

## JOIN US ON OCTOBER 11 FOR THE CITYWIDE CONGRESS OF NEIGHBORHOODS

In little more than a week, members of the Citywide Congress of Neighborhood Planning Committee, DONE staff, and perhaps a few early risers, will complete the set up for this year's Congress in City Hall on October 11.

By 7:30 a.m., the lights will already be turned on, and after a registration and a quick breakfast, the curtain will be rolled up on one of the most major events of our Neighborhood Council System. On "stage" will be workshops repeated throughout the day, open forums, dialogues with civic leaders, even a Board of Neighborhood Commissioners meeting on Conflict of Interest issues.

Billed as a Congress created by Neighborhood Council leaders and stakeholders for Neighborhood Council Leaders and stakeholders, the Congress event is open to everyone who wishes to participate. It's a Congress for all the people of Los Angeles.

It's especially important this year for people to become involved because both the Congress event and the Mayor's Community Budget Day are being held on the same day and under the same roof. No other civic experience will offer you as much high level and in-depth information about City priorities and issues.

Every year, the Congress reflects the best thinking of those involved in visioning and planning it, as well ideas from the community at large. Our committee has determined that at this Congress there will be a continuity of effective programs from the past and real innovation in both the format and content of the Congress. The Congress workshop presenters and dignitaries will range from the Mayor to Neighborhood Council leaders, City Council members, expert trainers and City staff. *(A list of workshops and activities of the Congress are attached to give you an overview of what the event has to offer.)*

As we bridge from workshops to open forums and dialogues at this year's Congress, we want to make sure that your voices and concerns are heard. We also hope to ensure that you will come away from the Congress knowing that the time you spent was worthwhile.

Please join us at the Congress on October 11. We believe it will be a great way to forge common cause with the hundreds of people, who like you, want to make the Neighborhood System work and become ever more important to the lives of the people of Los Angeles.

For more information, call (213) 485-1360, or visit [www.lacityneighborhoods.com](http://www.lacityneighborhoods.com) to register online.

**Citywide Congress of Neighborhoods Planning Committee Co-Chairs**  
Terrence Gomes, SORO NC  
Jimena Toscano, Central Alameda NC

**Citywide Congress of Neighborhoods-Mayor's Community Budget Day**  
**Saturday, October 11, 2008 – City Hall, Los Angeles, CA**

**List of Workshops and Events**

***ROUND ONE BREAKOUT SESSIONS***  
***9:30AM TO 10:50AM***

**The Mayor's Community Budget Day Presentation**

The Mayor's Community Budget Day and Budget Process provide opportunities for all the people of Los Angeles to weigh in on the City's proposed fiscal year 2009-2010 Budget. During the Mayor's Community Budget Day presentation, the Mayor will introduce his budget priorities and provide in-depth information about the state of the City's Budget. A survey allowing stakeholders to express their budget priorities will be available on the DONE website at [www.lacityneighborhoods.com](http://www.lacityneighborhoods.com) on October 11.

**Ensuring the Effectiveness and Success of Your NC's 2010 Election**

The City Clerk's staff will host a roundtable discussion with Neighborhood Council stakeholders and board members to discuss their expectations for the 2010 Neighborhood Council Elections. The discussion will begin with a quick overview of the 2008 Elections, including what was implemented and what was learned. Participants will be invited to into a dialogue on the election process and proposed options for the implementation of the 2010 elections.

**The LA Full Public Funding Project and LA's Neighborhood Councils**

The Los Angeles City Council and Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) formally initiated the LA Full Public Funding Education and Feedback Project last winter in order to hear from Neighborhood Council members and stakeholders citywide about the idea of establishing a system of Full Public Funding for electoral campaigns in LA. This workshop will begin with a brief discussion with several neighborhood councils who have organized Full Public Funding workshops and then engage Congress attendees in an abbreviated Full Public Funding workshop. The goal is to enable participants to learn about and give feedback on this important policy issue and have input before the development of a specific policy. This is a unique opportunity for L.A.'s neighborhood councils to have a direct voice in creating city policy. This will also be an opportunity for neighborhood council members to see if they would like to host a Full Public Funding workshop with their own neighborhood councils.

**ROUND TWO BREAKOUT SESSIONS**  
**11:00AM TO 12:30PM**

**Cutting Through the Red Tape to Deliver for Your Neighborhood**

In this Congress session, you will meet with City officials and staff, build new relationships with City movers and shakers, and learn how to speed up your communications with City Hall. Expect to come away from this event with the information you need to work the System for your neighborhood's advantage.

**Forming Community Partnerships to Expand Your NC's Clout and Gain New Resources**

This session will help you to expand your resources and community clout through forming collaborations with community-based organizations dedicated to addressing your community's issues and concerns. You will meet representatives of organizations that focus on emergency preparedness issues, Los Angeles greening initiatives, social services and many more. Get the ball rolling today by forming strategic relationships with experts who understand the needs of your community and are eager to assist you in your efforts to address them.

**Branding and Marketing: Hot New Topics to Help You Make Your Neighborhood Council a Household Name.**

Learn from communications and marketing experts about why branding and marketing are so important to your NC and to your community. You are sure to come away from this workshop with a better understanding of how a brand and a marketing strategy tailored to your NC's goals and objectives can help you "sell" your NC to your community and other communities across Los Angeles.

