

In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins and Member Services Manager Angel Gomez introduce you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell.

People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.

No. 3 in a series.
MARCH 2008



Meet Eugenio (Eugene) Alvarez

HIS NEIGHBORHOOD:
City Hall East. He lives in "the Mission."

AGE: 64

MARITAL STATUS:
Single, never married

BIRTHPLACE:
Jalisco, Mexico. "I moved to L.A. in 1969 and worked in a metal shop."

FAMILY:
Two brothers, one sister

EDUCATION:
Through the fifth grade

MILITARY:
Yes, in the Mexican military

IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
"Peace on earth."

LAST JOB:
Restaurant busboy

FAVORITE SPORTS:
Soccer, baseball

TROPHIES OR AWARDS:
"I got a plastic trophy when I was a young boy."

FAVORITE FOOD:
Tacos, pizzas and McDonald's

FAVORITE MOVIE:
The Professional

FAVORITE MUSIC:
Country

FAVORITE CANDY:
Caramels

FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY:
"The main library. I like to talk to other people."

ADVICE:
"Always be respectful to the homeless. We are people, too."

DATE WE MET MIKE:
Jan. 9, 2008

The Club gave Eugenio a \$25 Starbucks card and a blanket.



Who are the people you see every day?

Translated from Spanish by Angel Gomez, Club Member Services Manager.

Newsbrief

HARBOR HOMELAND SECURITY:

The Port of Los Angeles will receive more than \$10 million in state homeland security grants to beef up security at the nation's busiest container-port, state officials announced Feb. 14. The grants will fund new training, technology and facilities for the Los Angeles Port Police and other law-enforcement agencies that operate at the Port, enabling them to speed communications and emergency responses, and inspect commercial vehicles more thoroughly.

"Our ports are the lifeblood of our prosperity, and this makes them an obvious target for those who would harm us in this age of terrorism," said Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "Protecting this great asset – the largest ports complex in the nation – is a crucial task. This injection of \$10 million in Proposition 1B funds will be used to tighten vehicle inspection operations, expand training for our port police officers, buy improved equipment and implement a resource tracking system to aid first responders in the event of an emergency."

"Our Governor and State Legislature should be commended for moving this security funding process forward in such an expedient manner," said Harbor Executive Director Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D. "These are funds we can use to bolster our facilities, training and field operations for the benefit of both San Pedro Bay ports and the myriad of agencies that provide our multi-layered security network."

Matthew Bettenhausen, executive director of the California Office of Homeland Security, who announced the security grants, said Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has worked extensively with the State Legislature to increase funding to secure California's ports.

"The threat to our port system is one of the most fundamental challenges we face," Bettenhausen said. "The threat to California's economy is very real if our port system is vulnerable to a terrorist attack."

The grant money represents the first homeland security funding available from California's Proposition 1B, passed by California voters in November 2006 to improve air quality and goods movement, and enhance the safety and security of the state's transportation system. The Port received the single largest chunk of the \$40 million in total security funding announced Feb. 14.

The projects to be funded at the Port include a new vehicle inspection facility where, among other things, a new X-ray imaging system will be used to examine commercial vehicles bound for the World Cruise Center. Law-enforcement agencies also will benefit from new boat-mooring docks and piers, a mobile air-compressor system for divers, training classes in maritime security and a state-of-the-art system for electronically tracking personnel as they operate at the Port and in surrounding communities.

Here's an allocation breakdown of the \$10,060,000 that the Port will receive from the state's Proposition 1B security funding:

- Commercial vehicle inspection area with X-ray imaging system -- \$3.864 million;
- Electronic "Blue Force" tracking system that will enable command and dispatch centers to see where police cars, boats and other equipment are located at all times -- \$3.375 million;
- Temporary mooring and dock facilities for multi-agency law-enforcement vessels, to facilitate joint agency operations -- \$2.377 million; and
- Maritime training for law enforcement -- \$450,000.

REINING IN THE PAPAZZI:

Councilman Dennis Zine introduced a motion into the City Council Feb. 1 to allow the City to more strictly regulate paparazzi photographers.

Paparazzi are becoming increasingly aggressive in their tactics, posing a clear danger not only to the people they are trying to photograph, but to the general public around them, according to the Councilman's office. Reckless driving is already illegal, but laws must be consistently applied to paparazzi in vehicles and on foot, so there is a clear message that the law applies to everyone. The City respects the press' First Amendment freedoms, but public safety must be paramount. The motion calls for stricter regulations of paparazzi, including a minimum "personal safety zone" of several feet of clear space between paparazzi and the individuals they are photographing, including their vehicles. Vehicles must be given more space as required for safe movement.