



CCA Delivers

December 16, 2005

“Our Advocacy Strengthens Your Bottom Line.”

GROCERY WORKER RETENTION ORDINANCE (GWRO)

The Los Angeles City Council voted to enact an ordinance that would require a grocery business of 15,000 square feet or more to retain employees from a prior grocery operation when a change of ownership occurs. The new grocery operation would be required to keep the new employees for up to 90 days. Los Angeles City Council President **Alex Padilla** introduced the motion earlier this year.

This action is the first time a municipality is using its police powers to regulate a private sector business operation or transaction. Although this is the first industry affected by this type of ordinance, the City already has on the books a similar ordinance that applies to companies that have contracts with the City.

Although CCA testified in opposition to the ordinance on the grounds that this is a bad precedent being set by the City of Los Angeles, this was a larger issue of process. The draft ordinance was released late last week by the City Attorney and then was waived from discussion out of the appropriate committee by the committee Chairman. Because the vote was not unanimous at Wednesday’s Council hearing, the ordinance will return for a second reading next Wednesday.

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BOND HEARING IN DOWNTOWN

On Monday, CCA staff attended a hearing on the infrastructure bond measure, SB 1024, sponsored by State Senators **Don Perata** (D-Oakland) and **Tom Torlakson** (D-Antioch). Proposed during the last legislative session, the Senators are working to get this measure passed through the Assembly and onto a June 2006 ballot. CCA is interested in the affects such funding would have on Downtown Los Angeles and is looking closely at the measure. Senator Perata presented his ideas to CCA’s executive committee in November, and would like to have full support from our membership. The proposed measure promises \$10.3 billion for state infrastructure ranging from levee protection to repaying transportation fund loans to completing high priority projects, high speed rail, and incentives for more infill and transit-oriented development.

TWO MORE LAHSA APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

On Wednesday, the Council approved two of the Mayor’s remaining LAHSA appointees – **Ramona Ripston**, Executive Director of the Southern California American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and **Douglas Mirell**, Los Angeles attorney and ACLU member. In Council, the appointees endured a grueling question-and-answer period, responding to everything from mental health courts, the homelessness problem’s concentration in Downtown, to potential conflicts of interest.

CCA staff have been focusing significant attention this week on the mentally ill homeless population on the streets and in the jails Downtown and looks forward to working with Ripston, Mirell, and the other LAHSA Board Members on this issue. Lack of funding and unclear legal standards have turned the Downtown jail system into the country’s largest defacto mental institution. As many as 2,000 mentally ill inmates reside in Twin Towers.

SANTA MONICA ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF "HOMELESS CZAR"

The City of Santa Monica embarked on a six-month search, led by City Council Member **Bobby Shriver**, to find a powerful figure to lead their charge against homelessness. Their efforts proved successful. Last week, the City announced selection of former County Supervisor and Los Angeles City Council Member, **Ed Edelman**. Santa Monica City Manager Susan McCarthy noted in their press release, "The key things Mr. Edelman will bring to this engagement are credibility and contacts in the mental health field, with the County Sheriff, with elected and appointed officials region-wide and with members of the judiciary." We congratulate Mr. Edelman, and look forward to working with him to find a regional solution to our homeless crisis.

CCA AROUND TOWN

- On Monday, President & CEO **Carol Schatz** met with Assembly Member **Mark Ridley-Thomas** and Council Member **Jan Perry** regarding homelessness in Downtown Los Angeles. Throughout the year, CCA has worked with local and state officials to find meaningful legislative solutions to alleviate our local struggle. Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas sits on the Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63) Oversight and Accountability Commission, which is charged with allocating up to \$800 million (annually) for mental health services in the State.
- CCA, along with **Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa** and the **Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA)**, hosted an event this morning in the Tom Bradley Room of Los Angeles City Hall honoring the many contributions **Jack Valenti** has made to an industry and our country. Valenti is well-known as the former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the **MPAA**, retiring just last year, as well as his work in managing press operations for President Kennedy and Vice President Johnson during their visit to Texas. Immediately after President Kennedy's death, Valenti was appointed as Special Assistant to President Johnson on the flight back to Washington DC. Serving in the armed forces as a bomber pilot during WW II, upon his return, he founded a Los Angeles-based advertising agency. He has written numerous articles and books on his experiences. Jack Valenti is an inspiration, and we are proud to honor him at City Hall as the Mayor proclaims it, "Jack Valenti Day" in Los Angeles.



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

You are on this email list because you are a member of the Central City Association (CCA) or because you have a business relationship with CCA. If you would prefer not to receive emails from CCA, please reply with "unsubscribe" in the subject area or call Faith Otis at (213) 624-1213.

**Central City Association
626 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 624-1213**