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COUNCILWOMAN

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LOS ANGELES COUNCIL DISTRICT 5



This week, I received some pretty exciting news! On Wednesday, Mayor Bass appointed me to serve on the Los Angeles Metro Board of Directors. For those of you who are unfamiliar, the Board is made up of 14 representatives from across the region. The City of Los Angeles is granted four of those seats, including the Mayor herself.

This is a big deal, and I am honored that the Mayor has entrusted me to help solve

some of our region's largest challenges. Our [Metro](#) buses and trains are ground zero for our homelessness crisis, ridership is way down, and the Metro Board has a critical role to play in our regional approach to creating a more sustainable LA. That means building affordable and workforce housing on Metro owned properties, ensuring true community safety on Metro buses, trains, and stations, and connecting unhoused riders directly to services. We also have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform how Angelenos move around our city, both on the Westside with the coming Metro D (Purple) Line Extension and Sepulveda Pass Transit Corridor project, and across Los Angeles.

My first full Board meeting is next Thursday, and I am looking forward to including updates in future iterations of this newsletter.

Council Updates

THIS WEEK ON THE L.A. CITY COUNCIL

Bulgari Hotel

On Wednesday, I introduced a [motion](#) requesting that the Director of City Planning reverse his decision to initiate the General Plan Amendment process for a proposed luxury hotel in Benedict Canyon on one of the last few large remaining parcels of open space.

The developer is proposing to build a luxury hotel and nearly a dozen mega mansions in the heart of the Santa Monica Mountains. Precious places such as these should be preserved, for they are the gems that contribute to making Los Angeles the world-class city that it is. And once open space is gone, it's gone forever. From a land use standpoint, allowing an intensive commercial use in a very low density residential area would create a terrible precedent and basically say to developers, "If you have enough money and can hire enough lobbyists in LA, you can build whatever you want, wherever you want." For five years, the community has fought this project tooth and nail, and enough is enough. I ran for office in strong opposition to this project, and I intend to do whatever it takes to end it now.

Report on Rise in Hate Crimes

On my first day on the City Council, I introduced a motion calling for a report on the rise in hate crimes in Los Angeles, and an overview of the City's hate crime reporting resources, prevention, prosecution and public awareness efforts. At that time, 2022 had already broken the record for the highest number of hate crimes reported in Los Angeles. Since then, the situation has only continued to worsen.

This week, my motion was adopted unanimously by the Council. I hope this is the beginning of a true dialogue on what more we need to be doing as a City and as a Council to address the rise in these hate crimes.

Water Supply

On Wednesday, I introduced a [motion](#) calling on LADWP, LA Sanitation and the Metropolitan Water District to report on efforts to transition away from imported water, increase our local water supply, determine the feasibility of reaching 70% local water by 2035, as well as assess the resilience of our water import system if an earthquake causes failures. This report will serve as a basis for future legislation to codify our water goals, and provide additional resources to make sure we hit those targets.

LGBTQIA+ Employment Practices

I also introduced a [motion](#) along with Councilmembers McOsker and Hernandez calling on our Personnel department to review and update any training materials that relate to LGBTQIA+ people, including the mandatory Citywide harassment training program, and Workplace Gender Transition Guidelines. Some of the City's materials are nearly a decade old, and are in need of updating.

In the District
EVENTS & MEETINGS



UCLA Alumnae Conference

I kicked off the week by participating in the UCLA Alumnae Conference, where I joined other women elected officials, labor and philanthropic leaders for a panel discussion on how interested women can get involved in making change in their communities. While I did my undergrad at Cal (go Bears!), my time at UCLA Law School was extremely formative in my career first as a land use and environmental attorney, and now as a City Councilwoman.



WRAC Roundtable Discussion

On Monday morning, I was honored to join the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils for a wide ranging conversation about the work we are doing at City Hall to improve the quality of life for all westsiders.



French Olympic Delegation Visit

One of the many exciting parts about hosting the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic games is the Cultural Olympiad that takes place before, during and after the games. This week, we hosted a delegation of individuals from France who are working on the artistic and cultural program for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris next year. As Vice-Chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Olympic and Paralympic Games, I am looking forward to what we can learn from the French as they prepare for next summer's events.



