

PRNC General Meeting Minutes: October 19, 2004

The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council's (PRNC) guest speakers of the month were Captain Joseph Curreri of the LAPD's Devonshire Division and Commander Sam L. Jones of the County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Leroy Baca was scheduled to speak, but was unable to attend the meeting due to an illness. Both speakers spoke on the merits of County Measure A (half-cent sales tax measure), which included the hiring of more law enforcement officers and administrative support staff; upgraded emergency communications systems, strengthening the Sheriff's operations in the jails; and related justice services. PRNC stakeholders expressed their support for law enforcement, but had concerns that the large County surplus was not being spent on public safety; that the northwest Valley would not directly benefit from this sales tax increase; and that the a half-cent sales tax might have a negative impact on local businesses.

The PRNC's featured business of the month was Union Bank of California (UBOC). Ms. Janet Hartley, Regional Sales and Service Officer, and Mr. Gokhan M. Urkmez, Vice President and Branch Manager, presented the PRNC with a \$250 check, provided refreshments, and passed out a number of promotional items to the stakeholders who attended the meeting. Ms. Hartley and the UBOC staff discussed the various financial products offered by UBOC at their Porter Ranch Branch office next to In & Out Burger on Rinaldi Street in Porter Ranch and in the Ralphs Supermarket in Porter Ranch. Ms. Hartley and Mr. Urkmez encouraged the community to take advantage of cash bonuses being offered when new accounts are opened. Ms. Hartley was also joined by Ms. Susan L. Dabbah, Financial Services Officer, who is located in the Porter Ranch Branch office next to In & Out Burger, Ms. Patty Schlee, Senior Investment Specialist, the Manager of the UBOC office located in the Ralphs Supermarket, and other UBOC staff. Please call Ms. Susan Dabbah at (818) 831-5158 for banking services, and Ms. Patty Schlee at (888) 520-2349 for brokerage services.

The Porter Ranch Clean-up Day will be held on Saturday, November 6th, from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon. Please join Councilmember Greig Smith, his staff, and your fellow Porter Ranchers in making Porter Ranch an even better community. Depending on the turnout, we plan to clean Sesnon Boulevard (between Tampa Avenue and Aliso Canyon), Reseda Boulevard (between Rinaldi Street and Sesnon Boulevard), and Wilbur Avenue. Please meet in the Whole Foods parking lot near the Porter Ranch Post Office at 8:00 A.M. Coffee and donuts/bagels will be served. Lunch will be served at the conclusion of the clean-up event. All of the equipment you will need will be provided to you, but please feel free to bring your favorite tools for pruning and weeding. All you need to bring is a pair of gloves, knee pads, hat, sunscreen, etc.

The Board of Directors amended the Bylaws to allow for an additional three months after the original election date, which is November 8th, due to the City of Los Angeles' new elections procedures and timetable for the PRNC's election. The election is currently planned for January 15, 2005.

The Board also discussed the proposed improvements to Limekiln Canyon Park, work being done in Aliso Canyon, and the status of Rinaldi Park. Transportation issues were also discussed.

Mr. Patrick Hall, Coordinator, of the Battallion 15 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) described the emergency response team training program and why it is important to the community and to your family. If you would like to sign up for the CERT training, please contact Ms. Pam Birnkrant at (818) 831-2330.

The next PRNC meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 16th, at the Shepherd of the Hills Church located at 19700 Rinaldi Street in Porter Ranch. An expert on identity theft will be the guest speaker. Please join the PRNC on November 16th to find out how criminals can steal your identity and the best ways to protect yourself and others.