



CCA Delivers

December 9, 2005

“Our Advocacy Strengthens Your Bottom Line.”

“TAHITIAN HOLIDAY” EXTRAVAGANZA!

“Tahitian Holiday” party a success! Over 400 people attended CCA’s annual holiday event last night at the Wilshire Grand Hotel’s Point Moorea, including Assembly Member **Mark Ridley Thomas**; Council Members **Greig Smith**, **Bill Rosendahl**, **Bernard Parks**, **Jose Huizar**, and **Jan Perry**; LAPD Chief **William Bratton** and LAPD Assistant Chief **Jim McDonnell**; Captain **Andy Smith**; and Board of Public Works President **Cynthia Ruiz**. Thank you to all of our sponsors – **Wilshire Grand Los Angeles**, **System Property Development Company, Inc.**, **ChevronTexaco**, **EarthTech**, and **Delson Investment Company**. A very special thank you to **John Stoddard** and his staff at the Wilshire Grand for their tireless efforts on our behalf. And, as always, thank you to our members and their guests for making this year’s event exceptional.

TALKS CONTINUE ON SRO ORDINANCE

Last week, CCA staff met with **SRO Housing Corporation** and **Skid Row Housing Trust** to discuss differing understandings of Council Member Perry’s recently enacted SRO Conversion Moratorium. SRO Housing Corporation and Skid Row Housing Trust both support the moratorium as an effective means to maintain affordable residential options in Skid Row. While CCA shares the same desire to maintain affordable units in Skid Row, CCA has expressed concern that the moratorium will further institutionalize blight at several nuisance properties in Skid Row and also that the moratorium’s citywide application is overly broad. CCA, SRO Housing Corporation, and Skid Row Housing Trust agreed on many aspects of the moratorium, and CCA is confident that further discussion will build a more effective solution for maintaining a housing stock for our low income neighbors.

RED CAR FEASIBILITY STUDY COMPLETED

The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has released a long-anticipated feasibility study on the possible return of a trolley car system to Downtown Los Angeles. IBI Group completed the Red Car Feasibility Study and presented their findings to the Red Car Advisory Committee held at CCA’s offices this week. The Red Car Advisory Committee, created several years ago, along with CCA’s advocacy and lobbying efforts, has been leading the efforts to return the Red Car rail line to Downtown. The Advisory Committee envisions a 3-plus mile fixed rail line connecting Downtown neighborhoods – Little Tokyo, Civic Center, Historic Core, Fashion District and South Park – possibly utilizing existing track still embedded in many Downtown streets. With a study complete, the Committee will now embark on a formal community outreach campaign to garner local residential and business support. Several concepts are envisioned, with costs ranging from \$60 to \$73 million to complete this project.

CCA’s Transportation Committee is scheduled to take up the issue in early January.

MAYOR NOMINATES LOPEZ TO LAHSA BOARD

On Thursday, the Mayor announced his fifth appointment to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Board — **Estela Lopez**, Executive Director of the **Central City East Association**. This is good news for Downtown, as Lopez understands intimately the crises that prevail on Skid Row and will be a strong representative of Downtown business interests. Several years ago, CCA worked with then-Mayor Riordan's office to ensure that a Downtown business representative would always have a place on the LAHSA Board. As a result of CCA's efforts, a clause was added to LAHSA's governing Joint Powers Agreement, stating that one of the Board Members had to represent Downtown business interests.

GERALDINE KNATZ CHOSEN AS PORT EXECUTIVE

The **Mayor** announced Wednesday the selection of **Geraldine Knatz** as Executive Director of the **Port of Los Angeles**, the largest port in the nation. Knatz is currently the managing director at rival Port of Long Beach. In a press release, Mayor Villaraigosa notes, "This is a new day for the Port of Los Angeles. Ms. Knatz not only brings vast knowledge of the industry and stellar credentials, but also the leadership and high energy that will make the Port of Los Angeles the most desired port for trade in the world." CCA extends congratulations to Ms. Knatz and looks forward to working with her in her new role.

CCA AROUND TOWN

- CCA President and CEO **Carol Schatz** and Sr. Vice President **Victor Franco, Jr.** met recently with Board of Public Works President **Cynthia Ruiz** on the issue of coordination of sanitation and street services provided by the DCBID and the City in the Downtown area.
- On Tuesday, CCA staff along with CCA member **Cindy Starrett** of **Latham & Watkins** met with the Mayor's office regarding the Downtown Housing Ordinance. The ordinance, which aims to promote new residential high rise construction, is tentatively scheduled to be heard in PLUM in January.
- This morning, Director of Public Policy, **Anne Williams**, participated in a round table discussion on affordable housing on LA36. The program is scheduled to air tonight at 8 P.M.



We apologize for any inconvenience as we update the format of our newsletter.

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