

Coalition of Homeowner Associations- Council District 5

Preserving and Protecting our Neighborhoods

Winter 2009

Editorial

Many leaders of homeowner & resident groups (HOAs) in CD 5 believe our neighborhoods have suffered during the last 8 years. We have paid our taxes, but services, (police, fire, schools and street repair) have not kept pace with our growth. Development and traffic are out of control. Quality of life must be improved. Leaders of many HOAs agree that our District needs a councilperson who will choose constituents, neighborhoods and preservation of communities over developers, campaign donors and special interests.

Coalition's Candidates Forum Succeeds in Identifying Neighborhood-Friendly Candidates

In a room filled with leaders from dozens of homeowner groups from across Council District 5, candidates for City Council expressed their points-of-view about over-development, traffic, zoning, public safety, ethics and unresponsive elected officials. During this October 10th Candidates Forum, all the candidates were impressive in their desire to serve, and each worked hard to impress these community leaders. However, in a survey after the Forum, CD 5 leaders said that David T. Vahedi, an attorney and former state tax auditor, seemed the most qualified choice to be the next CD 5 City Council rep. The survey question was very straightforward: "Which candidate or candidates were the most likely to be an advocate for protecting and preserving neighborhoods?" The results were clear:

1. David T. Vahedi (83%)
2. Ron Galperin (33%)
3. Paul Koretz (15%)
4. Robyn Ritter Simon (4%)
5. Robert Schwartz (0%)

A last-minute "no-show" was Adeena Bleich. Nonetheless, the responses from her individual in-depth interview have been included in this newsletter. (See inside newsletter for results.)



2009 City Council Candidates Range from the Very Informed to the Very Uninformed as Revealed by In-Depth Interviews

The Coalition of Homeowner Associations-Council District 5 wanted to learn about the City Council candidates. So, a panel of Coalition representatives conducted individual, in-depth interviews with each candidate. The panel members were from different areas of the district.

The interviews were conducted with candidates who had registered with the Los Angeles Ethics Commission before July 16, 2008. Interviews were conducted between May 16 and August 11, 2008. Each interview lasted up to two hours and followed a questionnaire that had been approved by the Coalition. Ratings for each candidate were recorded independently by each member of the Coalition's panel of interviewers and were then tabulated.

This newsletter presents the findings from these interviews. VOTERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CANDIDATES AND MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS.

This newsletter is meant to be informative and does not represent support for or opposition to any candidate. The research findings herein are the results of in-depth interviews with each candidate for the council seat in Council District 5 that is being vacated in 2009. The Coalition of Homeowner Associations - Council District 5 is a network of homeowner and resident associations and groups (HOAs) that exist within the borders of the Los Angeles City Council District 5. Our mission is to preserve and protect neighborhoods. For more information, contact a Board member of your homeowners or residents association. If you do not know any Board member, go to www.CD5HOAS.org and send a contact message so your name and contact information can be given to a local HOA Board member in your neighborhood. This newsletter may be reprinted in its entirety. Portions may be reprinted only with written permission from a Coalition Interview Committee member.

Adeena Bleich	Ron Galperin	Paul Koretz	Robyn Ritter Simon	Robert Schwartz	David T. Vahedi
Has lived in CD 5: 9 years	Has lived in CD 5: 19 years	Has lived in CD 5: 1 year. Moved back to run for council seat, lived 18 years in West Hollywood. Grew up in CD 5.	Has lived in CD 5: 47 years	Has lived in CD 5: 22 years	Has lived in CD 5: 32 years

Each candidate was individually interviewed in-depth for two-hours. Afterwards, each member of the Coalition's panel independently rated the candidate on various attributes using a scale from 1 (poor) to 10 (excellent). The scores were tallied and an overall rating was calculated. For each question or issue, if a candidate received an average score of a 1, 2 or 3 the rating was "poor", a 4 or 5 was fair", a 6 or 7 was "good", an 8, 9 or 10 was "excellent".

