Residents Fight to Protect Pershing Square as a Real Public Space

Access to Public Space for EVERYONE is Crucial to an Equitable Downtown LA

WRITTEN BY ERIC ARES

For decades Pershing Square has been the closest thing to a Los Angeles Central Park - a public space where residents of all backgrounds can gather for events, eat a meal, or just sit and rest. Over the past year, however, there have been multiple reports of low-income and homeless community members being harassed by security guards and police and pushed out of the park during operating hours. These incidents occur on a daily basis, but especially on Wednesdays when vendors set up tents and booths for the Pershing Square Farmer’s Market.

This is why the Los Angeles Community Action Network has chosen the park as a place to promote the Share the Wealth Platform. Right now Pershing Square represents a perfect example of the growing inequality in Downtown Los Angeles - with low-income residents literally being forced out of the park to accommodate the business community’s wish to make the area more desirable for so-called “New Downtowners.” Yet it also presents an opportunity for park space that meets everyone’s needs.

The goal of the Share the Wealth Platform is simple: To make sure that the benefits of the revitalization and redevelopment of Downtown LA extend to ALL community residents - New Downtowners, business owners, and low-income residents alike.

Every Wednesday LA CAN has been tabling during the farmer’s market operating hours to build support for the Share the Wealth Platform while ensuring that the rights of low-income residents are protected from security guards and LAPD officers.

LA CAN members promoting the Share the Wealth Platform during the Pershing Square Farmers Market.
Housing Watch

CURRENTLY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES (HACLA) is targeting a tenant leader who is at the forefront of the fight for the human right to housing in the city. Emma Guillieta, a 70-year-old tenant leader in LA CAN’s Pueblo Del Rio Committee, is currently facing eviction because she is yet another victim of HACLA’s “one strike” policy. After 30 years of being a good and stable tenant, she is being evicted and the Housing Authority has to date refused to even discuss alternatives to eviction with her.

Emma is an active leader in the city and took a leadership role in a class action lawsuit against HACLA regarding tenants not receiving a proper rent reduction due to increased trash fees. She is also a founding member of the Pueblo Del Rio tenant committee, which over the past few years has been fighting against the privatization of public housing. She has access to legal resources through her involvement with LA CAN and is fighting this eviction.

The one-strike policies are unfair and HACLA has the legal discretion to avoid this eviction. The Housing Authority must take action to ensure that a 70-year-old, disabled woman does not lose her housing. You can contact LA CAN to help support Emma.

We know many more people are facing improper or illegal evictions in our communities every day. Only by learning your rights, getting involved in tenant organizing that can support efforts to fight back, and connecting with much needed but limited legal representation can we continue to fight and win against unjust displacement. Join LA CAN’s housing committees in Downtown and Pueblo del Rio to find out more and get involved in preserving our communities.

Baltimore Hotel and Rent Stabilization Ordinance

On Thursday May 23, LA CAN organized a Know Your Rights Workshop for tenants of the Baltimore Hotel and other rent stabilized hotels in the Downtown community. Tenants reported to LA CAN’s Housing Committee that people living in the Baltimore Hotel were worried about a recent rent increase. Rent can only increase 5% each year in rent stabilized units, and tenants have many other rights under the City’s Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO).

During the workshop tenants brought up other issues, including construction impacts. It was stressed at the workshop that tenants must take action when they have concerns and/or know their rights are being violated, and that it is very important AND easy to file complaints with the City’s Housing Department. For tenants who were not able to attend the workshop but have issues to address, below are steps to take when filing a complaint. The steps below apply to all properties that fall under the RSO.

1. If you believe your RSO rights have been violated (i.e. rent increase is too high, you have been negatively affected by construction noise or dust, ongoing services have been reduced or eliminated), you can file a complaint with the city’s Housing Department at 1-866-557-RENT.
2. At the time you file your complaint make sure you write down the inspector’s name and phone number, and your complaint number.
3. If you do not hear back from anyone within a week, call the inspector or investigator. You can also come into LA CAN for assistance with your complaint.

La Vivienda En Vela

Líderes de Inquilinos Son Objeto Para Evicción y Luchan En CONTRA!

Al presente, la Autoridad de Viviendas de la Ciudad de Los Ángeles (Siglas en inglés HACLA) apunta en blanco a un líder de inquilinos que esta al frente de la lucha para el derecho humano de viviendas en la ciudad. Emma Guillieta, de 70 años, líder de inquilinos del comité de LA CAN en Pueblo Del Río, se amenzan con evicción ya que es una víctima más de la política “one strike” de HACLA.

Después de 30 años como buena y estable inquilina, la desalojan y la Autoridad de Viviendas se reusa a discutir alternativas a la evicción. El Sr. Guillieta está comprometido en la ciudad que tomó el rol de líder en una demanda popular en contra de HACLA ya que los inquilinos no recibieron apropiadas reducciones de renta por impuestos de basurero. Ella también es miembro fundadora del comité de inquilinos de Pueblo Del Río, durante los últimos años, a luchado en contra de la privatización de la vivienda publica. Ella tiene acceso a recurso de ley por medio de su participación en LA CAN y pelea esta evicción.

Las pólizas del “one-strike” son injustas y HACLA tiene la deserción legal para evadir esta evicción. La Autoridad de Viviendas debe de tomar acción para asegurar que una mujer deshabilitada de 70 años, no pierda su hogar. Llama a LA CAN si quiera apoya a la Sra. Emma.

Al igual, Leonard Woods, miembro por mucho tiempo de LA CAN y líder de inquilinos en el Hotel Alexandria, fué amenazado recientemente con una evicción. Nuevamente, los dueños escogieron un buen y estable inquilino por mas de 10 años, por un supuesto incidente de crimen. Pero fué el inquilino que llamo la policía en contra del inquilino y no hubieron cargos por falta de evidencias. El desalojo pendiente fue posteriormente despedido. El Sr. Woods conoce sus derechos y tuvo acceso a representación legal por su envolucramiento en organizaciones de inquilinos y tuvo apoyo del comité de viviendas Emma en su activista en la ciudad que tomó el rol de líder en una demanda popular en contra de HACLA ya que los inquilinos no recibieron apropiadas reducciones de renta por impuestos de basurero. Ella también es miembro fundadora del comité de inquilinos de Pueblo Del Río, durante los últimos años, a luchado en contra de la privatización de la vivienda publica. Ella tiene acceso a recurso de ley por medio de su participación en LA CAN y pelea esta evicción.

