

Save the Date for the EmpowerLA 2009 Congress of Neighborhoods on Saturday, October 10th

The [Save the Date flyer](#) for the upcoming EmpowerLA 2009 Congress of Neighborhoods event, scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2009, is now available for distribution. The Mayor's Annual Community Budget Day will also take place alongside the Empower LA Congress of Neighborhoods. Neighborhood Council and community leaders are working hard to make this a truly empowering event for community members from every corner of our City, from every walk of life, and with every level of interest and experience. There will be critical updates regarding our City's budget from Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and his staff, interesting workshops, and opportunities to network with LA's leaders and community members.

We would greatly appreciate your assistance forwarding this [Save the Date flyer](#) to all of your contacts and hope that you will have the opportunity to share this information with other members of your community to let them know that all are welcome.

Help Us Help NC's by Completing Our Survey

Our department is in the process of defining our strategic priorities for the future. The result will position us to be more efficient and effective in fulfilling our mission of supporting LA's system of Neighborhood Councils. Especially in this current economic climate, we need your input. Please take a moment to complete a brief [survey](#) asking your opinion about different aspects of our support to Neighborhood Councils. Additionally, given the hard reality of budget cuts and decreased staff, this survey asks you to help prioritize the services your NC needs most so that we can allocate its resources accordingly.

Your participation helps ensure that our department positions itself to best support the creation of an empowered and robust Neighborhood Council system. Your perspective is extremely valuable, so please answer to the best of your ability and be as honest and complete as possible in your responses. The [survey](#) takes approximately 5 minutes to complete. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Next Regional Roundtable and Training on Saturday, August 15th

The theme of this quarter's Regional Roundtable and Training focuses on public safety both for your community and your NC. Our roundtable will be with the Mayor's Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Department to discuss GRYD's work in your community and their partnerships with NC's. The trainings will be on Board member liability and safety and will be conducted by members of the City's Department Threat Assessment Team: Vivienne Swanigan, City Attorney - Labor Division, and Ann Phelps, Ph.D. of Prince & Phelps Consultants.

Even as volunteers, Board members' actions may leave them subject to personal liability. Vivienne will review the relevant laws affecting NC Boards so you can protect yourself from lawsuits. If you've ever had to deal with a challenging Board member or stakeholder during a public meeting, you'll appreciate Ann's training on assessing people

and assertive leadership. Learn tools and techniques that help you identify which people may pose a threat to safety as well as how to effectively interact with Board members and stakeholders who are just challenging to work with. Through examples and role playing, Vivienne and Ann will provide valuable information to be successful NC leaders and for maintaining a welcoming and safe environment for your NC meetings.

South/West/Harbor - Saturday, August 15th 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Flyer - [English](#) [Spanish](#)

135th Street Elementary School - Auditorium

801 W. 135th Street

Gardena, CA (City of LA, Harbor Gateway North area)

Co-Hosted by Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council

Valley - Saturday, September 12th 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Marvin Braude Building

6262 Van Nuys Blvd.

Van Nuys, CA 91401

Please RSVP for materials and refreshments by calling (213) 485-1360.

Save the Date for the 2010 Election Outreach Planning Session on Thursday, September 10th

For Outreach Chairs and interested Board members and stakeholders, you are invited to collaborate on the creation of an Outreach Plan for the 2010 NC elections on Thursday, September 10, 2009, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Location to be determined. Come learn and share outreach strategies, resources, and best practices. To RSVP and arrange for parking, please contact Betty Wong Oyama at Betty.Wong@lacity.org or by calling (213) 485-1360.

City Clerk Requests Polling Place Suggestion Forms

The City Clerk - Election Division is accepting [Polling Place Suggestion Forms](#). Each NC can submit a ranked list of five (5) suggested Polling Places in their Neighborhood Council. The City Clerk - Election Division Staff will use submitted lists to contact the facilities and recruit Polling Places. In making the final decision, the City Clerk's Office will consider the following criteria (Policy No. 17 - Polling Place Selection):

- * Availability on the date and time of the election
- * Sufficient size to accommodate the voter sign-in and voting process
- * Access to public transportation
- * Sufficient parking, lighting and restroom facilities for Polling Place staff

- * Compliance with American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements
- * Cost for use of the facility (for each election-related event)
- * Neutrality of the location for stakeholders and candidates

The deadline to submit these forms is 5:00 p.m. of Friday, August 14, 2009. Please submit this form via fax to (213) 978-0376 or via email to Niesha.Louis@lacity.org. Should you have any questions regarding this form, please contact the Precincting Section at (213) 978-0434.

