

The Village Drummer

Jefferson Park Neighbors Association

City Council District 10 Region 6



Jefferson Park
Neighbors

April & May 2007

Asking the Tough Questions

By Luis South

Living well has as much to do with asking questions that take us deeper—beyond the surface—than having to know the answers. Questions force us to think, and thinking deeply about life issues sets us on a path that makes our life unique, interesting. Even more, a community having the notoriety of asking the tough questions gains respect over time. Daily life is better. Jefferson Park is that place.

There are reports from different areas south of Jefferson Boulevard about shootings. So we have to stop and pay special attention. Working together to share the truth about exactly what is going on is important to keeping our neighborhood safe.

LAPD Lead Officer Hill has agreed to come share the facts about community violence that is close by and then listen to our concerns. Working together is a must.

Encourage Others to Vote For LAUSD Board Seats

Why should we care about a board seat that does not represent our area? Because improving education has everything to do with following up with what has taken place at an earlier time.

In education we call that idea “continuity.” If we ever lose sight of what has taken place over time it threatens repeating the same mistakes over and over again. Don’t worry so much about being on

Jefferson Park Law & Order Forum

LAPD Local Report On Crime

7-9 p.m.
May 23, 2007

the right side of the issue. Participate and do everything you can to have an opinion. The more people who are connected to constantly sharing ideas in public forums make things happen for the greater good.

• NEXT MEETING

Law & Order

Wed., May 23, 2007

7-9 p.m.

Holy Name School

1955 W. Jefferson Bl.

Special Places in the Hood

Yoga Center *

2526 W. Jefferson Blvd.

CC's Beauty & Barber Shop *

1958 W. Jefferson Blvd.

Chico's Barber Shop *

2222 W. Jefferson Blvd.

One Stop Market *

2115 W. Jefferson Blvd.

Smile Mart *

3115 S. Western Ave.

Tim's Kitchen *

3125 W. Jefferson Blvd.

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

When Gov't. Works

How do we know when our elected government leaders work well for community goodwill? Beyond the talk. How do we follow how much they are doing to serve the needs of the community? It's a good question, but one that is difficult to answer precisely because there are different branches of government leadership and each requires different levels of re-

search skills in order to keep up with a basic understanding about what's going on.

For example just last year the state legislature passed a bill that was intended to improve public education by creating a model here in Los Angeles (AB 1381). So the bill ended up in court where there was a fair conclusion that it was

“unconstitutional.” Was there anything good about that law? Yes, there was one thing that was especially progressive. The first thing written into the bill was to recognize and better define the purpose of the **Inspector General's** office within LAUSD. The Inspector General is the internal auditing unit in place to identify and report unprofessional practices among administrators. So what's the problem? *(We'll follow up with a full report next month)*

Cinco de Mayo via May Day 2007

By Luis South

It's not easy being mayor. The poor guy can't even take a little vacation to just relax sometimes. For over a few hundred years Cinco de Mayo has always been about great food, music, dancing, and just plain ol' fun in these parts. So what happened folks? Who let the dogs out? Right now there is an investigation to figure out precisely what went wrong, but we

are all clear that something did go tragically wrong. It's easy to dismiss the violence as “a sign of the times”, to then turn our backs. Jefferson Park Neighbors won't allow that to happen. We have made the call to our lead officer requesting a representative from LAPD to answer questions. Also, the mayor's office owes us a visit going way back to the election. Sending a rep would be good.

Why Watts Matters

By Luis South

I was invited to a community forum at the Messiah Baptist Church in Watts on Friday, May 11 from 6-8 p.m. It was great to see grass roots community leadership holding a forum on education where the voice of The People was allowed to flourish. The particular purpose of that public discussion

was centered on hearing from and appealing to Dr. Vladovic and Mr. Kleiner, the two candidates running for Local District 5 (school board seat #7). I had received many email communications and received a phone call from a friend living in Watts asking me to come because she was not able to make it due to her night time hours at work. I'm impressed with the com-

munity spirit that is becoming very evident at this point in the history of Watts.

