

SUPPORTING THE BRAVE OFFICERS THAT PROTECT AND SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.



### WEST HILLS AREA CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

**Burglary prevention tips from the Topanga Area Crime Analysis Detail:**

- **Lock all windows and doors** — even if you live on the second floor of an apartment building. Lock sliding glass doors. Two-story residences — lock upstairs windows, sliding glass doors and French doors. Remember, suspects can climb onto a balcony.
- Never leave a ladder outside and accessible to a burglar.
- Alarm — if you have one, use it! Add additional window security (example - pins in the window).
- Install motion detectors on all levels of the residence.
- Relocate valuables. Most burglars take property from the master bedroom.
- Photograph and make a list of your valuables. Include serial numbers.

When You're on Vacation:

- Let a trustworthy neighbor know that you are away. Ask that person to keep a lookout for your residence.
- Leave one light on inside your home.
- Mail and newspapers should be picked up or stopped.
- Have a friend or neighbor park their vehicle in your driveway or parking slot.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Detective Theresa Gordon at 270333@lapd.lacity.org

For more information on preventing crimes, visit the LAPD website.

Pass this on to your friends and family and encourage them to sign up for E-Policing and Nixle alerts. activity to the Police see a reduction in crime.

In 2009, Topanga Area has seen a significant reduction in crime. With the communities help we can keep that trend going into 2010, sending the message that we will not tolerate criminal acts in our communities.

**Dennis Cunningham** • Senior Lead Officer/West Hills • 818-731-2578

The Topanga Boosters is a volunteer support organization made up of business and community leaders. Its primary mission is to increase the effectiveness and morale of the officers and staff of the Topanga Police Station by raising money for community services, materials, and equipment not generally supplied by the City of Los Angeles.

#### TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE

There are many ways how you as a stakeholder in the community can be part of the Topanga Boosters.

- LAPD Good Neighbor** Any Amount
- LAPD Residential Supporter** \$60.00 per year
- LAPD Business Supporter** \$120.00 per year

The Topanga BOOSTERS is a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization. Tax ID# 36-4622976

For more information about becoming a member of the Topanga Boosters as a resident or business owner, contact Ed Crowe, Vice President of Community Relations at (818) 231-4454 or at edcrowe@topangaboosters.org.

# VOTE!

## WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ELECTIONS MARCH 2, 2010

**Vote 2-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 2  
Winnetka Recreation Center  
8401 Winnetka Ave.**

You do not have to be registered to vote in a city, state or federal election to participate. You can vote as a Stakeholder if you are at least 18, live, work, own property or declare a stake within the Winnetka Neighborhood Council boundaries and affirm the factual basis for it.

[www.winnetkanc.org](http://www.winnetkanc.org)



#### Elections 2010

The Winnetka Neighborhood Council elections will be held by the Los Angeles City Clerk on Tuesday, March 2, 2009 with 10 other neighborhood Councils in the region.

All 14 board seats will be part of the election. Only the youth seat is not. Board members will be focused on public safety and important land use issues to improve and beautify our community. If you would like to make a difference in Winnetka on these issues and are available to partner with us at our meetings, please seriously consider running.

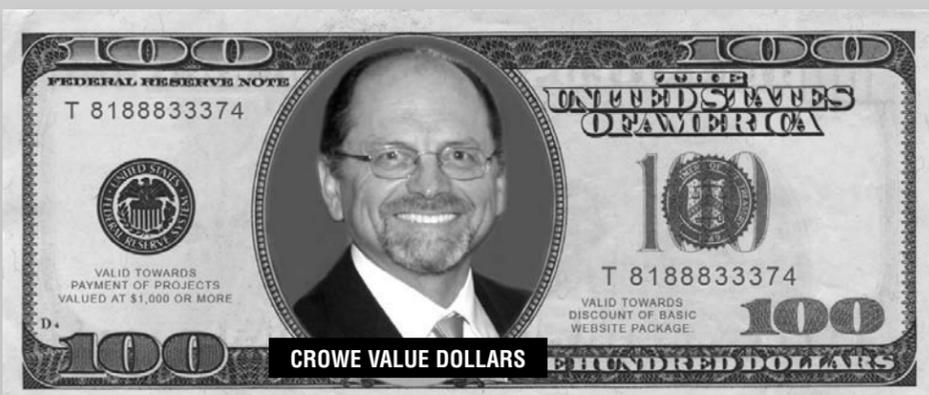
The election will be held on March 2, 2010 from 2-8pm at the Winnetka Recreation Center, 8401 Winnetka Avenue.

#### Election Procedures

Find out about the candidates! Visit [www.winnetkanc.com](http://www.winnetkanc.com) to read candidates' personal statements.

The Winnetka Neighborhood Council Elections Committee Chair is Greg Sullivan.

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**Community Outreach Editorial Page Sponsored by the Winnetka Neighborhood Council**



**Winnetka Neighborhood Council**

**Date Certified:** July 21, 2003

**Election Date:** October 23, 2007

**Project Coordinator:** THOMAS SOONG

thomas.soong@lacity.org

**Region:**

SOUTH VALLEY AREA

**Council District(s):** 3, 12

**Boundaries:**

NORTH: NORDHOFF ST.

SOUTH: VICTORY BLVD. & LA RIVER WASH

EAST: CORBIN AVE.

WEST: DE SOTO AVE.

