

DEL REY HOMEOWNERS' & NEIGHBORS' ASSOCIATION ("DRHNA")  
GENERAL MEETING  
Wednesday, October 28, 2009

"Del Rey Community Summit"

Why A Community Summit?

DRHNA President Elizabeth Zamora explained that the meeting was to encourage Del Rey residents to get to know one another because if a disaster occurs, residents probably will be "on their own" for at least three days because the police and fire departments will be deployed to perform special duties.

Know Your Neighbors and Watch Out for One Another

Councilmember Bill Rosendahl started the meeting by encouraging the attendees to get to know their neighbors and to be prepared by having canned goods (and a manual can opener), water and walking shoes available.

As the head of the City Council's Transportation Committee, his goal is to have the "Subway to the Sea" built by 2015.

He drew the first raffle ticket for the emergency preparedness kit prizes – Jim Drummond was the winner.

Neighborhood Safety in Del Rey

Heidi Llanes, Senior Lead Officer for the Los Angeles Police Department Pacific Division's Basic Car A49 (the part of Del Rey between Centinela Ave. and Marina del Rey) encouraged the attendees to set up Neighborhood Watch groups throughout Del Rey. (There are 40 such groups in her Basic Car area.) She emphasized that most groups start with just a few individuals participating, but the important thing is for people to get to know their nearest neighbors, and for each family to have an emergency plan so that it is clear who will be caring for children, elderly or disabled people, pets. One should assume that cell service will be unavailable if there is a natural disaster.

Currently, Del Rey is experiencing "crimes of opportunity," e.g. thefts of bicycles left unlocked in accessible areas.

It is illegal for people to live in their vehicles, but alternatives are not readily available. St. Joseph's will be providing housing vouchers to the 40 neediest street residents, but 300 homeless people were interviewed to determine which were in the greatest need.

Officer Llanes chose the ticket and awarded the second emergency kit prize.

### Hazards Most Likely to Affect Del Rey Surviving A Disaster

The California Institute of Technology (Caltech) provided a video about earthquakes in Southern California.

### Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

The Los Angeles Fire Department could not send a representative, but they did send a videotape about their CERT program, and Chris Nevil, the LAFD Battalion 4 Co-Coordinator, spoke about the CERT training programs in Del Rey. He explained that after the 1985 earthquake in Mexico City, more than 100 Good Samaritans died, so the LAFD decided that civilians should be trained so they would know what to do after an earthquake in Los Angeles. The program is now a model that is followed worldwide.

At any given time, there are only 1000 firefighters on duty in the LAFD, so civilian volunteers are needed. CERT volunteers are not expected to render medical aid (although one can get that additional training). However, the volunteers are given some safety equipment, and they are trained in how to manage the community's response in an emergency. There are CERT "call-out" teams that are sent throughout the city on an as-needed basis.

On December 2, 2009, there will be a refresher training regarding how the Hyperion Sewage Treatment Plant will respond if there is a major earthquake. The basic 17.5 hour course teaches: fire suppression; injuries; triage; light search and rescue; instant command system; terrorism and homeland defense.

### Invitation to New Members & Closing

Casey Anderson-Gross, the membership chair for DRHNA, encouraged everyone to join DRHNA (\$10 per year per household), and she chose the final raffle ticket and awarded the third emergency kit prize.