

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS - AVNC ELECTION 2007

(Statements are recorded as submitted. No changes were made to the original text other than typeface and line spacing adjustments.)

Resident North District (2 positions)

Ronnie Cunniff

To:all potential voters

My name is ronnie cunniff and iam running for council in atwaters north district.I have lived in atwater village for a little over a year now and living in this area has changed my life tremendously i tell you this because iam so passionate to live in this community i loveliving here, for two reasons the beauty of it and the people if i get your vote i will be your voice so that you can be heard and change can be made thank you. RONNIE CUNNIFF

Fernando Dejo-Grundy

Fellow Villagers,

My name is Fernando Dejo-Grundy. In 1995 I became a community member of the Atwater Village as a renter. I worked at Glenfeliz Elementary School and had the opportunity to work closely with families in my neighborhood. In 2000, I bought my first home on Garden Avenue and in 2004 I purchased a triplex that I now rent. I have progressed in this community because it harvests potential. As a council representative, my areas of focus are: street safety, beautification, and business exposure. Modernization and beautification of our streets will strengthen our business sector and generate revenue.

Leonora Gershman

I believe in supporting our local businesses, creating opportunity, nurturing the arts, involving our residents in the community, continuing the beautification of our river, and making our neighborhood a leader in the green revolution. If I am elected to represent Atwater Village's North district, I will actively listen to the concerns of the community and do my best to act on them. More than anything, I believe that we are all in this together, and by involving our residents and business-owners in the progress of our community, we will continue to help Atwater Village thrive.

Resident Central District (2 positions)

Aram Adjemian

Residence of Atwater Village, my name is Aram Adjemian and I have lived in this beautiful community most of life. I grew up in this neighborhood of rich diverse cultures and it is my time to give back to this great community.

My experience varies, from management in the private sector, to an Administrative Analyst in the public sector.

My objective is to take Atwater Village to next level, safer streets, protection of our river, solving community issues and to build a stronger bond between residence and businesses, making Atwater Village one of Southern California's best places to live.

Phillip Alexander

"Born and raised in Atwater Village, I have a unique understanding of the challenges facing our community. One major problem is the increase in graffiti and gang violence. We all deserve a clean and safe community where our families can live, work, and play. With my proven success in both the corporate world and non-profit arena, I feel confident that I can bring people together and create a positive change for Atwater Village.

Thank you for your trust and confidence. Please feel free to contact me at philwww@aol.com with any questions"

Otto Arévalo

"A Fresh Perspective"

When people ask me what part of Los Angeles I live in I proudly tell them about Atwater Village. It's Los Angeles' secret piece of heaven. I want to help lead Atwater to be the prime example of a small community that can be the heart of a perfect city. My focus is to help bring about the already flourishing progress to our Village. I also want to do all that I can to promote a safe and crime-free environment for all the families that live here and will someday share this community.

(Resident Central District Continued)

Meg Galli

I am running for Atwater Village Neighborhood Council because I would like to help continue the growth and blossoming of our community. I grew up in a small town in Vermont where community was the heart and that is what I feel in Atwater Village. Some of the issues that I am interested in focusing on are continuing the beautification of the LA river, helping control the skunk and rodent population, hosting more community events to develop relationships with the neighborhood residents, businesses, schools, parks and churches and supporting neighborhood security. "Strength in Community"

Mary Gilvarry

I am a single woman and have no children. I should be delighted to help my community with appropriate public service. I am a graduate of UCLA with a Master's in Economics. My brother worked as a physicist on the Manhattan Project for the Government. I am a Federal Retiree who worked as an auditor. When I signed up with the IRS in 1970, I also moved to an apartment house in Atwater. I am still there. I should be interested in furthering businesses operating in Atwater and our urban village identity with cooperative doings and local celebrations of our existence.

Jenn Hoffman

My husband and I feel truly lucky to be a part of Atwater Village. After graduating UCLA law and practicing in the LA area, I am very excited about this opportunity to serve my own neighborhood. From completing the LA River project to marketing our community to prospective businesses, we can all work to make Atwater a more beautiful and prosperous area. For my part, I bring my tireless work ethic, the drive to find a solution and the tenacity to see a project through to completion. Thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to working with you!

Anne Kaufman

Atwater is a lively, diverse community. I am a retired vocational counselor with children and grandchildren living here. I'm an experienced activist, and I look forward to sharing my skills to benefit our neighborhood. I'll work to make it even more charming, peaceful, and welcoming than it already is – for all of us.

Atwater es una comunidad viva y diversa. Soy consejera vocacional jubilada con hijos y nietos que viven aqui. Soy activista con mucha experiencia y quisiera compartir mis habilidades. Hare todo posible para que Atwater sea aun mas lindo, pacifico y acogedor que lo es ahora – para todos.

