PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT APPROVED BY E&N COMMITTEE.
THE \$100,000 STREET SERVICES PLAN ANNOUNCED. LOS ANGELES
MAYORAL DEBATE RECAP.

FORM 700 EXEMPTION APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL TODAY

The proposal to exempt Neighborhood Council board members from filing out the financial disclosure reports (aka Form 700) was unanimously approved by the City Council today during its second and final vote. It goes to the Mayor for signature.

FUNDING PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT APPROVED BY E&N COMMITTEE

On Tuesday, February 1, the Education and Neighborhoods Committee unanimously approved the proposal to allow Neighborhood Councils to use its city money to make grants to individuals or nonprofit organizations. Next, it goes to the full City Council.

THE \$100,000 STREET SERVICES PLAN ANNOUNCED

Yesterday, Mayor Hahn announced his plan to allow each Neighborhood Council with an elected board to determine how \$100,000 worth of street repairs should be spent.

Let me clarify some of the information about this that you might have read in the papers or heard through the grapevine.

The money comes from new Gas Tax money that can only be used for things like street repairs. It can't be used for more police officers.

The money will not be transferred to each Neighborhood Council's budget. That wouldn't make any sense, because it would have to be sent right back to the Bureau of Street Services. Each Neighborhood Council will be asked to provide the Bureau of Street Services will a list of projects.

This plan would be part of the new city budget that the Mayor is developing. The budget requires City Council approval. It is not possible at this moment to state exactly when the Neighborhood Councils should start meeting. Street Services has produced 60 street assessment reports to Neighborhood Council, so their next step is to produce assessments for the remaining Neighborhood Councils.

This will provide each Neighborhood Council will helpful information about the condition of the streets in their area.

You can expect to learn more about this plan through the Neighborhood Council Federation meetings through the Mayor's Area Director for your Neighborhood Council.

What is especially interesting about this is that this will be the first time (that I can remember) that project priorities will be discussed and determined in a public setting.

LOS ANGELES MAYORAL DEBATE RECAP

If you were at the debate last night at CBS Television Center, you might have seen me there will a crew from Channel 35. As I had mentioned at a Citywide Alliance of Neighborhood Councils meeting a few weeks ago, we are taping footage for use in a "Making Of" show that we plan to show as part of the Neighborhood Café series.

To debunk one urban myth before it gets started, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, the City of Los Angeles, and I had no involvement in the organizing or sponsorship of the debate. The credit goes to the Citywide Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, CityWatch, KCBS (Channel 2), and KCAL (Channel 9). Something that you may not have known is that during the debate, a car chase broke out. To their credit, Channel 9 decided not to break into the debate or even use an insert box to show the chase. I was so impressed by this, and the fact that KCAL agreed to show the forum without commercial interruption, that I will be sending a personal note of appreciation to Paul Skolnick, Managing Editor, KCBS2 and KCAL9, at pdskolnick@cbs.com.

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