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BONGHWAN (BH) KIM, MPA  
GENERAL MANAGER

[www.LACityNeighborhoods.com](http://www.LACityNeighborhoods.com)

September 24, 2008

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) and the City of Los Angeles, I would like to extend a personal invitation to each of you to attend the Mayor's Community Budget Day and the Citywide Congress of Neighborhoods. Both of these events will take place at City Hall on October 11, they are of major importance to the Neighborhood Council System and our City, and they are free and open to anyone in the City who wishes to attend. Following is some information about the events.

For those of you who plan to attend the Mayor's Community Budget Day, there will be a unique opportunity to learn in-depth information about the state of the City's budget in a difficult economy. Since we are all involved in the future of this City, this information will be crucially important to the decisions we support and the involvement we pledge to help our City weather current financial storms.

For those of you who plan to attend the Citywide Congress of Neighborhoods, the Congress programming will offer advantages that you may not have enjoyed before. For instance, you will learn about and be able to form strategic partnerships, and you will be able to engage in open forum dialogues with City Officials on issues important to your councils and your communities.

Also, you will be able to take part in training opportunities that will help build your board management skills; further your interest in heightening your board's profile through branding and marketing techniques; increase your board's ability to influence City legislation; and deepen your understanding of Neighborhood Council alliances--such as the Valley Alliance, the West Area Community Alliance, and special-focus alliances, such as PlanCheck L.A.--and how to create them in your regions and communities.

Perhaps one of the most important things that you should know about October 11 is that everyone who wishes to will be able to attend both the Mayor's Community Budget Day and the Congress event. The Congress Planning Committee has determined that Congress events will be repeated throughout the day. This arrangement will provide the best of both worlds so that participants can take part in the budget presentation and Congress events to gain a fuller understanding of how the City works, what are the priorities for our City, and how they can make their voices heard.

As you join us on October 11, I hope each of you will express your appreciation to the members of the Congress Planning Committee, each of whom is dedicating his/her involvement and creativity to make this Congress successful. The Planning Committee members from the seven different areas of Los Angeles are listed below.

I also hope you will say a word of thanks to my staff, who are working in partnership with their Neighborhood Council counterparts to make the event challenging and worthwhile for you and the diverse participants who will attend from your areas.

For more information about these events, call (213) 485-1360; or go to [www.lacityneighborhoods.org](http://www.lacityneighborhoods.org) for a list of Congress workshops and activities. Online registration is available on the following link: <http://parc3.lacity.org/done/donereg/index.cfm>.

Please join us and support your colleagues.

Sincerely,



BongHwan (BH) Kim  
General Manager

**Citywide Congress of Neighborhoods Planning Committee—2008**

Terrence Gomes, Co-Chair, South Robertson NC  
Jimena Toscano, Co-Chair, Central Alameda NC  
Al Abrams, Board of Neighborhood Commissioner, Tarzana NC  
Ruben Chavez, Lincoln Heights NC  
Cindy Cleghorn, Sunland-Tujunga NC  
Jennifer Gill, MacArthur Park NC  
Manuel Negrete, MacArthur Park NC  
Paul Perner, Mid-Town North Hollywood NC  
Marlene Savage, Del Rey NC  
Mark Seigal, Sunland-Tujunga NC  
Reatha Simon, Empowerment Congress Neighborhood Development Council  
Phil Trigas, Central San Pedro NC  
Adrian White, Harbor Gateway North NC  
Lewis Wong, Arroyo Seco/Historic Highland Park NC