Sabemos de muchas personas que enfrentan evicción ilegal o erróneas en nuestras comunidades diariamente. Sólo conociendo nuestros derechos y participando en organizaciones de inquilinos que apoyan la lucha y conectandonos con la representación legal (muy necesaria pero escasa) podemos continuar luchando y ganando en contra de los desalojamos injustos. Reunase a el comité de viviendas en LA CAN en Downtown y Pueblo del Río para averiguar mas y se comprometa en preservar nuestra comunidad.

Hotel Baltimore y la Ordenanza de Estabilización de Renta

El jueves, 23 de mayo, se organizó en LA CAN el taller “Know Your Rights” (conocas sus derechos) para los inquilinos del Hotel Baltimore y otros hoteles con renta estabilizada en la comunidad de Downtown. Los inquilinos reportaron al Comité de Viviendas de LA CAN que los que viven en el Baltimore se preocupan de un aumento, aunque la renta solo puede aumentar un 5% anual en unidades con renta estabilizada y los inquilinos tienen muchos otros derechos bajo la Ordenanza de Renta Estabilizada de la Ciudad (RSO).

En el transcurso del taller, los inquilinos presentaron otros asuntos inclusive el impacto de construcción. Se acusó que los inquilinos deben tomar acción si hai preocupaciones o si saben que sus derechos han sido violados, es muy importante y además, fácil archivar quejas con el departamento de viviendas de la ciudad (City’s Housing Department). Para inquilinos que no asistieron al taller, pero que tienen problemas de vivienda, al continuó estan los pasos para montar sus quejas. Estos pasos son para cualquier propiedad bajo el RSO. Si duda de que su domicilio cae bajo esta ordenanza (RSO), visite a LA CAN.

1. Si usted cree que sus derechos bajo RSO han sido violados (un alto aumento de renta, le afecto negativamente el polvo ó ruido de construcción, reducción de ó se eliminaron servicios) usted puede archivar una queja con el Departamento de Viviendas de la Ciudad al 1-866-557-RENT.
2. Cuando archive su queja, asegure anotar el nombre y numero telefónico del inspector, y el numero asignado a su queja.
3. Si no le responden dentro de una semana, llame al inspector o investigador. También puede venir a LA CAN para mas asistencia.
Housing Watch
City to Make Decision on Future of 1130 S. Hope

1130 S. Hope Street holds a vacant apartment building that once provided much-needed affordable and rent-stabilized housing in Downtown LA. The building is included on a list of affordable housing governed by the CRA/LA under a portion of a legally-binding settlement agreement commonly known as a “no net loss” obligation to preserve affordable housing. Additionally, the building was once governed by the City’s Rent Stabilization Ordinance and was inspected by the Housing Department as recently as 2008. At one time, the City obligated the owner of the property to sell it to a non-profit developer who would serve homeless people, which never happened.

Although the property is zoned residential and has a history of providing housing, it is now targeted for re-zoning and conversion to a “boutique” hotel that includes multiple high-capacity nightclubs. At a recent Zoning Administrator hearing, LA CAN testified against the proposed project because we believe the property should be preserved as residential, creating an opportunity to again provide affordable housing.

Additionally, many neighbors in the immediate area testified against the project because of the noise, traffic and other issues created by large nightclubs operating in a quiet residential neighborhood. However, Councilmember Huizar has already provided formal support for the project and his staff has not responded to questions raised about what prompted this support, how and when former residents were displaced, and why this is a good use of a site with the potential to provide housing.

LA CAN will be working with other stakeholders to prevent the re-zoning of this property into a hotel and nightclubs. Our Share the Wealth platform for fair redevelopment is clear about the need to preserve affordable housing (see page 1 to read more about Share the Wealth), and we certainly don’t need to replace housing with nightclubs. A significant portion of the redevelopment of Downtown LA has focused on new hotels and nightclubs – it is now time to have equal focus on affordable housing preservation, rehabilitation and development.

LA Human Right to Housing Collective

Over the last year, the Collective has reported out to Community Connection readers about our work, our campaigns and our growth. Yet, many people still ask us: “what is the Collective and how is it different from LA CAN?” That is why, this issue, we plan on answering that question and give you the opportunity to get involved!

The mission of the LA Human Right to Housing Collective is to build a city wide tenants movement and create a network of resident-led organizations and committees that can build power to implement the principle of the human right to housing in LA housing policies.

The Collective has two anchor organizations, LA CAN and Union de Vecinos, and other member organizations and resident committees spanning from Boyle Heights to the Westside and San Fernando to Watts that are working together to build out these networks into a CITY WIDE MOVEMENT. Why? Because Los Angeles is in a HOUSING CRISIS!

Not only is LA one of the most expensive cities to live in, we are also the homeless capital of the U.S.A. Even so, City Hall continues to create policies that demolish existing affordable housing, displace residents and criminalize homelessness and poverty. We believe that housing is a human right and that all Angelenos have the RIGHT to a safe and affordable home regardless of income. Furthermore, over 70% of Angelenos are either tenants or homeless residents meaning that together, WE HAVE THE POWER to make housing policies benefit us!

“YOU CAN’T BUILD YOUR WAY OUT OF OUR HOUSING CRISIS”
– Barbara Schultz, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

Our three campaign areas are focused on the preservation of existing affordable housing and include:
1) Public Housing Preservation;
2) Rent Control Reform;
3) Foreclosures & Homelessness

Tenants from across the City are meeting monthly to talk about housing issues, propose solutions and implement campaigns to meet our needs. JOIN US!

Next Meeting:
Saturday, 6/22/2013 – 9AM-Noon;
Downtown delegation leaving at 8am from LA CAN

For more information, contact Thelmy at lahumanrighttohousing@gmail.com or 213.228.0024
Hunger Action Day Helps Propel Senate Bill 283 Forward

Important State Bill Would Restore Food Stamps Benefits to Those with Past Convictions

WRITTEN BY LYDIA TREJO AND ERIC ARE

On the morning of Tuesday, May 21, about a dozen LA CAN members joined dozens of other Los Angeles residents for a two-day trip to Sacramento for Hunger Action Day. Held every year, Hunger Action Day, organized by the California Hunger Action Coalition, is an opportunity for everyday citizens to travel to the State Capitol and ask their State Representatives to pass laws that fight hunger and increase access to fresh, nutritious food.