Judy Nelson

I was born, raised, and attended school in Atwater Village, as did my siblings and children. Years ago I returned here from Crescenta Valley where I was Honorary Mayor and served the community in several capacities. Now I would like to utilize my experiences and be a part of the betterment of our "Village". Sadly, much of our sidewalks are dangerously damaged from the roots of our great trees. Having personally returned to "my roots", I believe I can be an asset creating a safer passage and ULTIMATELY a safer "Village" for our seniors and youth...Thank you!
Always, Judy Nelson

Lance Sandman

Moving Forward Together!

My name is Lance Sandman. I am a third generation resident of the community. I have been involved in Community Association Management for over 16 years with experience in administrative, financial and physical plant management. I would enjoy working with others in the neighborhood to create a unique vision for our community and to move forward with the planning and implementation of the goals that the team has set within budgetary limits. I would strive to contribute towards a clean, safe and desirable area that we all are proud to call home. I would appreciate your support.

Resident South District (2 positions)

Louis Archer

I have lived in Atwater Village since 1976 and owned my own home since 1978. My son and daughter attended Atwater Elementary School. I am retired from LA City and I know how the city works and its functions as I had to interface with most agencies at various times for different reasons and causes. I believe I can be an instrumental representative of not just South Atwater but the entire community. I have been on the council and recognize the needs, wants, and the desires of the community.

(Resident South District Continued)

Michael Bauer

"Atwater Village is a wonderful place and I look forward to representing our neighborhood interests to the best of my ability. Not only would I like to "keep Atwater Village beautiful", I'd love to "make Atwater Village better," focusing on building a stronger sense of community and enhancing awareness about cleaning up our environment. I am heavily involved in the Los Angeles music scene, I'm in a local band and would push to bring an annual Atwater Village Music Festival into fruition. Silverlake, Echo Park and Eagle Rock all have yearly neighborhood festivals and it's time that we have ours."

Miguel A. Custodio, Jr.

(No Statement)

Diego E. Ortiz Flores

Hi. My name is Diego Ortiz and I'm a 20 year old junior at California State University, Northridge pursuing a degree in Political Science. I was raised in Atwater Village and would like the opportunity to contribute and continue keeping the neighborhood in the hands of our residents. Thank you.

Hola. Mi nombre es Diego Ortiz y tengo 20 años de edad estudiante de la Universidad de California, Northridge que sigue un grado en ciencias Políticas. Creci en la Villa de Atwater y quiero la oportunidad de contribuir y continuar manteniendo el vecindario en manos de nuestros residentes. Gracias.

Lee Michael La Voie

I am a local, and an Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom Veteran. I come from a small family plumbing business that has many customers in Atwater. Coming from a multi-racial family, I am a reflection of the diversity in our neighborhood. I will actively pursue qualified recommendations and requests to improve our community. I will hold apartment and homeowners accountable for the conduct and presentation of their property. I have initiated investigations into installing speed bumps and stop signs with the help of Eric Garcetti. Honor, Respect and Devotion are my core values.

Nancy Mejia

I commend all the candidates for their willingness to become active members of their community. Our community voice is a powerful instrument and one I hope to further contribute to. Our experiences, interests, and diversity of ideas will only strengthen us as members of Atwater Village, our unifying identity.

Quiero felicitar a todos los candidatos por su anhelo en ser miembros activos de sus comunidades. Nuestra voz como comunidad es potente y anhelo ser parte de esa voz. Nuestras experiencias, intereses, y variedad de ideas servirán para fortalecer nuestra identidad como miembros de Atwater Village.

Ken Osborn

I'm Ken Osborn and I'm running for re-election as representative for South Atwater Village. My partner & I have lived here for 6 years & I have served on the AVNC for the past 3 ½ years. I have served as Co-Chair for the past year. I was a key player in finalizing the creation of The Atwater Village Farmers Market with CD 13. I am committed to a strong relationship between the NC, the many private organizations of Atwater Village and The City. I will continue to be a strong voice for the LGBT community. THANKS FOR YOUR VOTE.

Jaylena D. Patterson

It is extremely important to bring back the close knit ties within the community. Our area has a significant amount of character and old Los Angeles charm. Let us work together to maintain that charm, while at the same time, truly becoming supportive neighbors, and not just that person next door. This includes maintaining the safety of our children, our pets, and our homes. I will bring in the necessary support to implement the improvements that will help shape Atwater Village into the type of self-sufficient town that it was meant to be.

Business Representative (2 positions)

Jeff Gardner

I have been volunteering in Atwater Village since the 1980s. As a Lions Club member, business owner, Chamber President, AVNC Treasurer, and AVNC Co-Chair I have had the privilege of working on many improvements. I am most proud of the educational support our council has been able to provide to our kids. The new reading books for our elementary schools, our preschools, and our public library will have a long term positive effect. I will keep working to improve the quality of life in the Village. Please vote for me and visit our Farmers market! Thank you. Jeff Gardner

Rajinder Jawa

(No statement.)

Diane Serafino

Experience of a true town / village came first hand growing up in New England. Where every resident not only is acquainted with each other, but also help each other maintain the well being of their community. Understanding my role as a business owner and what it means for the residents of Atwater Village. Recently relocated my business from a National Mall, seeking a more involved, and caring atmosphere. Found Atwater Village Residents want a business district that compliments their homes, and lifestyles.

