

Welcome To the Club!

■ LACEA is now the Club: It's your key to news, events, discounts, fun and benefits... all to help you stay connected and get a kick out of life.

Welcome to a new era of being a city employee! Welcome to your City Employees Club, the best thing to happen to city employees in many years. Join the family!

With this issue of the new *Alive!* newspaper, the Los Angeles City Employees Association (LACEA) - which has served you faithfully and well for more than 70 years - becomes known as the City Employees Club of Los Angeles.

It means great things for you! You'll belong to a real community that values what you have to say, that knows you work hard, that rewards you with discounts to area attractions, and that keeps you in touch with hot city issues and each other. That's important.

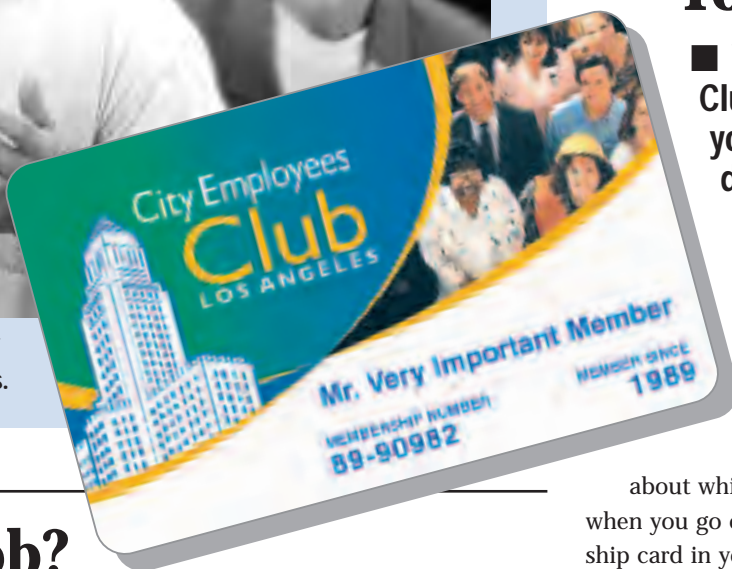
There's more. Not only will the new Club continue the many great services of the LACEA (including offering you excellent insurance plans and distributing refunds, of course), but you'll enjoy many new benefits including:

- this revamped *Alive!* newspaper, complete with updates from the

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It's time to celebrate the beginning of a new era for LACEA and its members.



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The Power of The Club Is In Your Hand!

■ When you carry the Club membership card, you take advantage of discounts, bargains ... and Club pride.

Your City Employees Club of Los Angeles membership card puts the best discounts and offers around right at your fingertips. No more thinking about which discount coupons to bring when you go out - just carry your membership card in your wallet, and save hundreds

See Membership Card, Back Page

Could Secessions Affect Your Job?

■ The Great Unknown: The Club asks leaders what they think.

What will it mean to you, as City employees, if the ballot measures for the secession of the San Fernando Valley and Hollywood pass in November's election? Understandably, you are uncertain about what the changes might mean. Your

new City Employees Club wants to help you understand the implications of this complex issue.

Unfortunately, there's not a simple answer, and perspectives vary, depending on whom you ask. Here, we lay out the facts as we

know them, and present the viewpoints of both pro- and anti-secession forces, as well as of key unions.

You can find details of the proposed secession - or so-called "special reorganization" - under the "Current Topics" section at www.lalafco.org, the Website of the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). Under California law, LAFCO is responsible for coordinating changes in local governmental boundaries.

State Requirements

According to LAFCO, state law requires any new city to honor collective bargaining agreements (for the balance of the agreements' terms) and existing retirement benefits,

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Wanna be heard?

Write to us! It's **your** page. *Have something to say? Overjoyed about something? Angered? Just have a question?* Here's your chance to get it off your chest... and get it into print. (We'll print what we can. Try to make sure it has something to do with the life of the city.) Share your ideas with your City family. Don't wait! Send them to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

■ LAX Is Up to the Challenge in Post-9/11 Era of Security

I remember getting out of my car the morning of September 11th and being struck by the eerie silence. I had only worked at Los Angeles International Airport for two years, but already I had become accustomed to the roar of jet engines as planes raced past my office building and took off over the Pacific Ocean. The absence of this familiar sound was very disconcerting. The reason for the silence was even more disturbing.