**Meetings:**

Second Tuesday of the month

Valley Village

Winnetka Ave. Winnetka, CA 91306

6:30 PM

**WNC 2009 OFFICERS**

JJ POPOWICH

WNC President

jedi\_yoda@msn.com

P. ARTHUR SIMS

Vice President

ERICK LACE

Treasurer

MARYANN SMILEY

Secretary

**2009 Board of Directors**

Edesa Aghakhanmohabab

Stephanie Aguirre

(Youth Committee Representative)

Armineh Chelebian

Jozef Thomas Essavi

Nina Fomaeva Essavi

TJ Martens

Nalini Natarajan

Tess Reyes-Dunn

Angela Terracina

T. Alan Schweizer

Greg Sullivan

**Committees**

Budget and Finance

Interfaith

Emergency Preparedness

Events

Planning & Land Use Management

Public Safety

Public Works and Transportation

Rules, Elections & By-Laws

Youth Committee



**WNC Quick Reference List of City Services Phone Numbers**

Graffiti Removal	(818) 227-9722
	(818) 780-6618
Trash Pick-up/ Large Item	(800) 773-2489
Bulky Item Pick up	(800) 773-City
Health Department	(818) 902-4470
Housing	(818) 756-1180
Landlord/ Tenant Questions	(866) 557-7368
All other phone numbers please call 311	



**To see the list of 2010 WNC Candidates, visit [www.winnetkanc.com](http://www.winnetkanc.com)**

**About the Winnetka Neighborhood Council (WNC)**

The WNC is an advisory Board to the City of Los Angeles City Council. We are certified by the City of Los Angeles to represent the community of Winnetka in City matters and work to improve the community. Our job is to interact directly with our stakeholders and take your concerns and needs back to the City Council member or City departments. Stakeholders are defined as people to live, work or own property in Winnetka.

However, the WNC is really what we make it. While we can't pass ordinances, we can lobby our representatives. While we can't direct the City departments where to focus their efforts, we can work with them to improve Winnetka.

We also have the responsibility of educating our stakeholders on how our City government is run and how to get things done. And we have the duty and responsibility to work together to improve our community.

February 9, 2010

Dear Mayor and All City Council Members:

I am writing in my capacity as a citizen of our City and as President of the Winnetka Neighborhood Council.

As President I am imploring you not to pass the recommendations before your Council to reduce NC funding and sweep NC rolled over funds. I also ask that you take a step back and look at alternatives to reducing the size of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) or merging DONE with another department.

In terms of funding the NCs are required by the City Charter to be funded adequately. I am sure we can all debate what adequate may be. I can state, as a President, that \$22,500 for most NCs is not adequate. NCs need funds in order to rent office/storage spaces, conduct outreach to stakeholders, generate newsletters, buy equipment such as computer and software and yes undertake community related projects.

In terms of the roll over funds that many NCs have amassed the Council must understand that in many cases we have already allocated that money. Many NCs take on projects that improve their community and those projects often far exceed the \$45,000 annual budget. For example Winnetka is one step away from completing a major beautification project we started years ago with these roll over funds. If those funds are taken from us we will not complete this project and the community will be saddled with a blighted median along Sherman Way.

Please keep in mind that the roll over funds haven't even been audited. Some of the NCs have spent funds (committed and received services from vendors) that have not been paid because of DONE's failure to manage the funds or the process correctly. How can the Council consider sweeping funds that are already spent?

In terms of what to do with DONE my NC has not voted on the issue at this time. However, we would find reducing their workforce to a point where the department (which already functions poorly) would cease to function is not a viable solution. Merging the department with another City department without first fixing the structural, financial, performance, and procedural problems within DONE is also not a viable solution. We would urge the City to take a step back from that proposal and meet with NCs to determine the best course of action. After all DONE, or whatever is left in its place is, by the Charter, supposed to support and assist the NCs.

We all understand the City is in dire straights. We certainly understand that some sacrifices must be made. For too long this City has spent outrageously without planning for the future. The overall economic disaster that continues to impact our country is even more severe here in California. We all understand this. Not one of us wants to see layoffs in place of other solutions unless that is a last resort. Layoffs only hurt people and by the

way only serve to increase the end costs as the City and County social and safety nets still have to cover these people who now have no income. Not one of us wants to see services that for all practical purposes are not existent already, be reduced even further.

However, we would like to point out that the NC system is one of the gems for this City. We are an all volunteer system that can and does provide an insight to the minds of the voters that you were elected to serve. NCs throughout Los Angeles have done some incredible things. We've taken on community improvement projects, often things that the City should have done but hasn't or can't. We've worked to ensure smart development in our neighborhoods. We've worked with our police department to lower crime rates. We've even used our precious funding to buy equipment for our police officers that the City could not or would not provide. We've worked to address quality of life issues, education issues, and emergency preparedness issues. And yes we've been the City's only truly independent watchdog keeping an eye on City departments and bringing up stakeholder concerns about how they operate and run. All of this is what the Charter envisioned and we are all doing it successfully and for only a fraction of what the City would spend it if could.

The proposals before you are nothing short of an effort to take advantage of a very dire situation to gut the NC system. I urge every Council member to think carefully before they cast their vote. Please understand that volunteers need what little funding we have so that we can continue to do all the positive things we've done and plan to do. We need to have resources to reach out and get our communities involved. Volunteers need to be able to see that their time and effort accomplishes something. They need to see that they are making a difference. If you cut our funding, remove what funds we do have, and essentially bury our ability to interact with the City in a meaningful way, then you will really be voting to eliminate the NC system.

Eliminating the system would be huge blow to democracy in our city.

Sincerely,

JJ Popowich  
President, WNC

**YES, your VOTE counts. Make a difference in your community!**