Church/Religious Representative (2 positions)

Michael Cabler

(No statement.)

Bruce Fleenor

Atwater Village is a unique and charming neighborhood with an interesting past and an intriguing future. As a community leader I want to help find win-win solutions for our challenges. I want business to flourish while maintaining a feeling of community. I want our neighborhood to be safe without becoming a police-state. I want development balanced with ecological care and compassion. I want young and old receive the services they need. I want to help Atwater Village stay great, and become even better.

Lenore Solis

I, Lenore Solis, have operated an Interpreting, Notary Public and Income Tax business in Atwater at the same location since 1987. I volunteered on the Neighborhood Council Formation Committee. I was a founding member of Atwater Churches United. I minister at the LASD TTCF jail as an Assistant Catholic Chaplain. I am a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor Associate and a Certified Bereavement Minister for the Catholic Archdiocese. I have a BA in Political Science from CSULA. I am a graduate of the Catholic Bible Institute and Addiction Counselor program at Loyola Marymount University.

Louis Terrazas

As a resident of Atwater for 15 years, I am committed to Atwater Village's family traditions and its people. The voters want change and accountability from their representatives. I believe elected representatives must be held to a higher standard of principles and be a role model in the community. As a representative I would strive to keep our Churches thriving and functioning, because the benefits are vast and this helps create a safe and pleasant environment for everyone.

- Increase funding for Church programs.
- Reduce & eliminate debt.
- Expand & renovate facilities.
- Grow community efforts.

Community Group/Non-profit Representative (2 positions)

Christine Anthony

During the past 3 years as an AVNC member some of my projects include:
Sending out an Atwater Village Survey to over 6000 area addresses; Organizing placement of a memorial to the train wreck victims and rescuers and its dedication ceremony that included Mayor Villaraigosa among the speakers; Directing placement of learning materials into a neighborhood Head Start; Communicating for our NC with the DWP about such things as rate increases. Soon I will be managing installation of new landscaping around the Train Derailment Memorial and hope to do so as a continuing member of the AVNC. Thank you.

(Community Group/Non-profit Representative Continued)

Luis Lopez

In addition to fixing cars at Luis Lopez Automotive on Fletcher Drive, I also enjoy fixing community problems. I have actively worked to improve the Atwater Village community for many years through my active membership in Friends of Atwater Village, the Atwater Village Chamber of Commerce, the Atwater Village Residents Association and the "Take Back Fletcher Drive" group. Also, during the first two years of AVNC's existence I served as Co-Chair. As Non-profit representative, I will insist that the community groups have their say in those matters that impact on them and the community at large. Vote for Luis Lopez!

Meline Mavian

I have lived in Atwater since 1992 and I have seen how much it has changed in the last decade. I would like to contribute and be part of the progress made thus far. Your vote will give me the opportunity to work towards what is best for *our* Village.

Meline Mavian, your neighbor who is Cooperative Accountable Responsible & Earns Success

Be active in your neighborhood and vote!

Schools Representative (1 position)

Tim Warner

My name is Tim Warner. I was recently appointed to the AVNC and helped get books purchased for the Glenfeliz Early Education Center. Now I'm working with local schools on "wish lists". As a parent and 6-year "Villager", my focus is on the schools and kids.

Mi nombre es Tim Warner, fui designado recientemente al AVNC. Ayude a comprar libros para el Centro de Educacion Temprana Glenfeliz, y estoy trabajando en las " Listas de deseos" para las escuelas locales. Como padre y vecino de Atwater Village desde hace 6 anos, mi objetivo se enfoca a las escuelas y ninos.

Parks and Recreation Representative (1 position)

Roberta Javier

During 23+ years' of Atwater Village residency, I raised 3 daughters. I served as Atwater School's PTA president for 5 years. I have been active in AVRA, FAV and Neighborhood Watch. I did outreach and wrote by-laws with AVNC's certification committee. The Village grew and evolved, continuously revealing potential beauty and interconnectedness. Our community concerns must be addressed by a cohesive, forward thinking body; willing to work hard. I submit myself to candidacy supporting AVNC's inclusiveness toward empowerment and continued constructive growth. My goal: make it a safe, thriving LA landmark by enhancing Parks and Recreation.

Caroline Netzorg

I think Atwater Village is one of the best communities in Los Angeles and I am thrilled I've made it my home for the past seven years. No, I do not have the seven year itch, I plan to be here and insure our community meets its greatest potential. Someone must guarantee you will be heard. I want to be your voice, to serve, support and protect our neighborhood. So Make The Choice, I'll Be Your Voice.

In Your Service,
Caroline Netzorg

REMEMBER: STAKEHOLDERS MAY VOTE FOR ANY OR ALL 14 BOARD POSITIONS

VOTE !

**ELECTION: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2007 9am- 4 pm
Holy Trinity Church, 3716 Boyce Avenue, LA, CA 90039**