In the days that followed 9/11, airline travelers have endured a variety of discomforts. Standing in long lines, removing shoes, having luggage opened and searched – none of these were part of the routine traveler's experience one year ago. As one who has frequent contact with the airline traveling public, I must admit that I was skeptical that these changes would be tolerated, much less embraced. However, I have been pleasantly surprised at the attitude and demeanor of passengers at LAX. They have accepted the new procedures and voice their agreement that doing more to ensure the



safety of airline travelers is worth a little extra time on the ground.

Life at LAX will never be the same for those of us who work here, and for the millions of others who travel through this airport every year. In the words of President Bush, "None of us will ever forget this day, yet we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world." From those of us who work at the City's airports, you can be assured that we will meet the challenge and be up to the tasks that await us in this new era of airline travel.

Michael P. Biagi
Los Angeles World Airports

■ City Employees Can Keep L.A. the Place Everyone Wants to Be

I was thinking the other evening about Los Angeles, the City government I worked for 24 years and the urban community I grew up in. How it has changed over the years? At one time not so long ago, L.A. was all about fun and sun and crazy creativity. It was where everyone wanted to be. Lately, we've read and seen another story about Los Angeles. This one's about how different our peoples are from one another, how some of us want to pull up stakes and leave, or call ourselves another city.

But I must ask those disenchanted, where would you go? To hot deserts, where the main activity is the hum of air conditioners? To the north, where rain replaces our gentle sun? To the east, where humidity drains one of energy? Sometimes we forget why people came here in the first place and why they're still coming.

Where else can you find a district like Hollywood, with its mixture of glamour and funky street life? Or the vast retail emporium that is the San Fernando Valley? Or Griffith Park? Or the urban microcosm of the world's foods, cultures, languages, architectures and fashions that pretty much sums up the

city today? Where else but right here in Los Angeles?

As City employees, we owe it to our community, to our City employer, and to our families and friends, to provide our citizens with the best services we can so that all can appreciate what truly wonderful city we have created here in little over a century. The German poet Goethe once said, "If everyone sweeps up in front of their own house, the whole city will be clean." Some of that spirit should be brought to our desks each and every working day. The best is yet to come.

Rodney Punt
City employee, 1977-2001

■ Barbies on Display At North Hills Library

During the entire month of October, a portion of my vintage Barbie collection will be on display at the Mid Valley Library in North Hills. Since it is October and with Halloween, I am also displaying all of my newer Halloween Barbie, Ken and Kelly dolls. I get 3 huge display cabinets for the whole month! I will also have some information in the display on how to join the Internet Barbie Doll Club (IBDC), and the local Barbie club I belong to which is Tickled Pink in Ventura County.

I plan on displaying a wide variety of dolls, doll trunks, and licensed products such as an unopened vintage Barbie tea set, an unused Barbie binder from the 60's, along with diaries, dictionaries, photo albums which are all vintage.

Cheryl Power
Dept. of Water and Power

■ Retirees Should Consider Pensions as L.A. Secession Voting Nears

Divorce is never pretty. Even with a fancy name like "secession," it's still not a pleasant process. And when all is said and done, nobody seems the better for it. Especially messy is the money part!

We are looking at secession from a purely financial viewpoint. We don't live in today's City of Los Angeles, so the vote in November won't have a geographical impact on us, no matter what. However, because we are retired from the DWP, we are intimately tied to the financial future of this proposed dichotomy. And there are many tens of thousands of us (City, DWP and Fire & Police retirees) whose very livelihoods ultimately depend on the fortunes of the City of Los Angeles, whatever that City ends up being.

If the City that we know today is bifurcated, who then will be responsible for our pensions for the rest of our collective lives? Will the surviving City, at about half the current size, be able to afford us? Can a severely reduced tax base pick up the tab when our pension plans are underfunded?

Until someone can adequately answer these questions, we sincerely hope the voters don't gamble with our future by divorcing.

Vince and Dolores Foley
Retirees, DWP

■ We Owe It to the Mayor To Give Him a Chance

I feel that Mayor Hahn is a great man. He was a great city attorney. He served as city attorney very well. He treated everyone equally. He worked to make the city attorney's office the best it could be.

We know that being mayor is a much more extensive job and a big responsibility. But I feel that, in spite of all that, he is doing a fine job as mayor. He makes mistakes but who doesn't. I think he has to do what he thinks is right for the City of Los Angeles in spite of what everyone else might think.