Assessment of candidates on relevant community/work experience that would help each understand issues of CD 5 neighborhoods. (Recognition was given for volunteering with homeowner associations and Neighborhood Councils, since it is at this level where the maintenance/improvement of neighborhood quality of life occurs.)

Fair	Excellent	Excellent	Fair	Poor	Excellent
Worked as a field deputy for Councilman Jack Weiss, worked in mayoral campaign for Bob Hertzberg, worked for the American-Israel Political Action Committee (AIPAC). No relevant management experience. No homeowner association or Neighborhood Council experience.	Attorney, Participated in Westside Transportation Partners; CA 42nd Assembly District transportation advisory committee; West LA Community Police Advisory Board, budget advisor to Mayor for West L.A. planning area; tax assessments advisor to City and County; Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Outreach Chair; Crests Neighborhood Association President; Miracle Mile Residential Association-former VP; Coalition of HOAs-CD 5 Crest HOA representative, Managed large-scale programs and offices.	6 years State Assemblyman (oversight of local offices), 12 years West Hollywood City Councilmember, Aide to various councilmembers, Chief of Staff for Board of Equalization Member Brad Sherman, Member of L.A. Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, Southern California Director of CA League of Conservation Voters, Administrative Director of Ecology Center of Southern California, Member, L.A. County Library Commission. No homeowner association experience in LA.	Worked for LA Chamber of Commerce (business-related organization), Century City Chamber of Commerce (business-related organization), appointed by Mayor James Hahn to Westside Planning Commission. No homeowner association or Neighborhood Council experience. Some management experience when headed Century City Chamber.	Entertainment lawyer, CEO of Slamdance Media Group, LLC, television producer, various positions in entertainment companies, volunteered at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, coached his children's little league and other sports teams, No homeowner association or Neighborhood Council experience.	Attorney, Auditor for the State Board of Equalization, completed over 250 financial audits locating waste in government, attorney focusing on civil litigation, pro-bono attorney for Friends of Animals, mentored at-risk teens in the district, volunteer for Protect the Vote, Sierra Club and Save the Ballona Wetlands. Long-time Board Member of Westwood South of Santa Monica Homeowners Association and a co-founder and member of the Westside Neighborhood Council, HOA rep to Coalition of HOAs-CD5. Managed large-scale programs and office.

Adeena Bleich	Ron Galperin	Paul Koretz	Robyn Ritter Simon	Robert Schwartz	David T. Vahedi
Assessment when candidate asked: "During the past five years, what have you done to preserve and protect the QUALITY OF LIFE for homeowners and residents in your current neighborhood?"					
Fair	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Excellent
<p>Participated in tree planting, cleaning some areas and painting the Robertson Recreation Center.</p>	<p>Organizer-West LA & Valley clean-up, emergency preparedness & LA Fire Department projects; United Way LA 2007 funding reviewer.</p>	<p>Founded/headed Neighborhood Watch Residents Association in West Hollywood, for past 2 months has served on Mid-City West Neighborhood Council Policy Committee,</p>	<p>Founded Beverlywood Moms, participated in support programs for Canfield Avenue Elementary School.</p>	<p>Instrumental in obtaining street lights for his street.</p>	<p>Worked to remove large sign blight from Pico-Overland, drafted no graffiti on dumpsters rule, negotiated with Norm's Restaurant to stop steam cleaning parking lot during late night hours, helped provide: a) hi-tech laser cameras for LAPD, b) bikes for LAPD patrols in Rancho Park, c) new computers for local LAFD , d) brush firefighting nozzles for LAFD hoses, e) new computer server for Emerson School , f) hi-tech paging system for Rancho Park to mitigate neighborhood noise, g) increased development project notification to neighbors.</p>
Goals: Why the candidate is running for this office (quotes are taken from candidate's website or interview):					
<p>"Adeena decided to run for Los Angeles City Council because she believes that government does not have to be a slow, counterproductive bureaucracy. She believes that given the right leadership and hard work, City government can be proactive instead of reactive, and it can be effective rather than frustrating and inefficient."</p>	<p>"It's time for a change. It's time for our local government to work for us all. It's time for leadership with vision and integrity. This is why I am running for Los Angeles' 5th Council District."</p>	<p>"I am running for the City Council in the 5th District where I grew up and live. I was raised with a deep sense of responsibility to help heal the world and to leave it better than I found it." "I've watched the various council members... and in recent years I thought I could do a much better job for the residents."</p>	<p>"Everyday people are asking me why I want to run for city council. Many believe serving as a councilmember is a thankless job plagued with problems that can never really be resolved... but this is not how I view the opportunity. I want to be a strong advocate for our community."</p>	<p>"I believe I can do a better job than what is currently being done."</p>	<p>"I want to be your Councilmember because I believe you should have a leader who puts residents first. I also believe you deserve a leader whose main goal is to improve your quality of life through the prompt delivery of quality city services such as pothole repair, sidewalk repair, and tree trimming."</p>