Museum of Tolerance

Council District Five is fortunate to have not one, but two museums in Los Angeles dedicated to education around the Holocaust, and tolerance broadly. It was an honor to visit the [Museum of Tolerance](#) earlier this week with Council President Paul Krekorian, and check out the incredibly relevant and timely anti-hate programming they've developed that's central to their exhibition.

Community Updates

TRAFFIC UPDATES • EVENTS • RESOURCES

CD5 Clean Team!

You can now request neighborhood clean up services like litter, weed, and graffiti removal, as well as small-scale tree trimming. Click below to submit your service request.



Please note: the CD5 Clean Team does not clean homeless encampments. The Bureau of Sanitation is tasked with providing sanitation services to homeless encampments. The CD5 Clean Team also does not address issues on private property.

STEP Fund



APPLY TODAY
thestepfund.org

Do you need rental assistance?

No catch. No gimmicks. Quick turnaround.

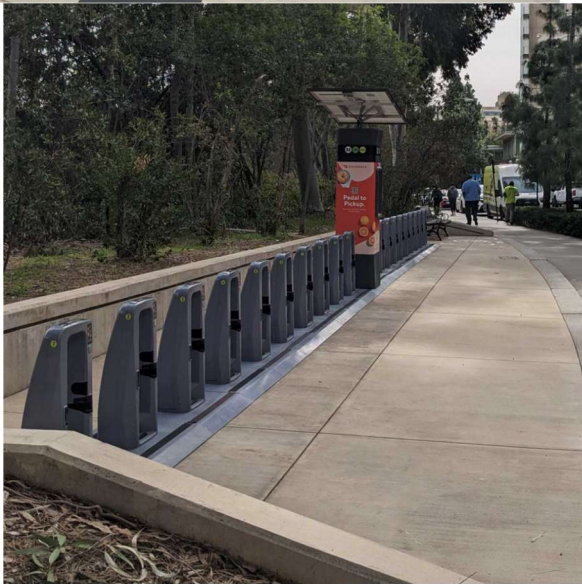
If you are at risk of losing your housing within the next 30 days, you may qualify for a micro-loan through the Step Fund. These are ZERO-INTEREST micro loans of up to \$2,500 to help you pay your rent or other housing-related expenses such as back rent, utilities, moving expenses, or security deposits. To learn more, visit www.theSTEPfund.org or call (213) 478-1464 for more info

Neighborhood Council Elections!

Several Neighborhood Councils in CD5 have elections coming up on March 26. Those include Mar Vista, Palms, Bel Air Beverly Crest, South Robertson, and Westwood. Make sure you know how to vote by visiting <https://empowerla.org/elections/>

New Metro Bikeshare Stations in Westwood!

Metro has added two new bikeshare stations in Westwood! They are located on Wayburn Terrace and right next to Drake Stadium on the UCLA Campus.



Want to try out Metro Bikeshare for free? Join one of two bikeshare pop-up events in Westwood on March 23! Come try out Metro Bikes and learn how you can use them in your neighborhood.

[Glendon & Kinross Pop-Up](#)

10:00AM -11:30 AM

1080 Glendon Ave

Los Angeles, 90024

[Westwood Village Farmer's Market Pop-Up](#)

12:00PM - 1:30 PM

1017 Broxton Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Traffic Updates

ROAD CLOSURES & STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Wilshire Blvd

Wilshire Blvd. will remain in a two-lane configuration in both directions between Highland Ave. and Cloverdale Ave. The left turn pockets from Wilshire Blvd. onto La Brea Ave. in both directions will also be closed.

Crenshaw Blvd. between 8th St. and Olympic Blvd

StreetsLA is currently resurfacing Crenshaw Blvd. between 8TH St. and Olympic Blvd. Please adhere to the temporary No Parking signs to ensure resurfacing projects are completed on time.

We're Here to Help

HOW TO CONTACT OUR OFFICE

If you have any need pertaining to the City of Los Angeles, please do not hesitate to reach out:

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All my best,

Katy

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