This year, the priorities were clear: Assembly Bill 5 and Senate Bill 283. Assembly Bill 5, also known as the Homeless Bill of Rights, has been written about extensively in the Community Connection. Amongst other things, the Bill would protect the right to share food in public. In recent years, cities across the county have cracked down on charities and other groups who share food and water with homeless individuals. AB 5 would go a long way in stopping this growing trend and other policies that promote the criminalization of homelessness.

Senate Bill 283 would reinstate CalWORKS and CalFresh (also known as Food Stamps) benefits to those who have been convicted of past drug sales felonies and are in compliance with parole and probation. The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (the federal name for the Food Stamp Program) bans benefits for those who have drug sales offenses. However, states can opt out of the ban. California is one of only a handful of states that still maintain this life-time ban - denying food access to one of society’s most vulnerable populations.

To help push these bills forward, hundreds of constituents gathered outside the Capitol early Wednesday morning before heading indoors for delegation visits with State Assemblymembers and Senators. LA CAN was able to meet with the offices of Assembly Speaker John Perez and Senator Kevin De Leon and demand their support for AB 5 and SB 283. After the visits, the group took part in a huge action right on the front steps of the Capitol - with hundreds of people symbolically eating, sleeping, and resting while spelling “HOMELESS NEED A BILL OF RIGHTS.”

A few days later, AB 5 was held up in Assembly Appropriations Committee. However, as a 2-year bill, AB 5 is still alive and will be revisited again in January 2014. Yet in early June, SB 283 passed the State Senate, but only re-establishes access to CalFresh, not CalWORKS. The bill is now in the State Assembly, where it will hopefully be passed by the end of June and signed by Governor Jerry Brown later on in the year. This would not have been possible without the grassroots and community activity exhibited through efforts like Hunger Action Day.

Women’s Day in the Park 2013

WRITTEN BY SILVIA VARGAS
PHOTOS BY THE DOWNTOWN WOMEN’S CENTER

After weeks of anticipation, Women’s Day in the Park delivered fun and fellowship on May 17. I am sure that all the beautiful sisters who attended the wonderful event enjoyed themselves as much as I did. And, once again, this annual event was a success thanks to all of the volunteers, organizers, and sponsors from the Downtown Women’s Action Coalition (DWAC) who helped put the day together.

This was my third year attending, and I think it gets better and better each time. I felt such joy when I witnessed a rainbow of ladies getting off the bus in Elysian Park. They were shining and excited for the guaranteed once a year experience of getting pampered and celebrated. When women arrived, the welcoming environment reminded them, “Enjoy yourself - today is for you!”

About 200 sisters participated in a variety of activities, such as dancing, yoga, games and important information tables. We were also treated to live music from Citrus College’s Hawaii Combo. And, once again, the fashion show was a highlight of the day as elegantly and colorfully dressed women strutted up and down the stage in fantastic outfits.

How great it was to escape into nature - the beautiful trees and grass - to share a day in which we forget about our troubles and problems through laughter, conversations, dancing, and learning from the many information booths.

Once again, a big thanks to everyone in the Downtown Women’s Action Coalition, and especially LA CAN and the Downtown Women’s Center, that planned such a wonderful day.

Many blessings to all those who were able to participate in an event in which we could embrace and celebrate our collective womanhood. We should try and do that every day, not just at Women’s Day in the Park!

We are already looking forward to Women’s Day in the Park 2014. Please join us at DWAC meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 pm at LA CAN.

Hunger Action Day Participants spelling “Homeless Need a Bill of Rights” on the State Capitol steps.

Women’s Day in the Park participants taking advantage of info booths, give aways and (bottom) celebrating after another entertaining and successful fashion show.

And colorfully dressed women strutted up...
Discriminatory Policing Continues on Main Street - Is It Now a Crime to Garden?

WRITTEN BY KARL SCOTT AND ANDRIANA BICANIN

Around 1:00 pm on May 21, 2013, three LA CAN members began giving away seedlings to community residents to promote LA CAN’s garden projects and encourage gardening among others in the Skid Row community. LA CAN members often conduct community outreach on Main Street and throughout the community, as a primary means to connect with constituents and residents. However, on this day, community outreach and seedling giveaway activities were treated as crimes by LAPD.

Main Street has been the target of increased LAPD presence and harassment for the past few months. Low-income residents have been targeted by LAPD during this recent Main Street crackdown.

On May 21st, Officer Owens returned to Main Street with two other officers ready to punish people who weren’t moving and, without giving warning, issued a citation to an elderly resident who has lived on Main Street for over 50 years. The officers then moved a half-block down the street and cited two LA CAN members, again without warning, who were handing out the seedlings and talking with passersby.

Responding to this clear sign of harassment, LA CAN members demanded to speak to the officers’ supervisor. Instead of just a supervisor arriving on scene, however, about a dozen additional officers showed up. An LA CAN member asked Officer Owens if she had properly warned the three people being cited for 41.18D before issuing the citation, as is required by the “Jones” settlement related to LAPD’s enforcement of this municipal code. She responded that she did not have to warn these specific individuals because she had been warning people on Main Street for months.

Other LAPD officers then began telling residents and others that they were legally documenting their activities with cameras that they were blocking the sidewalk, even though people were passing by regularly on the sidewalk without any problem. Rather than issuing the citations, however improper they were, and moving on, LAPD grew more aggressive and arrested housing organizer Thelmy Perez for purportedly interfering with LAPD activities. Thelmy was simply recording LAPD activities on her cell phone camera.

Adding insult to injury, a recent Downtown News article (“An Al Fresco Fiasco”, 6/10/13) revealed that while low-income residents are fined for 41.18D citations, businesses in the Historic Core are not charged a fee when they are cited for unpermitted sidewalk seating. It went on to say that Councilmember Huizar’s office is asking the Bureau of Street Services to move the sidewalk seating that is not interfering with businesses. How about holding off on giving citations to homeless and low-income residents sitting on those same sidewalks, especially because those tickets carry fines that most cannot afford?

The use of police intimidation and unjust prosecutions has never and will not silence LA CAN’s critique of Safer Cities policing nor will it deter our human rights organizing, no matter how many attempts are made to criminalize us. LA CAN is prepared to fight any charges against Perez as well as the citations given to members, who continued to distribute seedlings after the officers left. We will continue our fight for equity on Main Street, throughout Downtown and South LA, and beyond.