Adeena Bleich	Ron Galperin	Paul Koretz	Robyn Ritter Simon	Robert Schwartz	David T. Vahedi
Candidate's goals for Council District 5:					
<p>"Consistency for planning and land use, increase number of planning deputies in council office, do more to get people out of their cars through mass transit and ride share, support the forming of groups to share information across CD5."</p>	<p>"Strengthen our communities and meet the challenges of today and tomorrow."</p>	<p>"Be an accessible councilman, need to slow development dramatically in CD5, need to stick more closely to underlying zoning in terms of what we approve, have to work harder to develop the infrastructure to handle the density that we already have, create planning process that ensures more involvement and input for residents, create a 25-year visionary plan for LA, have as a priority a Westside transit plan, work with environmental leaders for greenprint for LA."</p>	<p>"Better governance of City departments, better communication with City Planning and constituents."</p>	<p>"Build a foundation for a seamless public transit system, a healthier and more sustainable environment and a safer city with larger and better equipped Police and Fire Departments. Build the foundation for an education system that works again for our children and their families. Build a foundation for a government that works for you and our neighborhoods."</p>	<p>"Provide real representation and be the community's voice, empower residents, support our police and firefighters for safer communities, preserve communities and improve quality of life, actively support public schools and libraries, work to lower DWP costs for residents, institute real parking solutions that don't impact communities, give full attention to real traffic solutions, oppose wasteful spending and return LA to fiscal responsibility, cut the red-tape and speed up community improvements, commit to infrastructure investment . "I want to obtain a fair share of City resources for CD5 so that our tax dollars and City fees come back to our district."</p>
Assessment by the Coalition's panel as to the level of understanding by each candidate regarding issues spanning all of CD5:					
Good	Excellent	Good	Good	Good	Excellent
<p>Understood issues: Planning and land use, traffic, lack of a bridge between planning and traffic, customer service of council office.</p>	<p>Understood planning, traffic, transportation and accountability of the council office and City Hall and others who are suppose to serve the district.</p>	<p>Understood planning, traffic and environmental protection.</p>	<p>Have a plan on traffic and transportation, development, citywide increase for LAPD, stronger partnership with LAUSD</p>	<p>Engaged & involved communities, safe, better planned communities, faster moving, healthy and educated communities.</p>	<p>Understood issues of planning, public safety, need to provide sufficient police for our district, issues of traffic, over-development.</p>

Adeena Bleich	Ron Galperin	Paul Koretz	Robyn Ritter Simon	Robert Schwartz	David T. Vahedi
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Assessment by Coalition's panel as to the ability of each candidate to articulate impediments to achieving their goals and how these barriers would be overcome, their understanding of the issues spanning all of CD5, understanding of specific issues for the east side of the district, westside of the district, the central portion of the district, the Valley portion, and hillside areas.

