

# Westside PACNews



## WPAC Letter Sent To City Officials Opposes New, Mandatory Ethics Program and Oath

WPAC members, at the Nov. 10 general meeting were asked to both swear to and sign an oath of office saying they would uphold the constitutions of the US and the State of California. The City of Long Beach City Clerk's office sent staff member Poonam Davis to administer that oath.

But it's the next part of the new approach to ethics in potential conflicts of interest that has WPAC members very concerned.



All members of each Long Beach project area committee—North Long Beach, Central PAC and the Westside PAC—are now required to take a two hour training program on ethics, particularly with regard to conflicts of interest when it comes

to their individual properties. The training can be completed online at the Fair Political Practices Commission website: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/index.php?id=477>.

The ethics training takes approximately two hours and those who've taken it and finished early said you have to complete an additional section if you finish too soon. PAC members can also take the training

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### WESTSIDE PAC OFFICERS

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Jane Kelleher, Vice Chair  
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Dan Berns, Sec./Treasurer  
437-0471  
The Berns Co.

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

Amy Bodek, Executive Dir. RDA  
570-6428

Development Services  
570-6570

Sheri Rossillo  
RDA Project Officer  
570-5922

Robert Garcia, 1st District Council Office  
570-6919

Development Services  
570-5237

Long Beach Port  
590-4121

Parking Enforcement  
570-2866

Illegal Dumping  
570-2881

Police Sgt. Robert Woods  
570-3494

Code Enforcement  
570-2633

## NOTE! The WPAC Christmas Party Has New Location !

Who doesn't love the WPAC Christmas Party? This year, in celebration of it's 2010 expansion project, Mike McFadden of CMAC Construction has offered the use of the new CMAC facility at 1450 Santa Fe Ave. Buono's Pizza is happily providing delicious food .And great sea-

sonal beverages are available—another donation from Mike McFadden. Thank you, Mike! This is not just a party but serious business. The first few minutes of the party is actually the WPAC final meeting of 2010. Elections will be held. Officers nominated are Tony Rivera as

Chair, Jane Kelleher, as Vice Chair and Dan Berns as Sec./Treasurer. Thanks also to WPAC Administrator Lee Adams, who always assures a great success of the holiday party with her outstanding organization and attention to details. Thank you, too, Lee!

## Westside Holiday Support For Families At The Marion Outreach . . .

The Westside invariably comes out to support good causes all year long but Christmas is a special time to help those close to home. In an economic climate where everyone seems affected by the downturn, those who had little now, many times, have even less.

The Marion Outreach at St. Lucy's Catholic Church, 2344 Cota Ave., is a favorite bene-

ficiary of Westside generosity because it serves the needs of low income families on the Westside and beyond. This annual event is a toy, gift AND (perhaps even more critical) household necessities such as shampoo, toiletries, children's clothes, diapers and all the fundamentals families need. The Westside's own Dion & Son's owner Pat Cullen always organizes a bar-

rel drive, where large barrel containers (some decorated) are given to Westside businesses for the collection of items to donate. Cash donations also go a long way and are highly appreciated by The Marion Outreach coordinators.

Contact Pat or Matt Cullen at Dion & Sons - 562-432-3946 and ask them to drop off your donation barrel right away. (See also article to the right >)



Parents select toys and gifts for their children at the 2009 Christmas Store. Children were also able to select gifts for their parents in a program called Shopping with Dignity.

Photo courtesy of [betterbalanceforlongbeach.org](http://betterbalanceforlongbeach.org)

### . . . And Better Balance For Long Beach Offer A Day To Shop With Dignity

The 4th annual, 2010 'One Day' Christmas Store will be on Saturday, December 18, 2010.

**DONATIONS** -- To donate to the 2010 store, you may send your tax deductible donation to LBRM / BBLB, P.O. Box 4564, Long Beach, CA 90804. The Rescue Mission will send you a receipt. The tax ID is 95-2741506. A copy of the IRS determination letter is available.

**VOLUNTEER** -- We're now collecting names of volunteers. The 2010 store will be on Saturday, December 18, 2010. To put your name on the list, send an e-mail to [BBLB.ChristmasStore@gmail.com](mailto:BBLB.ChristmasStore@gmail.com).