Did the City Attorney Just Call Homeless Residents Terrorists?

WRITTEN BY ERIC ARES

In September 2012, homeless residents achieved a major victory when the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld an injunction that bars the City of Los Angeles and LAPD from seizing the property of Skid Row residents. This should have been the end of a long-term debate around the property rights of homeless residents on the streets of Skid Row. After years of seeing their personal belongings illegally confiscated and often times destroyed at the hands of LAPD, residents fought back, organized, and won.

However, rather than respecting the ruling and taking it as a sign that they have been wrong all along, the City of Los Angeles decided in February to appeal to the Supreme Court to overturn the injunction. The City’s arguments against the injunction have been consistently laden with discriminatory language that attempt to strip homeless residents of their constitutional rights. However, in recent weeks, the bigotry in their arguments have reached a new low.

At a meeting in May with the City Attorney’s office, an Assistant City Attorney tried to make a link between homeless individuals and those who bombed the Boston Marathon in April.

“She argued that the backpack bombing in Boston could happen on skid row and therefore they needed access to everything left unattended on the sidewalks,” said Aazim Muhammad, a Skid Row resident and LA CAN member present at the meeting. “What a bunch of B.S. When is the last time you heard of a homeless person packing some C-4? She then said that if the City were allowed to confiscate people’s belongings that they would then consider providing more trash cans and maybe even hygiene stations - basically requesting that we forgo our recently won rights in exchange for services that we should already be receiving.”

It is highly doubtful that the Supreme Court would bother to take up a case as clear cut as this. However, if they do, the community is confident that they will agree with all of those who have weighed in on this previously - affirming that a homeless resident has the same right to property as anyone else.
Residents Fight to Protect Pershing Square as a Real Public Space

LA CAN has also been working to ensure the farmer’s market EBT accessible so that low-income residents with CalFresh (also known as Food Stamps) can purchase fresh produce. This is especially important since the only full service grocery store in Downtown operates in the South Park neighborhood.

The results so far have been positive. There has been a decrease in the number of reports of harassment and civil rights violations and people are responding favorably to the platform.

This underscores the importance of promoting the Share the Wealth vision and organizing the community for an inclusive Downtown. If the community does not fight for a Downtown LA for all - then business leaders and the City will continue their attempts to displace poor and homeless residents.

---

LA CAN’S Share the Wealth Platform

NO DISPLACEMENT: No one should be forced out of their own community, especially low-income tenants and homeless residents with few, if any, other options.

AN INCREASE IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Downtown LA desperately needs more affordable housing, especially for homeless and other extremely low-income people.

THE CREATION OF EMPLOYMENT AND WEALTH-BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE MOST IN NEED: Low-income residents should have priority access to jobs and other economic opportunities created in Downtown LA.

AN INCREASE IN GREEN SPACE, INCLUDING PARKS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS, AND ASSURANCE THAT IT IS ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE: Existing park and other public green space must be accessible to everyone.

AN END TO THE CRIMINALIZATION OF POVERTY: Since 2006, the Safer Cities Initiative and other punitive policies by LAPD and BIDs have unfairly criminalized homeless residents, other extremely low-income residents and people of color, street vendors, and low-income visitors to downtown.

ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE, AND EFFECTIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: Low-income people remain the large majority of transit riders in Los Angeles and must be a priority. Plans and new projects should reflect their priorities and needs.

AN INCREASE IN CIVIC PARTICIPATION: All formal and informal decision-making bodies affecting Downtown LA must be accessible and transparent to the public, not require dues, and consist of an equal balance of higher-income and low-income stakeholders.
We Are All Deborah Burton!

Instead, two representatives of the City Attorney’s office came to the lobby to discuss the matter with the human rights defenders, who demanded that the unjust charges against Deborah Burton be further investigated and dropped. To date, these representatives have not responded to follow-up communications requesting the final decision of the City Attorney. Ms. Burton’s trial is expected to begin in late June.

Though the group was not able to express their demands directly to the City Attorney, outside the walls of City Hall/City Hall East the message was clear. The day opened with four powerful speakers who laid out the issues to the crowd and the media. A large group of people chanted and danced in a circle to the sounds of drums. Hundreds of flyers were distributed to passersby, most of whom were very interested. After three hours, the action concluded and all present made a pledge to each other to continue defending the people of L.A. from the City Attorney, LAPD, and elected officials who criminalize free speech and dissent.

(Editor’s note: Please see article on page 5 to read about LAPD actions against human rights workers later in day on May 21, 2013.)

Clockwise from Top Right: Human Rights organizers hold a press conference in front of City Hall East; During the action, a delegation spoke with representatives from Trutanich’s office and demanded that all charges against Burton be investigated and dismissed; A flyer demanding justice for Deborah Burton.

STOP KILLER COPS - LAPD Officers Shoot and Kill Another Community Member

WRITTEN BY GENERAL DOGON
PHOTOS BY DAN JONES AND LA CAN

The morning of May 1, 2013 felt like the first day of summer - the sky was clear and the sun was shining brightly through the morning sky. But as I walked out of my hotel to head to LA CAN, the morning peace was interrupted by the ghetto bird (a.k.a. LAPD helicopter) that went flying by followed by a dozen LAPD squad cars speeding down 6th Street with sirens howling. Residents and business owners came out to see what was going on. I saw the chopper hovering close by, so I quickly ran into LA CAN to grab a video camera and sprinted down 5th Street.

When I arrived at 5th and Wall, I noticed a presence of community residents who seemed upset at whatever was going down. There was also a huge number of LAPD officers - and once I saw one cop tying yellow crime scene tape around poles I knew something serious had happened. At that moment my heart fell as I noticed a Black male with blue jeans and white tennis shoes lying face down in front of the Florence Hotel. I heard the residents surrounding me talk about the multiple times he was shot. The onlookers became even more upset when the Fire Department arrived and tossed the man around as though they had no respect for a Black life. As the crowd grew larger, the cops created a new perimeter line that moved people at least two blocks away from the scene.

I then walked around to 5th and San Pedro Streets, where I saw a crowd of residents surrounding a sister crying hysterically. I thought to myself that this man who had just been shot and killed by LAPD was loved in the community. I could feel the tension growing between community members and LAPD. I remained on scene for well over three hours, and never saw one cop ask for witnesses, take statements or contact information, or interview anybody. Residents who lived within the yellow-taped perimeter were prevented from entering their homes. One resident in a wheelchair was pleading with officers that his medication was in his unit, but he was still denied access.