Fair	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Excellent
<p>"There is a disconnect between Planning and Zoning. If a project doesn't fit the infrastructure, the project shouldn't go in."</p>	<p>"Entrenched interests are a problem. Need to work with other council members and make City Hall accessible and accountable to HOAs and constituents."</p>	<p>"The lack of public funding for transportation projects, politicians and development are problems we need to overcome. I will meet with every neighborhood group and will slow down development."</p>	<p>Budget crisis, frictions between councilmembers, lack of responsiveness from City departments, first priority is to constituents who are residents, business owners and schools.</p>	<p>"Hopefully nothing, but apathy and politics are impediments. I have the skills for negotiation and dealing with people. I will assign 1 representative per area and on a quarterly basis they will meet with area groups to listen and learn what is happening in the district."</p>	<p>"The impediments are special interests and apathy. I would work with traffic planners to compose a comprehensive traffic plan, implement "park & rides" outside of CD5 to cut traffic to Century City, UCLA and other work sites, immediately draw a master plan for development and traffic that would include CD 5 and surrounding areas, increase number of public parking lots on commercial streets, have DWP use new technology to increase energy and water savings."</p>

Comments by Coalition's panel:

<p>Adeena struggled to answer questions about Valley & hillside issues. She had a minor understanding of specific infrastructure needs and what constitutes an acceptable project. Said a project should not be built if it doesn't fit infrastructure, but currently supports a project that doesn't fit. Would make exceptions for developers.</p>	<p>Ron understood the details of how money is wasted by City government, that taxes on public filings are not collected by the City or County, and how to correct these problems. Very knowledgeable about district. Stated the issues well, but didn't give specific positions. It was not clear that he would support homeowners/residents over developers.</p>	<p>Paul was not very knowledgeable about specific issues in unique areas of the district, but said he would use the campaign to learn about these. He could not answer the question of what is a "good" development project for a community versus a "bad" one. Could be a career bureaucrat. Did not have concrete solutions to key issues.</p>	<p>Robyn answered in generalities. Did not have specific knowledge of unique areas of the district. No concrete plans for solutions. Said some developments deserve exceptions and should be built, even if homeowners/residents oppose. Said prior agreements between developers and neighbors can be broken.</p>	<p>Robert struggled to answer questions about unique issues of specific areas of district. Spoke in generalities, not of specific issues and solutions. Quarterly meetings with area groups would be an insufficient frequency. He was vague in how to overcome barriers to successfully dealing with the problems and issues in CD5 and in City Hall.</p>	<p>David had in-depth understanding of the district. He understood it overall and its specific areas. He understood the issues and gave solid answers to all the questions. Had reasonable specific solutions. Articulated his unqualified support for homeowners/residents over developers. Would require developers to abide by their prior agreements with neighbors.</p>
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Adeena Bleich	Ron Galperin	Paul Koretz	Robyn Ritter Simon	Robert Schwartz	David T. Vahedi
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What candidate says are his/her unique qualities that differentiate from other candidates.

Worked for Councilman Jack Weiss in CD5 council office, understands how City Hall works, will talk to people and do roundtable discussions.	Knowledgeable about district, extensive experience with many organizations in district.	Served in government for 25 years.	Served on Westside Planning Commission, helped to change area school. "The most valuable skill I have learned in my career is the ability to listen."	"I know how to deal with people, know how to bring compromise, know how to negotiate."	"I know the district very well, know each area, have the passion for improving district, have faith that things can get better, know how to manage organizations, know how to build consensus."
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Interactions with Constituents:

All candidates agreed to meet with the Coalition of HOAs-CD5 at least three times per year.

All candidates agreed to abide by the Coalition's *Constituent's Bill of Rights* (see page 10).

Assessment by the Coalition's panel as to what each candidate said regarding interaction with homeowners and residents when a developer proposes a project with entitlement, but the project is opposed by the neighbors and HOA.

