

Date: May 9, 2004

To: Neighborhood Council Leaders

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

Subject: CONGRESS – PRESIDENTS' AWARD? "NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MOTIONS" PROPOSAL PROGRESSES. NC MEMBERS MAY JOIN CITY CREDIT UNION. COOL IDEA #8 – LET THE PUBLIC SPEAK.

CONGRESS – PRESIDENTS' AWARD?

When the Neighborhood Council leaders gathered to discuss how to shape the next Congress of Neighborhoods on June 25, one idea that wasn't completely resolved was that of starting the process of giving special recognition to the most outstanding Neighborhood Council.

The idea was that the presidents of each Neighborhood Council would nominate and then vote on the winner, which would be recognized at the Congress. Having the presidents do the voting means that it could be done rather quickly, because we've never yet been able to figure out a way that all Neighborhood Council boards could meet, nominate, and vote.

What thinketh you about the idea?

"NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MOTIONS" PROPOSAL PROGRESSES

At the last meeting of the Education and Neighborhoods Committee, the idea (initiated by Jason Lyon of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council) of allowing City Council files to be created after a Neighborhood Council has taken an official position on a citywide initiative is expected to be discussed at the June 7 of the meeting after several city agencies prepare reports. It is Council File #05-0575, and it can be found on our home page.

NC MEMBERS MAY JOIN CITY CREDIT UNION

As you probably know by now, Neighborhood Council board members, heads of committees, and their families are eligible to join the Los Angeles City Federal Credit Union. Once you are a member, you are a member for life.

For further information, please call 1-800-252-4009 or visit the Credit Union's website at <http://www.lafcu.org>.

COOL IDEA #8 – LET THE PUBLIC SPEAK

Thanks for all those of you who submitted cool ideas for increasing public participation in your Neighborhood Council. Keep those cards and letters coming.

The Brown Act requires that there be a period of time at each meeting during which members of the public are allowed to speak on any item that isn't on the agenda, but which is within the jurisdiction of the group. In the case of Neighborhood Councils, that's just about any subject. Our commission calls it Public Forum time in order to distinguish it from the public comment time that must be allotted for each item on the agenda.

Your Neighborhood Council should decide if it wants to encourage people to come and speak their minds at their minds. If so -- if it wants to encourage public participation -- you may want to schedule this part of the meeting first so that people can come, say what they have to say, and get on with their lives. That's the way the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners does it. They don't view this as a necessary evil.

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