I later learned that LAPD officers had shot and killed Skid Row community member Kenneth Miller. I spoke with many witnesses and also visited the shooting scene. And, from what I’ve learned, what actually went down differs greatly from the official LAPD take on the shooting, which states that officers shot Miller after he opened fired during a robbery inside the Green Apple Market.

The investigation of the fatal shooting is still underway. However, what must be noted and immediately addressed is the pattern of excessive force and reckless shooting on the part of LAPD officers that continue to characterize Skid Row policing.

Kenneth Miller was shot and killed on May 1, 2013 - two years after Skid Row resident Dale Garrett was shot and killed by LAPD Detectives on the corner of 5th and Spring Streets. Both killings involved undercover officers shooting recklessly on crowded street corners. Both have “official” statements from LAPD that do not add up. In terms of Garrett’s killing, the official word from LAPD changed three times within hours of the shooting and eventually, the Police Commission ruled that the shooting was NOT within protocol.

In the case of Kenneth Miller, bullet holes lined the Green Apple Market that had shoppers in it and additional holes were seen in the windows and walls of the Florence Hotel. Shots actually went into the day room where people where watching TV. There were even bullet holes near the sidewalk concrete, which suggests that Miller was shot even after he had fallen to the ground.

We cannot allow killer cops to come into our community and just recklessly start shooting at will with no rights and respect for innocent people’s lives. This is not the Wild West!
It’s Only My Opinion

WRITTEN BY AL SABO

Eric Garcetti: Our mayor-elect is a very personable politician who I hope will become a mayor for all of the residents of Los Angeles. Personally I like Eric, but I have some doubts about whether he will be a representative for all. He tends to be too conservative to be a true democrat and his close relationship with the big real estate developers should leave us all with a queezy feeling. The 1% should do fine, but what about the rest of us? Go back to your roots and your progressive base and be all that you can be. The 1% should do fine, but what about the rest of us? Go back to your roots and your progressive base and be all that you can be.

Wendy Greuel: She could have become our first female mayor, but ran a very uninspiring campaign. Her first mistake was in using early contributions for negative ads against her opponent. Perhaps her biggest blunder was in securing the backing of former Mayor Richard Riordan. To the voters this made her look like the conservative and Garcetti a more progressive. If she would have sold herself to the fans who didn’t vote for Hill, as a duo, the Swan Brothers, remain in the competition, Attn: Al 530 S. Main St. 90013

Carmen Trutanich: Only on rare occasions has an incumbent ever been beaten this soundly. His defeat can best be explained by this old adage: “You can fool some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time, but you can’t fool all of the people all of the time.”

Dennis Zine: His defeat can best be explained by referring to Trutanich, or by the saying “A leopard can’t change its spots.” Did he really think he could fool anyone by running as an independent? If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, you can be sure it’s a Republican.

Unions: Many have said that Greuel’s backing by the unions led directly to her defeat. What’s wrong with you people? I never belonged to a union, but when did unions become a bad thing? The correct answer is never. Yet somehow the capitalist corporate owners and bosses have managed to convince the middle class, especially non-union workers, that unions are bad. If it wasn’t for unions, we’d all be working 80 hours a week at $5 an hour. Wake up, people. Would you rather have your children educated by teachers making as little as $12,000 a year or would you rather pay them what they are worth? Corporate magnates don’t care who educates your children. After all, their kids are enrolled in private schools.

From Politics to Pop Culture...

Adam Levine: The lead singer of the music group Maroon 5 and coach on the popular talent show The Voice, after learning two of his three finalists were eliminated and knowing his microphone was still live, blurted out in frustration, “I hate this country.” It was an inept attempt to shift the blame of his team member Judith Hill’s demise from himself to the fans who didn’t vote for Hill, one of the favorites in the competition. The blame rests clearly on Levine’s shoulders. His choice of songs for Hill directly led to her downfall, especially when you consider a major way to “vote” was by downloading contestants’ offerings on I-Tunes. Who would waste their money downloading the misguided songs she was singing?

Sasha Allen: The lone black vocalist remaining on the Voice. She definitely deserves to be in the top six, but so does Judith Hill. The difference lies in the songs chosen by her coach, Shakira. The songs she sang not only allowed her to display her vast talent, but the songs were also classic soul songs that most people would love to play over and over again.

The Voice: Only in the preliminary rounds is this competition appropriately named. During the live competition, many other factors help influence the voting. Big factors include sets, wardrobe, song selection and stage presence. The popularity of country music can also skew the results. All three of Blake Shelton’s finalists are country singers and Levine’s long survivor could also be classified as country. Country music is so popular that a talented but very ordinary country duo, the Swan Brothers, remain in the competition.

Usher: Pop singer Usher, besides being a coach on The Voice, accompanied Blake Shelton in a benefit concert to an audience in Oklahoma. Usher was phenomenal in singing country. Look out, Darius Rucker, if Usher jumps to country. He’s a natural, just like Hootie.

These are only my personal opinions. If you want to agree with or counter these positions, send your comments to The Community Connection, Attn: Al 530 S. Main St. 90013
The Growing Number of Women in Prison Under the New Jim Crow

WRITTEN BY AAZIM MUHAMMAD

African-American women, who for decades were able to avoid the incredibly high incarceration rates of their male counterparts, are seeing an upswing in their imprisonment, new data shows. Currently, Black women are the fastest growing prison population in America. Over the past three decades, the number of people in women’s prisons has grown by over 640% throughout the country, reflecting draconian sentencing legislation and an increase in “crimes of survival” resulting from poverty.

Women and children are the fastest growing population among the homeless in LA County and as women are driven into destitution, increasing numbers of mothers are being criminalized. As many as 85% of women who are imprisoned are mothers or primary caregivers. “Surveillance and imprisonment has a disproportional and devastating impact on women, girls, transgender and gender non-conforming people, and families from communities of color and low-income communities,” said Diana Zuniga, Field Organizer for California United for a Responsible Budget.