**Assuring Neighborhood Council Board Continuity and Long-Term Success, Session 1: Board Development and Governance.**

The topics of this workshop--leadership roles and responsibilities, managing diversity, sustaining board leadership and championing new leadership from the grassroots of the community--will be rolled out in two sessions to give you greater knowledge of yourself as a leader and the role of your board within the Neighborhood Council System. In this Session, professional leadership trainers will give you a great overview of what leadership entails, board roles, and board management techniques.

**Tools for Influencing City Government: The NEW Council File Management System and Community Impact Statements (CIS)**

The Council File Management System is an incredible new tool that provides almost instant results on the status of City legislation. Take advantage of this opportunity to understand what the Council File Management System has to offer and how to access it with a few clicks of your computer mouse. Also, in this workshop, you will learn how to write and submit a Community Impact Statement (CIS) and create a CIS process for your NC in order to ensure that your NC's opinions are registered in the agendas of City Council and other City decision-making entities.

**NC Alliances Can Make a Real Difference for Your Community and Your Region**  
**Session 1: The “How To” of Creating Alliances.**

Powerful alliances among Neighborhood Councils are forming across Los Angeles. One of the first alliances to get out of the gate was the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, which has become a major voice for Valley issues. Recently, West Area Neighborhood Councils joined together to form the Westside Regional Alliance; and NC representatives are also banding together in alliances that are focused on specific issues, such as Plan CheckLA. This forum provides a great opportunity for you find out more about these alliances and how you can become involved. In this Session, members of already existing alliances will share information about the evolution of their groups, some of the challenges they’ve faced and some of the things they might have done differently during the development stages of their group’s history.

**Open Forum with City Council Members**

In this forum, you are invited to become better acquainted with City Council Members, You will be able to engage Council Members in dialogues about major issues facing the City, discuss City Councilmember’s opinions on the laws and regulations that affect Neighborhood Councils, and find out about potential partnership or resource opportunities with City Council offices.

**Open Forum with DWP’s General Manager David Nahai**

DWP General Manager David Nahai is bringing about change at the DWP. In this open forum, you will learn about how the DWP intends to handle major issues related to water and energy conservation, and how recycled sources of water and renewable energy options will play a role in our City’s future. This is your opportunity to know what the Mayor’s twenty-year water supply plan is and how it will affect all of us.

**Open Forum with the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, DONE’s General Manager, and Representatives of the City Attorney’s Office.**

This is an opportunity to meet, greet and influence Board of Neighborhood Commission representatives, BongHwan Kim, the new General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment; and Gwen Poindexter of the City Attorney’s Neighborhood Council Advice Division. In this session you will learn more about the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners and its role in creating NC policy, rules and regulations. You will also hear about DONE’s processes in identifying and acting on new NC priorities and how the City Attorney works with Neighborhood Councils on policy, legal and ethics issues. During this session, there will be a Board of Neighborhood Commissioners hearing on Conflict of Interest forms 52 and 53, which would affect all NC’s.

**ROUND THREE BREAKOUT SESSIONS**  
**1:30PM TO 3:00PM**

**Cutting Through the Red Tape to Deliver for Your Neighborhood**

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**Forming Community Partnerships to Expand Your NC's Clout and Gain New Resources**

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**Branding and Marketing: Hot New Topics to Help You Make Your Neighborhood Council a Household Name.**

Learn from communications and marketing experts about why branding and marketing are so important to your NC and to your community. You are sure to come away from this workshop with a better understanding of how a brand and a marketing strategy tailored to your NC's goals and objectives can help you "sell" your NC to your community and other communities across Los Angeles.

**Assuring Neighborhood Council Board Continuity and Long-Term Success, Session 2: Understanding Group Dynamics.**

The topics of this workshop--leadership roles and responsibilities, managing diversity, sustaining board leadership and championing new leadership from the grassroots of the community--will be rolled out in two sessions to give you greater knowledge about yourself as a leader and the role of your board within the Neighborhood Council System. This Session will cover the importance of reaching out to and including diverse interests at the grassroots level of the Neighborhood Council System to sustain your council's operations and influence in the future.

**Tools for Influencing City Government: The NEW Council File Management System and Community Impact Statements (CIS)**

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**NC Alliances Can Make a Real Difference for Your Community and Your Region**  
**Session 2: NC Alliance Outcomes Five -Ten Years into the Future.**

Powerful alliances among Neighborhood Councils are forming across Los Angeles. One of the first alliances to get out of the gate was the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, which has become a major voice for Valley issues. Recently, West Area Neighborhood Councils joined together to form the Westside Regional Alliance; and NC representatives are also banding together in alliances that are focused on specific issues, such as Plan CheckLA. This forum provides a great opportunity for you find out more about these alliances and how you can become involved. Alliances understand that in order to create change, there has to be vision and resolve. In this Session Two, participants will be able to discuss what they would like to see in terms outcomes of regional NC cooperation, and they will envision how alliances can come together to have greater impact on City policies and priorities in the future.

**Neighborhood Councils and Gang Reduction & Youth Development:**  
**Forming A Lasting Partnership**

The Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction & Youth Development (GRYD) will host a workshop to discuss partnership opportunities between Neighborhood Councils and the GRYD office. There are currently 12 Gang Reduction & Youth Development zones throughout the City of Los Angeles, and within these GRYD zones there are a total of approximately 20 Neighborhood Councils. The workshop will review past NC efforts to address gang violence, highlight current collaborations between NC's within GRYD zones, and outline a framework for future NC and GRYD partnership opportunities.

**Open Forum with the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, DONE's General Manager, and Representatives of the City Attorney's Office.**

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