I think if he is given the chance to run the City of Los Angeles as he see fit and not what everyone else wants, he could be an even better mayor. He can only work with what they let him work with.

So I think if we would at least give Mayor Hahn a chance and stop criticizing him, I think he would be a very good mayor. He is a family-oriented man, so he understands the meaning of family. He has a beautiful family and he wants to protect it, which to me makes him the best man for the job as mayor. He is kind, understanding, compassionate and just a truly nice man. He was raised by a great man, Kenneth Hahn, so he can't be all bad.

As far as issues of the City, I think he is handling them the best he can. He is not God, so he has made and will make mistakes. Or should I say bad judgment, but we all know that happens because he is human.

On a whole I would say our mayor, James K. Hahn, is the best there is, and my hat goes off to him. When election comes up again he will get my vote one more time.

Eva Farlow-Malbrough
City Attorney's Office

Welcome

Continued from page 1

Mayor's office, City Council and various departments; financial planning and investment advice, to help you with your challenges; super contests every month; free classifieds (clean out that garage!); and news of the "family" – births, deaths, promotions, retirements, photos and more. You can get all this great information in only one place – *Alive!*

- your very own community voice! Tell us what you think about city news, social events, movies, what-have-you, and we'll print what we can, right here in *Alive!*
- a new e-mail address for all your Club questions : alive@cityemployeesclub.com

- a great new Website, for instant information at your fingertips: www.cityemployeesclub.com

- discounts, discounts, discounts! The new Club membership card works hard for you: it knows that you have bills to pay, children to raise and ends to meet, so it offers you discounts to a variety of restaurants, shops and attractions (see related story) to make your life more rewarding. The more you use it, the more you save; and

- fun events, including the terrific ClubFest, an annual party (at no additional cost) that gets everyone together for fun, food, prizes and entertainment. (The kickoff ClubFest 2002 is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 6, and includes free admission to the L.A. Zoo! See details in the story on the back page.)

"The Club is really about you and where

you work." says Danna McDonough, executive director of the City Employees Club of Los Angeles. "After all these years of being strictly business, we're going add fun to our relationship. Sure, we're going to do all the things you've come to expect from us, but we want to reconnect this wonderful City family, reestablish the sense of community and make sure you know what's going on with the people you work with, the people you used to work with or those across town in another yard."

"We don't hear very often about the wonderful things City employees do, the extraordinary volunteering, or the heroic efforts made to make our City a great place to live or work in," McDonough said. "What better place to brag about the good things in L.A. than in *Alive!* Be an active member in The Club and have a good time while you're at it."

As the Club evolves, we plan to offer additional benefits to add value to your membership.

Participation in the Club is simple: If you currently participate in one of our products, you automatically receive Club membership, with all of its associated benefits, free for six months. After that, you pay just \$2 per pay period, deducted from your paycheck, to continue as a member. Those who don't use any of our products still can join The Club simply by agreeing to the nominal monthly fee.

So check out this first issue of *Alive!* Be a part of this great new family. Get connected. Let us know what you think, and we'll try to print it. Tell us of your births, promotions, retirements. Send in those classifieds.

Be proud of being a City employee. Take advantage of everything life has to offer. You deserve it. ■

Wanna be heard?

Tell *Alive!* what you think of the new Club!
Write to us: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Secession

Continued from page 1

and also to confer with the unions representing any employees who transfer from an existing to a new city. Regarding transfers, the LAFCO executive officer's report on the San Fernando Valley's proposed secession reads, "City of Los Angeles employees should be allowed to decide for themselves... whether or not they would like to consider and be considered for employment at the new city... Both the City of Los Angeles and the Applicant have agreed that mandatory employee transfers should not be imposed."

Beyond these facts, though, there is no agreement on what secession would mean to City employees.

Pro-secession Viewpoint

The leaders of both the San Fernando Valley and Hollywood secession movements say they want to protect the rights of current City employees who transfer to their cities (if secession passes), and even hire more employees to provide additional services.

Jeff Brain, president of the pro-secession group Valley VOTE, said, "No City employees will lose their jobs as a result of this [secession]. The employees who transfer cannot be hurt."

"We are friends to labor. We want more jobs in the Valley. We want more people working in our community, and we will pay for them," he added.