According to Barry Krisberg, policy director at Berkeley’s Earl Warren Institute on Law, “Once in the criminal justice system, African-American girls are treated with brutality, so much emotional and sexual abuse.” Krisberg spoke at a recent conference on Black women and incarceration, and his warnings were frightening. “We are violating African-American women’s human rights everyday in all 58 counties of California,” he said. “Where are the lawsuits? Where is the accountability?” In California, specifically, the arrest rate was 49 per 1,000 African-American women, compared to 8.9 per 1,000 white women. For Latinas, that number is at 14.9 per 1,000. It’s clearly Black women and girls who remain the most devas-

decades,” said Meda Chesney-Lind, a professor of sociology at the University of Hawaii. “We have never seen these kind of numbers before. National policies like zero tolerance are responsible for the school to prison pipeline. And a dual justice system that treats white girls differently from Black girls is disproportionately impacting African-American girls.”

In our Los Angeles community there are two very strong women working to give women a new way of life. I would like to recognize and highlight their work. The two women are Susan Burton from A New Way of Life Reentry Project/All of Us or None and Deborah Burton of the Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN).

On May 13, I went on a trip to Sacramento with a group of formerly incarcerated men and women. The trip was designed as an inaugural people’s quest for democracy. Susan Burton and Fany Baruti of All of Us or None were the sponsors. It was Susan Burton who led the charge in advocating for expanding voting rights for formerly incarcerated people, banning the box by removing employment barriers for formerly incarcerated, and improving opportunities for incarcerated youth and youth being released from custody. We met with various legislators as well as their aides.

Conversations were centered on building partnerships with groups around the state and growing this lobby effort to 2,000 or more next year. We also discussed how we can shape policy and get sponsors for our bills. I am honored and privileged to participate in meetings with Susan Burton quite frequently. Susan has shared with us what led her to start A New Way of Life Program. With just a dream and a few dollars she started this social enterprise model. I encourage everyone to see From Critical Resistance to A New Way of Life. Angela Davis of Critical Resistance is one of the lead moderators. It is advocates like Susan Burton who have opened doors for formerly incarcerated women and are making a tremendous difference in the quest for a new way of life. In a recent meeting Susan was referred to as the Harriet Tubman of our era. Her efforts truly provide freedom to many.

This article focuses on how Black women have been increasingly targeted and criminalized. Deborah Burton is one of those women, and is facing three unjust charges related to a legal protest in June 2011. She was not charged until August 2012, and faces trial in late June 2013. On the eve of election day, human rights organizations including LA CAN sponsored an action dubbed, “We Are All Deborah Burton” designed to draw attention to the erroneous and unjust charges filed against Deborah. The large turnout demonstrated Deborah’s leadership on these issues. Just two weeks later Deborah led a group protesting a new facility to house female inmates at the Pitchess Detention Center.

It’s people like Susan and Deborah who are fighting against the violation of women’s human rights. They fight to end brutality and the emotional and sexual abuse our state puts our mothers and daughters through. These women have endured this and continue to fight for accountability through grassroots organizing, lawsuits and even risking their lives. So when you are having one of those not so good days, just say “I am Susan Burton” or “I am Deborah Burton” and this too shall pass.

We Gotta Fight The Powers That Be, Peace and Blessings.
Juneteenth: A Celebration of Freedom
WRITTEN BY DEBORAH BURTON

June 19, 1865, is considered the date when the last slaves in America were freed. On that day, General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and issued General Order No. 3 - almost two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth symbolizes the end of slavery. For many African American people it symbolizes freedom. It gave many blacks the opportunity to think about what they wanted and needed for themselves - to think about the future. When blacks in Texas heard the news, many left in search of their family while others left to build their own economic opportunities and find happiness. They left with nothing but the hope in their hearts for a brighter tomorrow.

However, Juneteenth is also a reminder - a call to continue fighting for freedom today. In a community of low-income and homeless people of color, many of us are still fighting for our basic rights - the right to assemble, the right to equal economic opportunities, the right to free speech. So while emancipation occurred almost 150 years ago, our work is not finished. Yes, we’ve had some victories, but while we celebrate Juneteenth, let’s think of how we can continue to share the message of freedom for all!

From the National Juneteenth Christian Leadership Council www.njclc.com

J—Juneteenth represents the joy of freedom—the chance for a new beginning.
U—Unless we expose the truth about the African-American slave experience, Americans won’t be truly free.
N—Never must we forget our ancestors’ endurance of one of the worst slave experiences in human history.
E—Every American has benefitted from the wealth blacks created through over 200 years of free labor Juneteenth allows us to acknowledge that debt.
T—To encourage every former slave holding state to follow Texas’ and Oklahoma’s example and make Juneteenth a state holiday.
E—Everyday in America, blacks are reminded of the legacy of slavery. Juneteenth counters that by reminding us of the promise of deliverance.
E—Even on the journey to discover who we are, Juneteenth allows us to reflect on where we’ve been, where we’re at and where we’re going as a people.
N—Never give up hope is the legacy our enslaved ancestors left. It was this legacy that produced black heroism in the Civil War and helped launch the modern civil rights era. It is this legacy we celebrate.
H—History books have only told a small part of the story; Juneteenth gave us a chance to set the record straight.

To Your Health: A Gut Feeling
WRITTEN BY CARMEN VEGA

While searching food allergies to counter my inflammatory condition (tendinitis), I came across information that raised my awareness of a very common protein ailment which often goes undiagnosed. This helped me to realize how ubiquitous food sources may be affecting millions of people (in my humble and personal estimation), which once again affirms the importance of healthy food choices.

My “Aha!” moment came while reading about the effect of gluten (wheat protein) and casein (a milk protein) on autistic children. The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network has amassed research around the notable results of diet on Autistic children. Moreover, I discovered how these proteins affect the body in people with celiac disease, an ailment that goes undiagnosed in 97% of people with the disease.

In a nutshell, the proteins, gluten and casein, when not readily absorbed by the cilia (the little hair-like membranes in the intestines), produce a substance which causes inflammation in the “gut.” This leads to digestive problems and symptoms such as cramping, gas, distention and bloating, chronic diarrhea or constipation (or both), fatty stools, unexplained anemia or nutritional deficiency, and weight loss despite a large appetite. Think of these little hairs as filters that allow nutrients into the blood stream. The substance (like a residue) that damages the cilia causes inflammation and in time prevents the proper absorption of nutrients into the blood stream causing even more disease.

Over time, it’s like letting stufflinger in the drain of your kitchen sink - not a pretty sight! Think of the myriad of digestive problems and diseases that may be solved by the simple elimination or reduction of your intake of wheat and milk products. An even simpler option is to start by adding variety to your nutritional choices. Healthy change in our eating habits does not have to be drastic - it can be gradual and consistent. However, it’s important to note that with food allergies, a period of abstention, or avoiding the allergen, may solve the problem.

