PRNC Meeting Minutes: July 20, 2004, 7pm

The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) held its monthly meeting on July 20th at the Shepherd of the Hills Church. The agenda items included: an in-depth discussion of the City's proposed Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance with Ms. Lynn Rinker as the guest speaker; "Featured Business of the Month" presentation by Ms. Wendy Moore of Moore Business Results; restoration of ambulance service in Porter Ranch; Mountain Lion sightings in Limekiln Canyon with Mr. Troy Boswell as the guest speaker, future community clean-up plans, status of the PRNC's request for a crosswalk signal at the Porter Ranch Branch Library; drag racing in Porter Ranch; crowds gathering at the Porter Ranch Center in the late evening; coordination of City services, support for the State Park in Chatsworth, recruitment for an open Board seat, and other community business such as looking into an automated voice messaging system to improve outreach and public safety.

The meeting began with a Potluck/Mixer that gave the PRNC Stakeholders a chance to get better acquainted with Councilmember Greig Smith, Council Deputy Elaine Pfefferman, our local Firefighters, and with their fellow Stakeholders. The Board of Directors wishes to thank the Hospitality Committee (Ms. Becky Leveque, Chairperson, Ms. Pam Birnkrant, Ms. Beverly Mitchell, and Ms. Elaine Woo); the other volunteers who helped at the event; and those who provided the delicious entrees, beverages, and other items.

Ms. Wendy Moore, Principal of Moore Business Results, was the _Featured Business of the Month_ speaker. Moore Business Results is a management consulting firm focusing on effective project management in: website design, process improvement projects, and training development and delivery. Her firm is a network of experienced former Big 5 accounting-firm consultants. The Board of Directors selected Moore Business Results to design our upcoming website to better communicate with and involve PRNC Stakeholders. Her website services focus on custom design and content crafted for your target audience. Please call Ms. Moore at (818) 368-4399 for your free consultation today or see MooreBusinessResults.com for more information.

The PRNC was privileged to have Ms. Lynn Rinker, President, of the Southland Regional Association of Realtors, Inc. as our guest speaker on the City's proposed Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance (IZO). Ms. Rinker explained that the IZO is a program that, if enacted, would require developers of new, market-rate housing of five units or more to include a certain percentage of units affordable to very low-, low-, and moderate-income households throughout the City of Los Angeles. Ms. Rinker pointed out the problems with the proposed IZO and provided some options that would create affordable housing for everyone without an IZO. The PRNC had contacted a number of organizations over a two-month period to request a speaker to speak in favor of the IZO; however, these organizations were unable to provide a speaker. For more information, please go to www.srar.com.

The Stakeholders at the meeting voted unanimously to oppose the proposed IZO. Mr. Mel Mitchell, PRNC Vice President and Chairperson of the Land Use Committee (LUC), along with his colleagues on the LUC will be drafting a position paper opposing the proposed IZO and will be sending it to our elected officials before the August deadline. Councilmember Greig Smith has taken a position against the proposed IZO. The PRNC Stakeholders are urged to call, e-mail, and/or fax a letter to Mayor James K. Hahn at (213) 978-0600 (tel.), jkhahn@lacity.org, and/or (213) 978-0656 (fax) requesting him to oppose the proposed IZO.

Last month, we reported that the Los Angeles Fire Department had planned to redeploy one of the twelve-hour ambulance shifts from Fire Station #28 on Corbin Avenue to another location and that the PRNC would be following up on the matter. Ms. Pam Birnkrant, PRNC Secretary and Chairperson of the "Adopt a Fire Station" campaign, began gathering the facts. Mr. Ronald Nagai, PRNC President, used these facts and the input from many concerned Stakeholders to write a two-page letter to Fire Chief William Bamattre requesting that he not redeploy the Porter Ranch ambulance service. Fire Chief Bamattre canceled the redeployment plan and will be improving emergency services in the northwest San Fernando Valley. Mr. Nagai thanked Fire Chief Bamattre for his leadership and outstanding service to the community. The PRNC also thanked Councilmember Greig Smith for his assistance and ongoing leadership in our community.

Councilmember Greig Smith announced the successful drag racing sting operation in Porter Ranch. Law enforcement will be monitoring this activity as well as the crowds gathering at the Porter Ranch Town Center in the late evening on a periodic basis. "No Trespassing" signs will be posted at the Porter Ranch Town Center in an effort to curb this activity.

The PRNC was asked by Ms. Laurie Dager of the Chatsworth Women's Club (CWC) to join the CWC, Chatsworth Historical Society, Santa Susana Mountain Park Association, and the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains to use State Proposition 40 funds for improvements to the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (Park). The PRNC Board voted to join these organizations in support of improvements to the Park that include: a full-time Ranger, visitor's center, trails cleared and marked, historic sites cleared and marked, brochures, and maps.

Mr. Troy Boswell, Animal Control Officer II, with the City Department of Animal Services spoke about the recent mountain lion and cub sightings in Limekiln Canyon Park. Mr. Boswell described the nature of the sightings and provided important safety tips should you encounter the mountain lion and her cub. Mr. Boswell also provided informational brochures on mountain lions, coyotes, bobcats, mule deer, and raccoons. For further information, call (888) 452-7381 or visit the Department's website at www.laanimalservices.com.

There is one position open on the Board. If you are interested in serving, please contact Ms. Pam Birnkrant at (818) 831-2330 and be prepared to speak at the next PRNC meeting regarding your candidacy.

The next PRNC meeting will be held on August 10th at the Shepherd of the Hills Church located at 19700 Rinaldi Street in Porter Ranch. The PRNC Board will be conducting general business from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M. with the regular meeting beginning at 7:00 P.M. For more information, please call Mr. Ronald Nagai at (213) 977-1894 or Ms. Pam Birnkrant at (818) 831-2330.