Gene La Pietra, president of the Hollywood Independence Committee, said that current City employees would have first choice of municipal jobs in the new city, and that if they chose not to work in the new city, the unions would have the opportunity to fill the positions with other union members.

"Hollywood is the absolute union town," La Pietra said. "Union jobs are the best way to get a job done."

Brain and La Pietra added that for police and fire services, the proposed cities would contract with the Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles Fire Department, whose members would continue to work as City of Los Angeles employees.

Brain said the San Fernando Valley might eventually pursue its own police department, but not for several years.

Anti-secession Perspective

Anti-secession forces, however, don't believe employee issues would get resolved easily in the event of secession.

Calling the LAFCO directives "totally unenforceable," Larry Levine, co-chair of the One Los Angeles anti-secession movement, spoke of "the amount of uncertainty secession would inject into [employees'] lives." He said no one can guarantee how the new cities would provide services and at what level beyond the one-year transition period (beginning July 1, 2003), during which San Fernando Valley and Hollywood would continue to rely on Los Angeles for public services.

Levine added that pro-secession forces have discussed cutting taxes, which, he said, would mean cutting spending and in turn cutting back on employees, since the labor force represents a major component of any city's costs.

Unions' Positions

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 347, which includes about 9,000 City employee members, also expresses serious concerns about secession. According to SEIU Local 347, LAFCO and City information indicates that funding for close to 10,000 job positions would be transferred to the new San Fernando Valley and Hollywood cities if secession passes. Julie Butcher, SEIU Local 347 general manager, said that if the new cities decided not to form the departments including these positions or to provide services differently – such as

through contracts with other sources – these jobs could be lost, resulting in layoffs based on seniority.

Butcher said that pro-secession forces are discussing changes in issues like pensions, causing her to believe that "the middle-class nature of public jobs is at stake."

SEIU Local 347 also indicates that if secession passes, City employees would lose protections found not within collective bargaining contracts, but within the City Charter, including the Living Wage Ordinance, the Service Contract Worker Retention Ordinance, the Responsible Contractor Ordinance, and others.

While the Los Angeles Police Protective League, which represents 9,000 Los Angeles Police Department members, also has announced its opposition to secession, the City's largest union – the Engineers and Architects Association (EAA), with more than 9,500 members – does not offer an official position on the issue. Bob Aquino, EAA executive director, said that as long as the union remains at an impasse with the City on

negotiations for open Memoranda of Understanding, he and EAA's Governors will not take a stance on secession.

(City employees who are not members of the unions referenced in this story should check with their union leadership for additional information.)

Some Things You Can – and Can't — Do

Whichever way you feel about secession, are there steps you can take? Yes, there are, including staying informed (by reading *Alive!* and other news sources) and exercising your right to vote in November (if you live in Los Angeles). But keep in mind the following important information from the City Ethics Commission:

Like any private citizen, you have the right to publicly support or oppose a ballot measure – as long as you **do not** do so on City time or with City resources. This means, for example, that you cannot even respond to an unsolicited secession-related E-mail using a City computer.