Do you have a better idea of why it is important to include salads, fruits and lots of water in your diet? Think of that cilia being “swept” off by green lettuce, and “rinsed” off with fresh clean water? Ahh, I feel better already!

Meanwhile, for a great anti-inflammatory treat and delicious desert try a piece of fresh pineapple, which is high in fiber and rich in vitamins C, A, and B. For a great anti-inflammatory treat and delicious dessert try a piece of fresh pineapple, which is high in fiber and rich in vitamins C, A, and B. The option to feel GOOD and be healthy is available. Give it a try!

The Dead Aren’t Painful
WRITTEN BY CAROLYN SCHAUGAARD

The dead aren’t painful.

God gifted me to hear them and see them alive in my dreams.

The dead aren’t painful.

Most of them are very nice, including my three ex-husbands, Gerry, Larry and Frank - whose double Calvin showed me with my own eyes. The dead aren’t painful. I want to stay with them although I myself am alive.

Just One Purse
WRITTEN BY TABIA SALIMU

I am basking in the glory of being housed
What that feels like is incredible and secure
What that looks like is me leaving with a purse
Just one purse
Not loaded down with a cartful of essentials for the day
Knowing that what awaits me is comfort, solitude and familiar surroundings
In my new apartment I am catching up on rest
Relaxation, leisure, chores, letting go of resentments
Finishing unfinished business
Weeding out the unnecessary
I can rest safely and not be paranoid about closing my eyes
And waking up to the possibility of my personal belongings
Threatened, moved, bothered
It looks like me rolling over in the comfort of my own bed
Not worrying about disturbing anybody else’s peace
What it feels like is me learning to leave at peace
A New Day in the City of Los Angeles?

By Wesley Walker

The May 21st General Election for Los Angeles ended with residents electing a new Mayor, a new City Attorney, a new Controller, and three new City Councilmembers (for a total of 7 new Councilmembers to be seated soon). However, with the election behind us, the real questions are: Will these individuals keep all of their campaign promises? And, what can and will our community ties do to ensure the change in leadership results in positive changes for low-income people of color?

After an extensive and exhausting campaign, Eric Garcetti defeated Wendy Greuel to become the next Mayor of Los Angeles. Many believe Garcetti was able to defeat a fellow Democrat by painting her as a pawn of labor unions, which supported her campaign greatly with money and volunteers. Garcetti has his own labor ties, but he said that the difference in the contest was his grassroots support.

In November 2012, LA CAN hosted Eric Garcetti for a community breakfast in which Skid Row residents were able to talk with him directly about the issues they wanted him to address if he became mayor. At this event, he promised to work with LA CAN and other Skid Row residents to build more affordable housing and find real solutions to end homelessness. He also pledged support for LA CAN’s Share the Wealth Platform, which calls for no more displacement, an increase in affordable housing, more green space, a halt to the criminalization of poverty, and effective public transportation. He also promised to look further into our demand for an end to the Safer Cities Initiative.

While on the last legs of the campaign trail, Garcetti focused on basic problems – like paving streets, opening parks - but he promised that one of his highest priorities would be job creation. However, in Citywide events, he did not talk a lot about addressing LA’s housing crisis. While there were some brief mentions with the new Mayor, it is certainly not guaranteed that he will take meaningful steps to end the housing crisis in Downtown, South Los Angeles, and other parts of the City.

Mayor-elect Garcetti, will you keep your promise to support our Share the Wealth plan? Will you champion the cause of poor folks and homeless residents? These questions are important, but it is more important for residents to stand up, organize, and hold Garcetti accountable to his word. Nothing will change without active and engaged residents with bold demands.

In addition to the mayoral election, residents of three City Council districts elected new councilmembers. In District 1, long-time member of the California state legislature Gil Cedillo defeated Jose Zavala. State Senator Curren Price defeated Ana Cubas for the 9th District seat. In District 13, Mitch O’Farrell, a former field deputy to Garcetti, defeated John Choi. In an earlier primary in March, Mike Bonin won the seat vacated by Bill Rosendahl in the 11th District. Bob Blumenfeld became the new District 3 Councilmember and Felipe Fuentes won the 7th District seat. There is one seat left to fill in District 6, in which Cindy Monroe will face Nury Martinez in a runoff vote on July 23. In other words, there will be a lot of new faces in Council by the end of summer!

In the race for the next City Attorney, Mike Feuer trounced incumbent Carmen Trutanich: 62% to 38%. In fact, Feuer carried all but one of the 15 city districts, losing only in Trutanich’s home turf. Some have speculated that the reason why he won was because he painted himself as “Mr. Gun Control” while depicting Trutanich as too close to the National Rifle Association and other gun interests. Perhaps Trutanich also lost because he has consistently and publicly attacked fellow Democrat Gil Cedillo, a little-known westside attorney, in the race for City Controller. They both promised to root out abuse and waste in the city. Well, readers of the Community Connection might remember back in 2010 Democrats beat all of the candidates from his microphone in City Council Chambers to brutalize elderly folks, children, and other residents when the Council caved to landlords in the final minutes of the efforts to pass a temporary rent freeze. Maybe this action was indicative of the type of elected official that Zine is - the type of elected official voters did not want in the Controller’s office.

The races are over, but the work has just begun. Elected officials are only as good as their constituents make them. We can no longer allow these powerful individuals to act on behalf of big businesses and other folks who finance their campaigns. It’s up to all of us, residents of Los Angeles. It’s on us to hold them accountable and demand that they do more than their predecessors to address the real issues that are affecting the majority of folks in Los Angeles. It’s on us to demand the end of poverty, an end to homelessness, and an end to affordable housing. We deserve more, y’all. Let’s make it happen!

¿Un Nuevo Dia en la ciudad de Los Angeles?

Escrito por Wesley Walker

La elección general del 21 de mayo por los residentes para Los Angeles culminó en la elección del nuevo Alcalde, un nuevo Licenciado Municipal, un nuevo Contralor y a tres nuevos Consejeros (con un total de 7 nuevos Consejeros es edil, look ahead) (pronto). Sin embargo, con las elecciones dadas, la verdadera pregunta es: ¿mantendrá estos individuos sus promesas de campaña y qué deben y qué harán nuestras comunidades para asegurar que el cambio en líderes resulte en cambio positivo para personas de color de bajos recursos?

