

# The Village Drummer

## Jefferson Park Neighbors Association

City Council District 10 Region 6



### Gang Reduction and Youth Development

By Luis South

The Los Angeles City Council voted to create the agency that would work to reduce the harms caused by gang culture. That agency is named GRYD (Gang Reduction and Youth Development). That agency now has an address that places it in the office of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

This writer went to a meeting held at Harmony Elementary School. The focus of that meeting was to review

the evolutionary process that lead to the passing of laws and government funding for the creation of GRYD. There were about 100 people in attendance, all coming from a wide variety of backgrounds and life experiences. Many mothers and families were there. LAUSD professional staff—especially from Harmony were there. There may have been others, but those two general groups made up the heavy majority of the *(continued on p. 2)*

### A Good Family Restaurant By David Miller

Anybody who knows Jefferson Park is keenly aware of possibly the longest standing family restaurant serving Chinese food, Tim's Kitchen, home of healthy Chinese cuisine. We have good news... and then we

have more good news. First of all, Eddie, the manager of Tim's readily accepted to display a few frames of Nature Art Collages done by young people in the community. Secondly, Tim's

**Jefferson  
Park  
Neighbors**

**Gang  
Intervention**

**Special Forum  
Guest**

**Tony Zepeda from the  
L.A Mayor's Office**

**7-9 p.m.  
Apr. 23, 2008**

Jefferson Park  
Neighbors

April 2008

- **NEXT MEETING**  
**Special Forum**
- Wed., Apr. 23, 2008**  
**7- 9 p.m.**
- Holy Name School**  
**1955 W. Jefferson Bl.**

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Smile Mart \*  
3115 S. Western Ave.

Tim's Kitchen \*  
3125 W. Jefferson Blvd.

\* For More Info call  
Luis South @ (323) 370-9140

Kitchen is currently offering customers a VIP discount as a way to welcome everyone in our neighborhood. So go visit our neighborhood restaurant, Tim's Kitchen 3125 W. Jefferson Boulevard. Phone orders 731-0769.

## Gang Reduction and Youth Development

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audience.

Mr. Robert Cordova, Principal of Harmony, did a fine job of keeping the meeting focused by indicating when it was time to move the agenda along so folks wouldn't end up bored and confused.

The first person to begin informing the audience was Mr. Jeff

Carr, Deputy Mayor. A few major points he brought out were:

- 1) The major focus of the funding is intended to provide gang prevention services for youth during after school and weekends with an emphasis on students in grades 4-8
- 2) \$500,000 will be rewarded to nonprofit agencies within each of 6 areas around the city

- 3) Improve relationship between police and gang interventionists
- 4) The Newton area (a very densely populated area where Harmony and other schools are located) is 1.7 square miles with a head count 34,000+ residents

The factual information is very important to the process because the voice of the people becomes more empowered when people utilize scientific study in order to offer ideas. Come join us on **April 23** in order to understand the facts for Jefferson Park's plan of action.

## Nature Art for Peace

By Barbara Flemings

Artists in Jefferson Park gather to share their insights and critical analysis about creating **Nature Art Collages**. It's a very interesting medium. I've had to rely on my Buddhist chants to evolve in this medium. Come check us out.

South Seas House has accepted our offer to come again. So on Saturday, **April 26th** from **12-2 p.m.** we'll be holding another ex-

hibit and training of Nature Art collage-making. South Seas House is located at **2301 W. 24th Street**, right on the northwest corner where Arlington meets 24th Street. Bottled water will be available. Fruits and vegetables from local gardens will be exchanged. Doors will be open come rain or shine. This is an entirely free event for children and adults.