(NOTE the "dot" between BBLB and Christmas.) Include your name, organization (if any) (e.g. Boeing, Molina Health Care, etc.), your e-mail address, and phone number. Our volunteer coordinator will contact you. We maintain very tight security throughout the event, so your name **MUST** be on the list of volunteers. Thanks for your help! **IMPORTANT -- DEADLINE FOR SIGNING UP IS 5PM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16.**

## Ethics Issue, cont'd

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class at the City Clerk's office in City Hall 333 W. Ocean Boulevard. WPAC member Ron Daerr, of Crosby & Overton, commented that he'd taken the training program online and noted, "It really captures you." When asked to clarify, Daerr said, "It means that if you're voting on a project and own property that could benefit from it, you have to step back." As in—abstain from voting.

There was a small lull in discussion after Daerr gave this insight. Then WPAC Sec/Treasurer Dan Berns offered an insight. Berns said, "We're here because of conflict of interest. The vote should be to better our community." After some disagreement with the terms of the ethics program, WPAC sent a letter to city officials expressing the WPAC's concern over this stringent measure.

That motion was seconded and received a unanimous vote. The letter reads in part "The project

area committees are merely advisory groups, and therefore should not be held to the same requisites imposed on the policy makers of the city. The course is designed to clarify that there is no conflict of interest between the member and the Agency/City. But it could be argued that there is a conflict of interest intrinsic in any volunteer organization made up of property owners and business people living and working in the area they are gath-

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## Westside PAC Members Ask For Better Representation From Their Councilman—1st District Councilman Robert Garcia

It began as a simple City council report—a normal presentation agendized for each meeting and invariably give by the Councilmember's staff.

But this time, 1st District City Councilman Robert Garcia's legislative director Daniel Brezenoff, received a response that clearly showed Westsiders are disappointed with their city council representative - Robert Garcia. An animated Bezenov started telling WPAC about happenings in the 1st District, especially on the Westside.

A street improvement construction project will begin in April at the intersection of Anaheim Street and

Santa Fe Ave. Adjacent businesses will be notified in advance.

But next came the topic of medical marijuana now allowed in the city of Long Beach.

Residents of the eastside want all "cultivation of the marijuana to occur on the Westside. "If we can regulate this well responsible owners will rise to the top," Brezenoff, said.

But Westsiders are not so easily convinced that it can be regulated well. Ernesto Rivera pointed out that at a recent hearing on the city trucking issue Councilman Garcia personally assured them he would protect the Westside. In the final vote, Garcia did not

vote in favor of the Westsiders and voted against Westside PAC on the matter. Westsides, in fact peppered Brezenoff with questions. Why, for example had their councilman never attended a WPAC meeting during his term in office?

Daniel Brezenoff assured Westsiders that the Councilmember would love to attend the meetings but he works a full time job besides holding the council seat. **Westsiders sincerely welcome 1st District Staff and Councilman, to any meeting they hold - especially the holiday party on Dec.8 at 1450 Santa Fe Ave., CMAC, 5 pm.**



1st District Councilman Robert Garcia, left and 2nd District Councilmember Suja Lowenthal, right

**After the Vote—A Memo**

On Nov. 9 the Long Beach City Council will be asked to add the following contingencies and standards to the medical marijuana ordinance.

First that all cultivation occur only in industrial zoned areas (such as the Westside) and that a moratorium be instituted for one year so the city council may review the effects.

## WPAC FINDS THE DOWN SIDE OF THE NEW OATH, cont'd

*(Continued from page 2)*

ered to protect. If that defines a conflict with the Agency/City, there would be no project area commitments in the first place. "

Ron Daerr, of Crosby & Overton noted the quiz "definitely captures you. If you own property and you're voting and you could benefit from an other project, you might have to step back and abstain." Nancy

McCrabb agreed with Dan Berns' premise.

"I think we need to send a letter to show our concerns and to be waived."



Have A Happy and Safe Holidays and a Terrific New Year - From WPAC



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## **What Is The Westside PAC?**

A Project Area Committee or PAC provides the means for private citizens to give support and advice to the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency (RDA) on matters related to the development and conduct of the Westside Industrial Redevelopment Project Area. To accomplish this, the Project Area Committee gathers information, mediates issues, and assists the Redevelopment Agency in carrying out the Project activities in accordance with the California Redevelopment Law. WPAC meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. at 1835 Santa Fe Ave., in the Community Room of the West Police Station. All Westsiders are encouraged to attend the meetings. Let your voice be heard. Call WPAC at 432-6754 for more information.