

PRNC Meeting Minutes: September 21, 2004, 7pm

The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) held its monthly meeting on September 21st at the Shepherd of the Hills Church. Three separate speakers made presentations covering the proposed LAX Master Plan, issues confronting the PRNC, and Community Emergency Response Team training. A number of public announcements were made and handouts on the City's new alarm ordinance and a Center For Disease Control CD on the West Nile Virus were made available to attendees.

The first speaker was Ms. Shirlene Sue, Senior Management Analyst, with the Los Angeles World Airports. Ms. Sue covered the details of the proposed LAX Master Plan (Option D), which included a reconfigured north airfield, redeveloped central terminal area, an off-site ground transportation center, consolidated rental car facility, an automated people mover, an intermodal transportation center, and a Green Line connection. Ms. Sue also discussed the cost of the proposed expansion and how the project will be financed. Part of the cost will be funded by increased passenger fees. For more information, please go to www.laxmasterplan.org.

The second speaker was Mr. Greg Nelson, General Manager, of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE). Mr. Nelson distributed DONE's new brochure and presented an overview of his Department's role in empowering neighborhood councils. He also addressed specific issues confronting the PRNC such as contracting restrictions, accepting donations, check processing delays, and DONE's recommendation to postpone the PRNC election to January or February of 2005. For more information on neighborhood councils, please go to www.lacityneighborhoods.com.

The third speaker was Mr. Patrick Hall, Coordinator - Battalion 15 CERT, who spoke on the role of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the free training program offered by the Los Angeles Fire Department, Disaster Preparedness Unit, through the CERT Program. The training includes an introduction to the CERT Program, earthquake awareness, disaster fire suppression techniques, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue operations, team organization and management, terrorism, and a course review. For more information, please call (818) 756-9674 or visit the Web page at www.cert-la.com. If you would like to join the next PRNC CERT training session, please call Ms. Pam Birnkrant at (818) 831-2330.

The Board of Directors (Board) appointed Mr. Pat Pope and Mr. Eric Blankenburg to fill the two vacant Board seats until the next election. Messrs. Pope and Blankenburg have been active members of the PRNC and look forward to doing their part in improving the quality of life in Porter Ranch. The Board and the PRNC Stakeholders wish to thank Mr. Rick Driscoll and Mr. Karl Benink for their contribution as past Board members.

The PRNC is still looking for a person who will be paid to take notes at one to two PRNC meetings per month. Please contact Mr. Ronald Nagai at ronaldnagai@yahoo.com or at (213) 977-1894 if you are interested.

Councilman Greig Smith announced his Community Service Partnership whose purpose is to partner with neighborhood councils, local businesses, and community organizations to conduct monthly cleanup projects throughout the District. The Board and Councilman Greig Smith's office announced that the Porter Ranch Cleanup Day will be held on Saturday, November 6th. The locations to be cleaned up will be decided at the next PRNC meeting on Tuesday, October 19th. If you would like to help clean up our parks, streets, and sidewalks, please e-mail Mr. Ronald Nagai at ronaldnagai@yahoo.com. If you will not be available to help that day, but still want to help beautify our neighborhood, please make a donation to this worthwhile effort (e.g., cash, refreshments for the volunteers, a few hours of your gardener's time, etc.). Your donation will be greatly appreciated.

The Board also announced that next month's speaker will be Los Angeles County Sheriff Leroy Baca. Please join the PRNC in welcoming Sheriff Baca and learn how the Sheriff's Department has helped to make Porter Ranch a safer place to live.

The PRNC's Mayoral Candidates Forum that was tentatively scheduled for November 16th has been postponed to February 2005, subject to the availability of the major candidates. All of the major candidates were unable to attend on November 16th.

Information about other events during the month of October was also distributed. The 4th Annual Granada Hills Street Faire will be held on October 2nd from 10:00 to 5:00 P.M. on Chatsworth Street between Zelzah Avenue and Encino Avenue (parking and admission to the event is free). The Chatsworth Historical Society is sponsoring their Annual Pioneer Day on October 3rd from 11:00 to 4:00 P.M. at the Homestead Acre located at 10385 Shadow Oak Drive within Chatsworth Park South at the west end of Devonshire Street (for more information, please call (818) 882-5614). The Health Care in California: Confronting the Future conference will be held at UCLA on October 4th (For more information, please go to www.communicationsinstitute.org or call (626) 796-4747). The Accessible City Expo, Community Resources & Employment Fair will be held at the Los Angeles Convention Center (West Hall B) on Thursday, October 7th, from 9:00 to 3:00 P.M. (October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month) (For more information, please call (213) 485-6334).

Handouts provided at the meeting included the PRNC's Treasurer's Report, information about the Adopt A Fire Station Program, City's new alarm ordinance, a Center For Disease Control CD on the West Nile Virus, product recalls, A Consumer's Guide to Auto Repair, 45 Ways To Save Energy, the County of Los Angeles' Smart Gardening Program, and copies of the Downtown News.

The next PRNC meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 19th, at the Shepherd of the Hills Church located at 19700 Rinaldi Street in Porter Ranch. The Board's business meeting will begin at 6:00 P.M. and the general meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. Please join the PRNC and Sheriff Baca for another informative meeting. For more information, please call Mr. Ronald Nagai at (213) 977-1894 or Ms. Pam Birnkrant at (818) 831-2330.