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EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL 8

"The 16th Annual Treasures of Los Angeles" at the JW Marriott at L.A. Live

UPCOMING COMMITTEES

Open to Executive Level
Members Only

MARCH 4

11:45 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Special Guest: City Council
President Eric Garcetti

Open to Executive and
Business Advocacy
Members Only

MARCH 10

8:00 a.m.

Transportation &
Infrastructure Committee
"Downtown Los Angeles
Mobility Partnership"

MARCH 17

8:00 a.m.

Housing & Land Use
Committee
Special Guest: CRA
Commissioner Kenneth Fearn



Councilmember Perry Dishes with CCA on State of City's Budget

Councilmember Jan Perry engaged in a frank discussion with CCA members this week about the urgent need for budget reform in Los Angeles. The City of Los Angeles relies on three primary sources of revenue to fund its operations - gas, property, and sales taxes. With all three sources significantly down, Mayor Villaraigosa and the City Council will face many difficult challenges ahead. "There is no single way out of this and hard decisions must be made," Councilmember Perry remarked. "We must look at changing the pension system and engaging in more public-private partnerships to make money. Insolvency is not a choice."

Councilmember Perry also discussed a motion she introduced earlier this month that would end the practice of tapping into the Emergency Reserve fund for ongoing operational needs. The City's Emergency Reserve was established to provide a funding source for unexpected events that have a substantial financial impact on the City, such as natural disasters or civil unrest. It was not intended to fund daily operational needs. This action will require an amendment to the City Charter and is expected to be placed on the November 2010 ballot.

CCA thanks Councilmember Perry for her strong leadership on these issues. Difficult budget choices must be made and she has been extremely influential in moving the City Council in the right direction.

CCA Instrumental in Establishing New Protocol for Restaurant Permitting

At the initiation of CCA, the Department of Building & Safety unveiled a new case management system to a joint meeting of CCA's Housing & Land Use and Arts, Retail & Hospitality Committees that will significantly streamline the outdated restaurant permitting process that is in place now.

Back in December 2009, CCA gathered top decision-makers from the city departments of Building & Safety, Engineering, Fire, Planning, Sanitation, Transportation, Water & Power, and the County Health Department, and asked them to listen to the many complaints from restaurateurs and other stakeholders about how difficult and onerous the current permitting process is. **Raymond Chan**, interim General Manager of the Department of Building & Safety at the time, took responsibility for resolving these

STAFF BRIEFS

• CCA submitted a letter to City Council's Jobs and Business Development Committee in opposition to a motion introduced by Councilmember Richard Alarcon that proposes to divest all deposits in banking and other financial institutions that fail to cooperate with foreclosure prevention efforts. All banks in California are already subject to a very complex maze of new state and federal regulations and these additional local sanctions are not necessary. Staff Contact: Senior Director of Legislative & Legal Affairs, Anh Nguyen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



MARCH 15-17, 2010

CCA invites you to *Southern California on the Hill: Access Washington, D.C.* March 15 - 17. Join more than 200 civic and business leaders to meet with members of Congress and senior Obama Administration officials on priorities important to the Southern California economy. For more information, contact CCA's Director of Government & Member Relations, **Tracey Chavira**.

MARCH 24

8:00 a.m.

Public Safety, Health &
Homelessness Committee
"Homelessness White Paper"

problems and convened the departments over a two-month period to come up with a new and expedited system. As a result of those meetings, a new process has been established that will help restauranteurs open their doors faster.

CCA would like to give a special thanks to **Bud Ovrom**, Raymond Chan, and **Larry Galstian** from the Department of Building & Safety for their leadership and work in developing this new system. We also particularly appreciate the strong cooperation of **Obi Ogamba** and **Emmanuel Egeonu** from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Although not part of the city family, they have been extremely cooperative and voluntarily agreed to support this new system. It is this kind of collaboration with the private sector that will begin to move investment forward in the city.

CCA Takes the Streetcar to Washington D.C.

CCA joined Los Angeles Streetcar Inc. (LASI) board members at a streetcar summit in Washington D.C., sponsored by CCA Executive Member, **Holland & Knight**. Los Angeles is among several world-class cities vying for federal funding for urban circulator projects, such as streetcars. In a meeting with key federal officials, including the Obama Administration and the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA), CCA applauded recent federal initiatives designed to promote urban circulator projects because they play central roles in reshaping land use and attracting economic development. In addition, CCA lobbied for additional changes to the regulatory framework in order to allow streetcar projects to be more competitive in the race for federal funding. LASI also discussed its \$25 million grant application with key FTA officials and is optimistic that the agency will shift policy to make this funding available annually in the future. The grant awardees will be announced in June.

CCA believes that streetcars are an essential element to integrating transportation, housing, economic development, and environmental benefits, and will continue to be a strong advocate of a modern streetcar system for Downtown Los Angeles.



CCA's 16th Annual **Treasures of Los Angeles**, celebrating ten years of the Downtown Renaissance, will take place at the JW Marriott at L.A. Live. Sponsorship opportunities are available by contacting Joella Hopkins at (213) 624-1213 or jhopkins@ccala.org.



**NEGOTIATING THE
REAL ESTATE MAZE:
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Los Angeles Convention Center

March 23, 2010

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