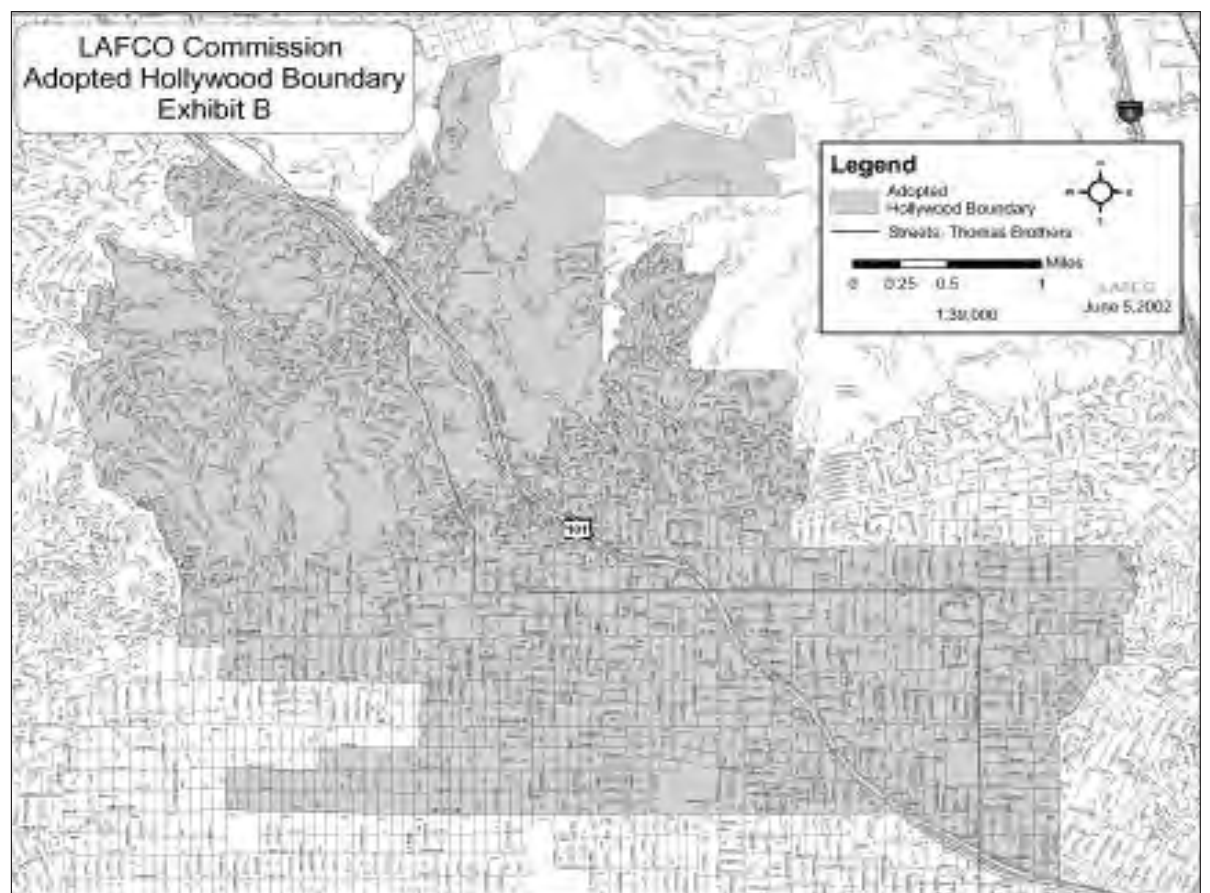
In addition, if you speak on City time about secession, you must provide only neutral, unbiased, factual and accurate information about the topic. If you speak on your own time and without using any public resources (including time to arrange your participation), you may advocate for or against the secession measures.

To learn more about secession issues, check out these resources (listed in alphabetical order):

- City Ethics Commission: www.lacity.org/eth/index.htm
- City of Los Angeles Ad Hoc Committee on Secession: www.lacity.org/councilcmte/secession
- Engineers and Architects Association: www.eaunion.com
- Hollywood Independence Committee: www.hollywoodindependence.com
- Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO): www.lalafco.org
- Los Angeles Police Protective League: www.LAPD.com
- One Los Angeles: www.allpartners.net/onelosangeles
- Valley VOTE: www.valleyvote.org

Wanna be heard?

We'd love to hear your worries and your questions about secession, or your comments about this article. We hope to hear from you on this important issue! Write to us: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com



What the Valley Proposal Says

Following is verbatim text from the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission's (LAFCO) resolutions "making determinations for approval" of the San Fernando Valley and Hollywood "special reorganizations":

- a. With respect to employee transfers, both the City of Los Angeles and the new city are required to comply with the provisions of Government Code section 56888, which requires that:
 - (1) public employees, as defined therein, shall continue to be deemed public employees of the original local agency or the newly incorporated local agency for purposes including, but not limited to, the continuation and application of any collective bargaining agreement that applies to these employees, and all representational and collective bargaining rights, pursuant to Government Code section 3500, et seq;
 - (2) that any existing collective bargaining agreement shall remain in effect and be fully binding on either local agency, and on the employee organizations that are parties to the agreement for the balance of the term of the agreement, or until a subsequent agreement has been established; and
 - (3) that any existing retiree benefits, including but not limited to, health dental, and vision care benefits, shall not be diminished.
- b. Pursuant to Government Code section 56886(1), the new city shall accept responsibility and liability for accrued vacation, sick leave and other compensated time-off for City of Los Angeles employees who transfer to the new city as part of a transfer in service responsibility from the City of Los Angeles to the new city.

You can review this and other LAFCO text about the proposed secession measures at www.lalafco.org.

