



EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS WEST AREA NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Community Forum
April 15, 2008
3731 Stocker ♦ Los Angeles, CA 90008

Board Members In Attendance: Karen Ceasar, Michelle Colbert, Mary Darks, Jai Gaines, Lark Galloway-Gilliam, Damien Goodman, Tommy Plummer, Johnnie Raines, Phyllis Taylor, Charles Zacharie

Absent: Reatha Simon, Rev Lee Walker, Chris Shoaf

City Representatives: Charles Brown – District 8, Barry Stone- DONE, Valerie Shaw – Public Works

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:40 pm by the chair, Lark Galloway-Gilliam. Lark announced due to a failure to post the agenda as required by the Brown Act – no business could be conducted by the community forum portion of the meeting would go forward..

Public Comment:

- Kevin Fridlington, a member of the Crenshaw Community Advisory Committee reported the city is reviewing a proposal calling for the consolidation of a number of community advisory committees in South Los Angeles and expressed concern for the loss of influence and participation for the Crenshaw/Leimert Park area. Kevin asked that the NC consider the matter at a future meeting.
- Mike Miller from California Green Works announced South Los Angeles Earth Day Festival in the Baldwin Hills Mall on April 27, 2008. Members of the community are encouraged to participate.
- Sylvia Jones announced the upcoming LALA Festival at Audubon Middle School on May 10th, 2008.
- Robert Rubio reported that the city had conducted an unprecedented inspection of all apartments in the village and expressed concern for the manner in which the inspections were conducted.
- Jai Gaines announced that a clean-up of Crenshaw Blvd and Leimert Village is scheduled for April 26th. Member of the community are encouraged to participate as a demonstration of community pride.
- Mary Darks announced a community forum will be held on Wednesday, April 23rd starting at 6:30pm at Hillcrest Elementary School to discuss gang prevention and an update on Marlton Square.
- Karen Cesear reported she was joined by Lark Galloway-Gilliam and Robert Rubio to meet with a reporter from the LA Times as follow-up to the NC meeting re Marlton Square. An article should be forth coming.

Public Forum

Valerie Shaw, Commissioner with city Public Works provided an overview of the street services conducted within the recent years and the schedule of upcoming services. Ms. Shaw reported that due to the city's budget deficit, it was unclear what level of city tree trimming and street repair services would be available for the next three years. Ms. Shaw provided maps by street of all planned and completed services including sidewalk repairs, street resurfacing, etc.. Mr. Washington of the Sutro Avenue Block Club expressed concern for the disrepair of the streets following work on the street. Ms. Shaw indicated that the city only repairs streets with black top. Robert Rubio expressed concern that the medians along Leimert do not have proper irrigation. Kevin Fridlington expressed interest in working with the department to develop a master plan for the trees in the area. Members of the public also pointed to the lack of irrigation along LaBrea .

Ms. Shaw encouraged the public to get organized; identify projects; work with the council office to deal with issues of sidewalk repair and participant in the council's land use committee. Persons with additional issues and concerns were encouraged to contact Ms. Shaw at (213) 978-0252 or valerie.shaw@lacity.org

Adjournment:

All other matters will be carried over to the next meeting. Lark announced that a "special meeting" will need to be scheduled the week of April 21st to be responsive to a number of time sensitive issues.