Adeena Bleich	Ron Galperin	Paul Koretz	Robyn Ritter Simon	Robert Schwartz	David T. Vahedi
Very good	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Excellent
"Would put meeting together with those impacted and with HOA and work out a compromise. If no compromise, no project."	"I would tell every developer to work with the HOAs and Neighborhood Councils to get their support. Without acceptance by the HOAs and Neighborhood Council, I would be very unlikely to support a project."	"Not sure how to oppose by-right project, but support shorter entitlement period."	"Would try to ensure entitlements are honored."	Did not understand entitlements issue. Said he would gather information and build consensus.	"Would work for compromise, but if none possible, would oppose project. Will work to revise entitlement ordinances to make them consistent with today's environment."

Assessment by the Coalition's panel as to each candidate's attitudes toward developers seeking variances for development projects that neighbors and HOAs think would be detrimental to the neighborhood.

Very good	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Excellent
"Would put meeting together and work a compromise, but if no compromise, would not support variance."	"Too many variances issued today."	Would meet with developers and broker an arrangement with HOA. "If I thought the community was unreasonable, I would support the developer." "Some projects should be built even if there is opposition from neighbors."	"If projects had special circumstances, even if neighbors opposed it, project should be built." <i>(Note from Coalition's panel :Developers always list special reasons why their variances should be approved.)</i>	Did not understand variance process.	"I understand HOAs and impacted neighbors. I would work for a compromise, but would support the neighbors and HOA if the project had opposition. I would oppose all variances until the infrastructure catches up with development."

All candidates would involve HOAs in the reviewing and revising of community plans.

Adeena Bleich	Ron Galperin	Paul Koretz	Robyn Ritter Simon	Robert Schwartz	David T. Vahedi
Campaign Methods:					
If you have had a previous campaign, have you taken funds that were proven to be laundered funds/contributions? (If "yes"), Did you return the laundered money?					
Never had a prior campaign	Never had a prior campaign	Previous campaigns: Never took laundered funds/contributions	Previous campaign in 2001: Never took laundered funds/contributions	Never had a prior campaign	Previous campaign in 2005: Never took laundered funds/contributions
Did you ever refuse any campaign contributions because they were suspect? (IF YES, ASK): Who made the contributions?)					
Never had a prior campaign	Yes, Westfield Shopping Centers	Previous campaigns: Never received suspicious funds/contributions	Previous campaign in 2001: Never received suspicious funds/contributions	Never had a prior campaign	Previous campaign in 2005: Never received suspicious funds/contributions
If you had a previous campaign, were there any ethics violations? (If "yes"), how were these resolved?					
Never had a prior campaign	Never had a prior campaign	Previous campaigns: No ethics violations	Previous campaign in 2001: No ethics violations	Never had a prior campaign	Previous campaign in 2005: No ethics violations
Campaign Funding (As of June 30, 2008): (Best efforts were made to accurately report contribution data from the Los Angeles City Ethics website: http://ethics.lacity.org)					
Total dollars contributed (including loans to the campaign):					
Adeena Bleich	Ron Galperin	Paul Koretz	Robyn Ritter Simon	Robert Schwartz	David T. Vahedi
\$105,507	\$112,517	\$72,310	\$111,341	\$17,450	\$107,741
Money already spent for campaign expenses:					
\$5,756	\$51,295	\$35,819	\$9,469	\$1,000	\$4,565
Cash on hand (fiscal responsibility indicator):					
\$105,507	\$70,932	\$42,477	\$102,777	\$16,450	\$105,577
Loans from candidate for campaign (maximum allowed is \$25,000):					
\$0	\$24,877	\$0	\$25,000	\$1,000	\$25,000
Total number of contributors:					
256	287	231	288	43	225

Adeena Bleich	Ron Galperin	Paul Koretz	Robyn Ritter Simon	Robert Schwartz	David T. Vahedi
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LEADING INDICATOR : TOTAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DEVELOPERS, CONSTRUCTION, REAL ESTATE, LAWYERS, FINANCIAL/LENDING/INVESTMENT FIRMS (*The higher the percentage, the more that developers and their support services think this candidate will be "their" best representative on City Council, often in opposition to neighborhoods*):