## Single Payer Health Insurance Worldwide

By Luis South

**Single Payer** health insurance coverage or the continuation of corporate welfare. The debate continues. However, it's becoming clearer that it's been a long time talking about it to arrive at the place where now the overhaul of America's economy possibly will require a sudden shift to permit this government run model. As quiet as it's kept, our global com-

munications places us in a better position to examine other national health coverage systems. Public television aired a Frontline program titled **Sick Around the World**. It goes to various countries around the world where people from a wide variety of cultures all speak with pride about the idea that they are proud to live in countries where everyone is covered by

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government run health insurance. All are particularly proud that there's no such thing as going broke because of medical bills. Also, in country after country such systems are self-sufficient, performing quite well. It's noticeable that there are no propagandists  
*(continued on page 3)*

### Single Payer Health Insurance Worldwide (cont. from bottom of page 2)

anywhere to be found who support the idea that insurance companies are essential and necessary in order to run a national health coverage program well. To the rest of the world Americans look silly upholding such a ridiculous viewpoint for so many years. Based upon research the evidence is overwhelming and undeniable: The United States of America must join the rest of the world to implement health insurance coverage for all. **Single Payer** or bust.

The lie that has been allowed to exist for so long is the idea that America would go into economic hemorrhaging if a single payer health insurance system was created. Nothing is further from the truth. What the American government has failed to do is **control medical costs**. The best way to do that is to place all of the spending for health care in one pot controlled by a government agency.

### Beverly Hills Cat Chat *An Anonymous Reply*

**Your cat—the one named Star, doesn't need a cat psychologist, you do Lu.** You don't project how people think and act onto the most sacred of God's creatures. The ancient Egyptians domesticated cats as a means to help humans have a friend who will stick by you through thick and thin. Cats are the most huggable crea-

That would force all health care providers to work fairly to correct out of control health care costs. The rest of the world where universal health coverage is working didn't move to create such government run systems out of stupidity. Their collective stories will allow for the new America to analyze what's best for us to do.

It's really worth it to go to [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org) in order to see that 60 minute **Frontline** show. The lie can no longer stand, let us all be clear, there are many reasons why it would be advantageous for America to move to instituting a single payer system for all; chief among those reasons are the economic advantages. For even more info <http://www.pnhp.org> .



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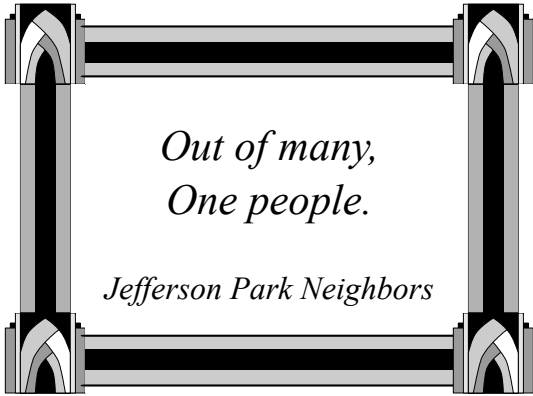
tures on earth. Just because Star jumps in the face of other cats who are bigger is a sign that he is a descendant of the original Egyptian variety. There's always at least one of those roaming the streets of Jefferson Park. He's royalty and those other cats are bit players acting out their part. Star is a straight up

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Phone (323) 735-0769

banger who belongs in the hood. He's not a Beverly Hills cat. Star keeps it real. If you don't want him just hand him over to somebody who can appreciate his honesty and courage. Give him to me, Lu.



*Out of many,  
One people.*

*Jefferson Park Neighbors*

## TLC

Jefferson Park Neighbors

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Email: [luisouth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:luisouth@sbcglobal.net)

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## A City Hall HQ for Gang Intervention?

Written by Frank Talk II

We ended our last month’s article concerning the new Gang Intervention Unit with the suggestion that there ought to be considerations about incentives to actually end the gang crisis. **Our exact expression was:** “Institute a guarantee to the interventionists that there will be bonuses and permanent work according to their success.” That general strategy actually came into play after the last few earthquakes hit both Northern and Southern California and roads along with other infrastructures had to be rebuilt. Government learned that contractors worked more expeditiously if the right in-

centives were offered to complete projects. We found that quality work could be done in record time—if there was more gold in that pot at the end of the rainbow. Now there’s rarely such a thing as backing up completion dates for construction projects tied to government funding.

Gang intervention is very different from the construction business. However, thinking through how we could arrive at incentives so everybody—including the general public—winds up happy, wouldn’t be such a bad idea.

Suggestion: The L.A City Government Personnel Department would do well to collaborate on then implement a community college course structure for gang interventionists leading to becoming specialists in a variety of professional fields for careers after high school. In other words, have them prepare for the transition when times change because of their good work. *(To be continued)*