Después de una extensiva y exhaustiva campaña, Eric Garcetti gano la Alcaldía de Los Angeles a Wendy Greuel. Muchos creen que Garcetti pudo ganarle a su Demócrata prójimo pintando a como una de las lealtades laborales, que apoyaron grandemente a esa campaña con dinero y voluntarios. Garcetti tiene sus enlaces con las uniones, pero él dice que la diferencia se basa en el apoyo en el el “grassroots” movimiento (raza).

En noviembre del 2012, LA CAN anfitrió un desayuno comunitario destacando a Eric Garcetti en cuantos residentes de Skid Row hablaron directamente con él sobre sus asuntos ellos quisieran que él se dirigiera como Alcalde. En el evento él prometió trabajar con LA CAN y otras organizaciones de Skid Row para construir mas viviendas permitibles y conseguir real soluciones que eliminen el problema de la pobreza sin hogar. También prometió apoyar el plan de LA CAN “Share The Wealth” (Compartir Riquezas) cual: no mas desplazamientos, aumento de viviendas permitibles, mas espacios verdes (florestes), para la criminalización de la pobreza y transporte público efectivo. También prometió investigar mas a fondo nuestro pedido a terminar la iniciativa Safer Cities.

Durante la última ronda de su campaña, Garcetti se enfocó en problemas básicos – como pavimentación de calles, apertura de parques – pero él prometió que uno de sus mayores prioridades será crear más empleos. Sin embargo en eventos a través de la ciudad, habló poco sobre la crisis de viviendas de LA. Mientras hay razones para el optimismo con el nuevo Alcalde, no hay garantías de que él tomará pasos significativos para eliminar la crisis de viviendas en Downtown, Sudo-Los Angeles, y otras partes.

Alcalde electo García, ¿mantendrá usted sus promesas de apoyar nuestro plan Compartir Riquezas? ¿Abandonará usted la causa de la gente pobre y residentes sin hogar? Estas preguntas son importantes, pero más importante es que los residentes se paren, se organizan, y mantengan a Garcetti donde la palabra. Nadie cambiará sin residentes activos y comprometidos con demandas audaces.

Además de la elección del alcalde, residentes de tres distritos han elegido nuevos consejeros. En el Distrito 1, un miembro por largo tiempo de la legislatura estatal de California, Gil Cedillo derrotó a José Cardesa. El Senador estatal Curren Price, derrotó a Ana Cubas en el Distrito 9. En el Distrito 13, el anterior diputado de la Cámara, Mike O’Farrell, derrotó a John Choi. Previosamente en la primaria en marzo, Mike Bonin ganó el puesto vacante por Bill Rosendahl en el 11 Distrito; Bob Blumenfeld es el nuevo Consejero en el Distrito 3 y Felipe Fuentes ganó en el Distrito 7. Queda un puesto en el Distrito 6 en el que Cindy Monzanez dejará vacante. Cuando termine el actual período de gobierno, los 15 distritos excepto uno, el de la casa de Trutanich. Algunos esperan que uno de los razones por qué ganó fue que se pintó como el “Sr. Control de Armas”, mientras representó a Trutanich como muy acerca de la Asociación de Rifles (NRA siglas en inglés) y otros interesados en armas. Almogre Trutanich también perdió porque él se atacó públicamente la libertad de expresión y protestas políticas (vea al artículo en la página 1).

Un anterior oficial de LA, Dennis Zine, y Concejal por 3 términos, perdió la carrera como Contralor Municipal por 44% a 56% a Ron Galperin, un poco conocido abogado del oeste de LA. Ambos prometieron reformar el sistema de financiamiento y des-tradicionalizar la ciudad. Bueno, lectores de Community Connection se acercarán como un 2010 Dennis Zine sacó la voz por la policía desde su microfón en la sala Consistorial del Consejo para brutalizar a personas de tercera edad, niños, y a otros residentes cuando el Consejo se desplomó ante los propietarios en los últimos minutos de los esfuerzos para aprobar un congelamiento temporal de rentas. Algo importante que cuestionaron de tipo de oficial elegido es Zine – el tipo que los votantes no querían como Contralor.

Las carreras terminaron. Pero el trabajo comienza. Los oficiales elegidos son solo tan buenos como los hagan sus constituyentes. Ya no podemos permitir que estos poderosos individuos actúen a favor de grandes negociantes y otros que financian sus campañas, en vez de que todos los residentes de Los Angeles. Resta en nosotros mantenerlos responsables y exigir que hagan mas que sus predecesores para dirigirse a los verdaderos asuntos que afectan a la mayoría de la gente en Los Angeles, tal como la pobreza, el desempleo, y la falta de viviendas de alquiler disponible. Meresemos mas. ¡Hagamos que así sea!
The Community Connection is a street newspaper and a member of the North American Street Newspaper Association and the International Network of Street Papers. LA CAN is a membership organization comprised of low-income, homeless and formerly homeless residents living in Downtown and South Los Angeles, and surrounding communities. LA CAN’s staff and core members write many articles that appear in the Community Connection. These generally appear without a byline, attributed to LA CAN as a collective.

Articles by contributors who are not LA CAN core members and/or personal opinion/experience articles receive a byline. These articles do not necessarily represent the views, opinions and perspectives of the Los Angeles Community Action Network.

All articles and artwork may be reproduced with permission only; please contact Pete White @ (213) 228-0024 or petew@cangress.org.

Editorial Policy:

The Community Connection is a street newspaper and a member of the North American Street Newspaper Association and the International Network of Street Papers. The Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN) is a membership organization comprised of low-income, homeless and formerly homeless residents living in Downtown and South Los Angeles, and surrounding communities. LA CAN’s staff and core members write many articles that appear in the Community Connection. These generally appear without a byline, attributed to LA CAN as a collective.

Articles by contributors who are not LA CAN core members and/or personal opinion/experience articles receive a byline. These articles do not necessarily represent the views, opinions and perspectives of the Los Angeles Community Action Network.

All articles and artwork may be reproduced with permission only; please contact Pete White @ (213) 228-0024 or petew@cangress.org.

To contact LA CAN or find out more about our work and how to support us, write or visit us online:

530 S. Main Street, Ground Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 228-0024

www.cangress.org

BLOG

BECOME A FAN OF LA CAN

SEND US A TWEET @LACANetwork