Adeena Bleich	Ron Galperin	Paul Koretz	Robyn Ritter Simon	Robert Schwartz	David T. Vahedi
53%	48%	33%	43%	23%	25%
More than half of all campaign contributions from developers & their support services	Almost half of all campaign contributions from developers & their support services	One-third of all campaign contributions from developers & their support services	More than two out of every five campaign contributions from developers & their support services	Almost one out of every four campaign contributions from developers & their support services	One out of four campaign contributions from developers & their support services

Contributions by individuals or companies in other specific groups:

Entertainment: 7%	Entertainment: 9%	Entertainment: 3%	Entertainment: 3%	Entertainment: 28%	Entertainment: 3%
	Health care/medical: 3%	Health care/medical: 9%		Health care/medical: 2%	Health care/medical: 3%
	Restaurants/bars: 1%	Restaurants/bars: 5%			Restaurants/bars: 1%
		Auto/taxis/parking garages : 5%			
	Political consulting firms & workers/government workers: 2%	Political consulting firms & workers/government workers: 10%			Political consulting firms & workers/government workers: 7%
		Unions: 4%			Unions: 1%

Adeena Bleich	Ron Galperin	Paul Koretz	Robyn Ritter Simon	Robert Schwartz	David T. Vahedi
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Companies/organizations with 5 or more contributors:

Levin Leichtman Capital (Investment): 8 contributors	Coldwell Banker (Real estate): 12 contributors	None	Michelman & Robinson LLP (Attorneys): 11 contributors	Paradigm Agency (Entertainment): 5 contributors	State of California (Auditors): 12 contributions
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LEADING INDICATOR: Overlap with contributors to current councilman Jack Weiss, who during his term of office, supported virtually every development project in the district, with little or no regard to increased traffic, congestion during construction, neighborhood concerns or quality of life for nearby homeowners and residents. *(The higher the number, the more likely this candidate will be "developer-friendly", the lower the number, the more likely this candidate will be "neighborhood-friendly".)*

52 contributors	10 contributors	7 contributors	23 contributors	4 contributors	2 contributors
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Here is what candidates said when asked: If money is accepted from developers and other special interest groups, what is pledged for access between builder/construction entities versus HOAs and other neighborhood groups?

Will give equal access to developers and homeowner groups. Will not review plans until homeowner groups have first seen plans.	Would require developers early in their process to show plans to Neighborhood Councils, HOAs and neighbors who are impacted by a project.	Would want to meet with the developer and the neighbors.	"My access is open to everyone. I do not pledge anything different to someone who gives me money than the person who does not."	Will have equal access for all.	Access by homeowner groups will occur first.
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Other comments by the Coalition's panel regarding each candidate:

Adeena Bleich	Ron Galperin	Paul Koretz	Robyn Ritter Simon	Robert Schwartz	David T. Vahedi
<p>Did not seem to have the fortitude to stand up for beliefs and for constituents. Adeena told the Coalition's panel that when working for Councilman Weiss, she opposed some of his decisions, but said "I had to do what my boss told me to do." Although this is realistic, the Coalition's panel is concerned that Adeena will not be able to stand up to developers, lobbyists, the various political forces in and outside of City Hall and campaign contributors that put pressure on elected officials.</p>	<p>Well prepared, knowledgeable and well spoken. He had a clear understanding of the needs of most areas in CD 5, but did not give specific positions on development nor that he would support homeowners in final decisions. He agreed he would bring homeowners to the table in talks with developers, but did not make any commitments to support homeowner issues.</p>	<p>Paul has endorsed Jack Weiss for City Attorney even though Paul knew that in the 2001 Council race, Mr. Weiss accepted and kept illegal campaign contributions. On 9/12/08, Mr. Koretz said that he had decided to retract this endorsement. As of 11/6/08, no retraction had been confirmed. Paul cited his own procrastination for not following through. This suggests that Mr. Koretz may care more about politics than ethics and may not have the assertiveness necessary to stand up to City Hall political pressures.</p>	<p>Appointed by Mayor Hahn to Westside Planning Commission for 5 years. Voting record (the following information was provided to the Coalition by Robyn Ritter Simon): 67% of the time Robyn voted in favor of the project and 33% of the time her votes were in favor of the community (against the development project). Virtually all of the Commission's votes were unanimous. <i>The Coalition's panel believes this shows a strong record in favor of development.</i></p>	<p>Was very uninformed about the City, how it operates and more specifically, the District. Did not know about many of the large development projects that are currently in process. Did not know about the Density Bonus Ordinance or SB 1818. Did not have sufficient knowledge of the various parts of the district to answer questions.</p>	<p>Very knowledgeable and articulate about the issues of the district overall and its unique areas. Very clear understanding of realistic solutions that would help solve today's problems and strategically prepare city for the future. Has a proven track record for working through his HOA and Neighborhood Council to obtain resources for the community and for negotiating compromises and solutions.</p>

Website: Voters are encouraged to go to each website and learn more about the candidates.

www.adeenaforcouncil.com	www.rongalperinforcouncil.com	www.paulkoretz.com	www.robynrittersimon.com	www.robertforcouncil.com	www.votevahedi.com
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This newsletter is meant to be informative and does not represent support for or opposition to any candidate. This report reflects the opinions and best efforts of the representatives who served on the interview panel of the Coalition of Homeowners -Council District 5. For more information, contact your Homeowner Association president or your HOA's Board's representative to the Coalition of Homeowner Associations-Council District 5. If you are not a member of a homeowner association, go to www.CD5HOAS.org and send a contact message so your name and contact information can be given to a local HOA Board member in your neighborhood.

On December 1, 2007, the Coalition adopted a basic ***Constituents Bill of Rights**** for CD5 that candidates would be asked to support so that the Coalition knows that a candidate supports the voters in his or her district. The Bill of Rights included the following:

- i. The right to prompt, professional and efficient service.
- ii. The right to be treated with dignity and respect by friendly, courteous and attentive City employees and our elected official.
- iii. The right to ask questions and receive accurate and useful answers.
- iv. The right to prompt return and follow-up calls concerning complaints or requests.
- v. The right to be educated about the services provided by the City and how to obtain such services.
- vi. The right to an inclusive and transparent process for community development, parks, and transportation decisions.
- vii. The right of all constituents to meet with their councilmember at weekly “open office hours” in the district, with urgent needs for meetings within 72 hours.
- viii. The right to advance notice and reports for all neighborhood projects, early in the planning process/deliberations, to constituents beyond 500 feet of the project, as soon as information is available to any City entity, including, but not limited to the Planning Department, Building and Safety and/or anyone in the Council office.
- ix. The Councilperson will meet with the Coalition not less than three times per year.

**ALL CANDIDATES AGREED TO ABIDE BY THE COALITION’S
CONSTITUENTS BILL OF RIGHTS.**

*Councilman Bill Rosendahl of Council District 11 first created a Constituents Bill of Rights. We adopted his approach and thank him for his dedication to his constituents.



From Your Neighbors: Homeowner and Resident Groups Play Important Roles in Preserving and Protecting Neighborhoods

“Your homeowners association gives you a sense of community.” *Colleen Mason, Cheviot Hills Homeowners Association*

“There is strength in numbers. In LA, where developers and institutions exert undue political influence over key governmental decisions, it is only by acting together, can we protect our homes.” *Daniel Fink and Sylvia Crasnik, Roxbury Beverwil Homeowners*

“With a strong HOA, neighborhoods can purchase security cameras, beautify community land, distribute newsletters, and analyze and solve traffic congestion.” *Robin Greenberg, Roscomare Valley Homeowner Association*

