

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

LINDA LUCKS
PRESIDENT

MICHELE SIQUEIROS
VICE PRESIDENT

ALBERT ABRAMS
ESTHER CEPEDA
DANIEL GATICA
EUN SOOK LEE

BIANCA VITE
COMMISSION EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
TELEPHONE: (213) 485-1360



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

334-B EAST SECOND STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

TELEPHONE: (213) 485-1360
TOLL-FREE: 3-1-1
FAX: (213) 485-4608
E-MAIL: dona@lacity.org

BONGHWAN (BH) KIM, MPA
GENERAL MANAGER

www.LACityNeighborhoods.com

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 12, 2008

Contact: BongHwan (BH) Kim
(213) 485-1360
Deanna Stevenson
(213) 485-1360

Citywide Congress of Neighborhoods Planning Committee Votes “Yes” to Combine this Year’s Congress with the Mayor’s Community Budget Day on October 11, 2008, at City Hall.

In their first meeting on August 11, the fourteen newly selected members of the Citywide Congress of Neighborhoods Planning Committee flexed their muscles by taking on big issues and making major decisions related to some of Los Angeles’ most important community events.

Tackling a potentially contentious issue, Committee members in a majority vote decided to combine the Mayor’s Community Budget Day, during which Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa lays out the City’s Budget process and outlines the financial status of Los Angeles City, with this year’s Citywide Congress of Neighborhoods event.

Al Abrams, the South Valley representative on the Committee and a member of the City’s Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, said, “It is critical that the people of Los Angeles have the opportunity to understand the way the City’s budget works. Knowledge of the City’s budget is the pathway to power in Los Angeles. By combining the Mayor’s Community Budget Day with the Citywide Congress of Neighborhoods, we will be adding value to each event.”

BongHwan Kim, the General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, stated that the concept of combining Budget Day with the Citywide Congress of Neighborhoods had to do, in part, with efficient management of time and resources.

Kim pointed out that holding two major programs nearly back-to-back could drain community, staff and financial resources, whereas combining the events would maximize resources and potentially increase attendance at what Congress Planning Committee member, Cindy Cleghorn, termed the “two most important Neighborhood Council (NC) events of the year.”

Other major issues the Planning Committee took up during their initial meeting were the content and format of the Congress. They determined that the Congress will feature a session on the formation, influence and action of regional alliances, such as the Valley Alliance and the newly forming Westside Regional Alliance of Councils.

More

They also agreed that the Congress will feature sessions on best practices within the Neighborhood Council system, and an open session during which Neighborhood Councils will be able to meet and discuss issues of common concern. The combined Congress and Community Budget Day meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2008, at City Hall.

Members of the Citywide Congress Core Planning Committee include: Ruben Chavez, Lincoln Heights NC; Phillip Trigas, Central San Pedro NC; Marlene Savage, Del Rey NC; Lewis L. Wong, Arroyo Seco/Historic Highland Park NC; Reatha Simon, Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council; Adrian White, Harbor Gateway North NC; Jennifer Gill, MacArthur Park NC, Manuel Negrete, MacArthur Park NC; Paul Perner, Mid Town North Hollywood NC; Cindy Cleghorn, Sunland-Tujunga NC; Mark Seigel, Sunland-Tujunga NC; and Al Abrams, Tarzana NC.

Jimena Toscano of the Central Alameda NC and Terrence Gomes of the South Robertson NC were chosen as Committee Co-Chairs.

For more information, contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at (213) 485-1360.

###