NC Self Update Invite Will Be Resent

For those of you who would like to update your information on our new NC Self Update Database, we will be resending the invitation for enrollment to the Board members who haven't joined yet. Please keep an eye out for the email invitation this week.

Bylaw Amendment Moratorium Starts September 1st

If you have any non-election related bylaw amendments, please submit them to us by September 1, 2009. After this date, we will not be processing any bylaw amendments until after the 2010 NC elections.

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS NEWS

Commission in Recess for August

The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Commission) is in recess during the month of August and will resume their meetings in September.

CITY NEWS

GRYD Providing Services for the Whole Family Across the City

Mayor Villaraigosa's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) continues to offer free programs and services for the whole family in 16 locations across the City. For more information, please see GRYD's [flyer](#).

Carmen A. Trutanich Holds City Attorney Neighborhood Forum on Thursday, August 13th

Please join the new City Attorney Carmen A. Trutanich and his team to learn about the first weeks of the new administration and the legal issues facing your neighborhood. The Forum will be on Thursday, August 13, 2009, 6

p.m. to 9 p.m. at the John Ferraro Council Chambers, 200 N. Spring St., 3rd FL, Los Angeles. Refreshments will be in the City Hall Rotunda. For free parking, RSVP by August 10, 2009 to atty.rsvp@lacity.org or call (213) 978-1575.

Meter Hours Sign Replacement in Progress

Over the next 90 days, the LA Department of Transportation (LADOT) is posting new operating hours for parking meters. City Council revised parking meter rates and extended the operating hours last July. The new operating hours are generally from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Sunday, except in areas where peak period parking restrictions are in effect and in some entertainment and shopping areas. Individual NC's are being advised in advance that signs are being posted. Sign posting will be performed on weekends. LADOT Parking enforcement will begin enforcing the new operating hours a few days after the new signs are installed.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Wilshire Center Koreatown NC Hosting Community Open House on Thursday, August 6th

The Wilshire Center Koreatown NC is hosting a Community Open House in celebration of Young Oak Kim Academy on Thursday, August 6, 2009. For more information, please see the [flyer](#).

Sun Valley Area NC's Community Debris Removal on Friday, August 7th

The Sun Valley Area NC is co-sponsoring a debris removal activity in their neighborhood to prepare for sidewalk improvement on Friday, August 7, 2009. For more information, please see the [flyer](#).

Arroyo Seco NC's Neighborhood Pet Adoption Festival on Saturday, August 8th

After the success of their CERT Simulated Triage event last weekend, the Arroyo Seco NC will be sponsoring a Scratch n' Sniff Event - Neighborhood Pet Adoption Festival on Saturday, August 8, 2009. For more information, please see the [flyer](#).

Glassell Park NC Presents Forum on National Healthcare on Monday, August 10th

The Glassell Park NC will be holding a forum on "National Healthcare and You" on Monday, August 10, 2009 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Glassell Park Community/Senior Center, 3750 N. Verdugo Road, Los Angeles. Refreshments will be served.

India Independence Day Celebration Event on Saturday, August 15th

India Independence Day is being celebrated at Pierce College, 6201 Winnetka Ave., Woodland Hills, CA 91371 on Saturday, August 15, 2009 from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Over 15,000 people from San Fernando Valley and neighboring areas are anticipated to attend the all day event. The event showcases India's culture and heritage with shows, a free health fair, and much more. For more information, please contact Vas Singh at (818) 882-9393 or go to www.indiaassociationla.org.

Neighborhood Councils invited to join Park[ing] Day LA 2009

On September 18, 2009, Los Angeles will be celebrating the third annual [Park\[ing\] Day LA](#) - a nationwide event that highlights the importance of parks and urban green space to our communities. Each year, small, temporary parks are installed in parking spaces and streets for a day of awareness, public education, and community engagement. This year, the Neighborhood Councils are looking to band together by participating in [Park\[ing\] Day LA](#) to increase awareness about public parks and their maintenance, reach out to our community about the work of Neighborhood Councils, and provide positive exposure for the NC system as a whole. To make participation as easy as possible, we will provide various resources to help you host your own temporary park. Whether a single parking space or a block party, this is a fun outreach opportunity and a great way to support the Neighborhood Council Program. If your Neighborhood Council is interested in participating or if you would like more information, please email the NC Park[ing] Day LA Coordinators [Shawn Simons](#) and [Ashley Zarella](#).