“Homeowner groups represent your interests...You become part of a ‘can-do’ organization of neighbors. You can have a voice.” *Irene Sandler, Bel Air Crest*

“Awareness and involvement can make a difference. Crime, traffic, over-development, City Hall...These are things that can be influenced by our interaction on a local level. We can impact decisions of developers and City Hall by direct and consistent involvement and engagement.” *Malcolm S. McNeil, Hollywood Heights Assn.*

“Residential associations give neighborhoods a voice...You get to know your neighbors and develop friendships. Children have a stronger sense of being part of a caring neighborhood. A neighborhood association can make a difference at City Hall.” *Judy Bowen, South Carthay Neighborhood Association*

“Our homes are not isolated units. HOA participation is the most effective ways to ensure that we retain the character of our neighborhoods, preserve our tranquility, protect our way of life and the value of our assets...By working together, our voices have been heard as we address land use, traffic, safety and preservation issues.” *Nickie Miner and Kathryn L Scott, Benedict Canyon Association*

“We exist for only one reason: to improve the quality of life. Community involvement makes a difference! Get involved today!” *Dan Buben, Residents of Beverly Glen*

“The Bel-Air Association protects our safe, secure, and pristine quality of life. Be involved in an exciting community.” *Paulette DuBey, Bel-Air Association*

“This is how the unified thinking of local residents is voiced to city officials. It is the residents who want to preserve the character of the area by limiting the construction of buildings that will make a few developers big profits.” *G.G. Verone, Save Our Strip*

“HOAs can defend residential quality of life, which is under attack by the City of Los Angeles. Homeowners are being considered residential ATMs thanks to various tax, rate and fee increases passed or proposed. Our HOA motto is “Together We have Clout”. *Ellen Vukovich, Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association*

“Homeowner associations inform you of issues in your area and threats to your community.” *Ivan Finkle, Westwood Homeowners Association*

“HOAs help make sure that the needs of the community keep up with Los Angeles' constantly increasing population density and development. Our City Council has allowed development to proceed essentially unchecked while letting our streets and infrastructure decay. So it is up to LA citizens to insist, through their neighborhood associations, that our elected officials step up to the plate and do what they were elected to do.” *Jay Hyman, Century City Alliance*

“We inform and listen to our residents. Our online newsletter and email blasts put out rapid emergency information to neighbors. We distribute timely crime updates, street closure information, public hearings and information about City services. We are improving our quality of life.” *Marilyn Cohon, Westwood South of Santa Monica HOA*

“We are the captains of our own ship and in charge of our own destiny. It is to our advantage to be involved in our own community association.” *Derek Barton, California Country Club Homeowners Association*

“Local homeowner groups help to turn our big city into smaller neighborhoods where people get to know one another and gather to share information and make the community a better place to live. They can serve as a common bond...” *Barbara Broide, Westwood S of Santa Monica Homeowner Association*

“It is important that homeowners support their associations to keep abreast of the changes to their community, and learn about issues that affect their homes.” *Marlina Morris, The Longford on Wilshire Condominium Association*

“Serving on our homeowners board has brought me much closer to my neighbors, made me feel more of a part of our community, and kept me very up-to-date on important matters affecting our home.” *Stephen Rohde, Westwood Hills Homeowners Association*

“Because of our quick response to issues, we have organized opposition to billboard blight, cell tower placement and zoning and code abuses. A recent achievement was getting Westfield developers in Century City to lop off 10 stories from their proposed 49-story residential tower that would shadow our homes. Yes, size counts! If you do not join your HOA, you relinquish the opportunity to preserve your neighborhood.” *Jan Reichmann, Comstock Hills Homeowners Association*

“HOAs let your voice be heard.” *Terri Tippit, West of Westwood HOA*

“HOAs can off-set powerful lobbyists, lawyers and developers who sway our elected officials with campaign contributions.” *Marcia Selz, Holmby Hills HOA*