I entered Messiah Baptist Church at the point where Neal Kleiner, the first speaker, spoke about his ideas should he be elected. Marshall Tuck (now with the mayor's office) and others who work with

(continued on page 3)

CC's Barber Shop

Beauty & Barber Supply

1958 W. Jefferson Blvd.

Men's Haircuts

Seniors \$3

Children \$5



Above prices on 3rd Sundays

(323) 733-7798

Continued from bottom of page 2

Why Watts Matters

(cont. from bottom of page 2)

Green Dot Charter Schools spoke positively about education issues and how charter schools have raised the bar to improve standards in education. Community activist Ruben Ybarra presented a fiery speech about parents of Spanish speaking and African American households doing the right thing, "...stick together!" A message that also came through all of the public speakers that evening.

This was a truly wonderful event because it showcased the clear-minded thinking that is very representative of Watts, a community noted within the annals of 20th Century urban American history as a place of poverty and struggle. What's so important about Watts? Simply stated, if education goes good in Watts, then it stands to reason that education will go good everywhere else, our social illnesses will heal, we will be at our healthiest peak...life will be good.

During the public discussion a question was asked by the reverend from Messiah to Marshall Tuck, "Are counselors essential [to new developments in education]?" Mr. Tuck readily responded in his capacity as a representative of Mayor Villaraigosa's office, "Yes..."

It's important to follow up on this conference with many more meetings happening all over Los Angeles with the same focus and veracity. It will really be beautiful if Messiah's reverend accepts Jefferson Park Neighbors' invitation to come to our next meeting as a consultant. Let's share the Brotherhood and knowledge. Peace.

NOTICE

To those who buy into guns, alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Remember, there are no re-funds on life.

(A free public advertisement)



Korean American

Grocers Association Sets Standards

And Works to Help Us Be Everything We Can Become

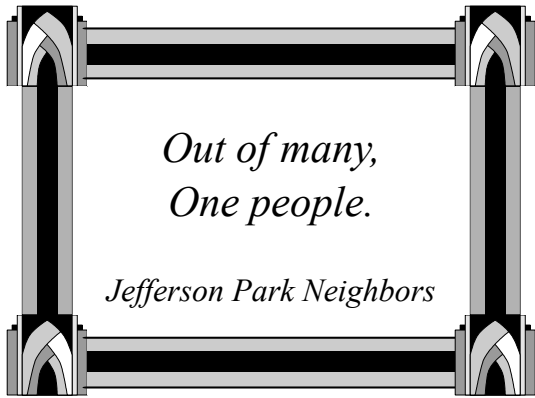
Control Weight to Avoid Suffering

By Luis South

Weighing in at the level that allows us to perform at our peak is a very personal matter. Each person who takes the time to discover their ideal weight saves themselves a lot of money and suffering. The responsibility of understanding your ideal weight is very much

connected to discovering and exhibiting intelligence. To be clear, ideal weight, being connected to how well we perform physically and mentally, can only be discovered through consistent rigorous exercise as well as through taking on mentally stressful challenges in

service to family and community. Being able to make adjustments in weight as we age helps us to live to our maximum potential. Unfortunately many people "see-saw" through life because weight control is an isolated idea connected only to vanity. More to come.



Jefferson Park Neighbors
Phone: 323-370-9140
Email: luisouth@juno.com



Jefferson Park Neighbors
Law & Order Forum

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

@

7-9 p.m.

Holy Name School Auditorium
1955 W. Jefferson Blvd

Our area's Lead Officer from LAPD is:
Ofc. Brandea Hill (213) 847-5804



ON THE CORNER

A continuing series focused on community development

As soon as the place gets cleaned up the garbage is back again. Yes, we're still looking at the problem that exists on Western Avenue from 30th to 31st Street. The blight has been there for so many years that we sometimes have to rest the complaining so we can stay healthy. The properties are now up for sale for commercial investors, but be-



31st Street at Western Avenue

ing offered at a price far above the market value. Does that mean we have to wait many more years for the market to catch up to what the owners want or are the sellers simply taking a negotiating position with the intent to come to agreement within a reasonable time? Jefferson Park Neighbors has asked Herb Wesson for assis-

tance in communicating with the sellers. We want to make sure the sellers get as much as possible from the sale. However, we want them to understand that the blight in that area has a very negative effect on Jefferson Park's economic and social reality. So while we fully support owners' rights, we remain self-respecting enough to make sure communications to the responsible elected leader gives him some incentive to add a little more help so we can see movement to change the present blight. Please help us Herb.