

Dear Friends,

Some of you may already know that Aric and I are running for West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (WLANC). We are writing to ask for your vote, Xochitl for Northwest Representative, and Aric for AT-large representative. The election this Sunday April 11, 2—8 PM.

As many of you are already aware, a block from our house a giant medical/retail/residential project is being proposed. We had written letters opposing a project of this size dropped into our already congested, single-family neighborhood. To accommodate the additional 20,000 car trips a day generated by the project, a 50% increase in the number of cars, the developer proposed to narrow the sidewalks in order to widen the streets. No bike lanes were to be created anywhere, even though they were going to widen both Bundy and Olympic. As usual, no dedicated bus lanes were included in the plans.

The developer brags about the amount of open space in the project, but in fact, he is counting private rooftops, emergency access roads and the eaves under the buildings as 'open space.' The little green space the project has is fronting busy Olympic (to be turned into a fast 'highway') and therefore is not an area the community would utilize.

We found out that the WLANC was voting on the project so we began to attend meetings and we were disappointed at some of the things we witnessed. Despite over 100 neighbors turning out to oppose this development, the people sitting on the WLANC still voted in favor of the project. We were also upset at the lack of neighborhood outreach by the WLANC. In fact, it was persons not on the neighborhood council who made fliers alerting the neighborhood to the pending WLANC vote—not the existing WLANC itself. If these fliers had not been circulated, most people would not have known about the vote.

We decided that if we wanted to see a WLANC that was more receptive to the concerns of the community and did actual outreach into the community, Aric and I had to be willing to run for the Council to make that change possible. We made a video (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVAvubxkY5Q>) to let people know some of what we hope to do on the Council. Our goal is simple—to make West Los Angeles a more walkable, bikeable, breatheable and liveable place for everyone.

Toward this goal we fully support the Cyclists' Bill of Rights (<http://bikewriterscollective.com/>), which is not yet endorsed by the WLANC. We also support development of the Los Angeles Bike Plan and hope to see contributions to the network within the WLANC district; and we support requiring existing and new developments within the district to have adequate bicycle parking.

The Expo line is anticipated to have a stop at Bundy and Olympic some point in the future. To encourage use of this stop by pedestrians and others, we will work to ensure that Bundy and Olympic become more walkable. To achieve this we will promote adherence to the speed limit, introduction of traffic calming elements along major north-south and east-west streets, enlarging existing sidewalks, including more soft and hardscape buffers between pedestrians and cars and giving more priority to pedestrians at crossing points along Centinela, Bundy, Barrington and Federal.

Please remember to vote next Sunday April 11 from 2—8 PM and to encourage your neighbors to vote. Thank you for your support.