

EDUCATION AND NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE REPORT relative to an application to name a community Sawtelle Japantown.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. APPROVE the application to name a community Sawtelle Japantown, within the boundaries as detailed in the Bureau of Engineering map dated February 6, 2015 (attached to Council file No. 14-1686).
2. INSTRUCT the relevant departments to perform the necessary requirements to effectuate the naming of this community, including but not limited to, the installation of signs.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For: West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council

Summary

At its regular meeting held February 17, 2015, the Education and Neighborhoods Committee considered an application to name a community Sawtelle Japantown. The community is found completely within both the Community Plan Area of West Los Angeles and the Neighborhood Council of West Los Angeles. A representative from the office of the Councilmember representing the 11th Council district, addressed the Committee relative to the naming application and responded to related questions.

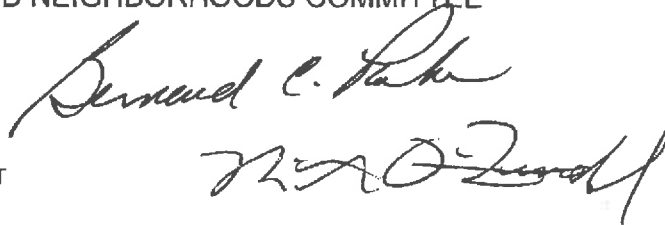
The representative reported that the Councilmember representing the 11th Council district is in support for the naming application. After providing an opportunity for public comment, the Committee recommended that the Council approve the application. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

EDUCATION AND NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**   **VOTE**  
PARKS:   YES  
MARTINEZ: ABSENT  
O'FARRELL: YES

EV  
14-1686\_rpt\_en\_2-17-15



**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**



# MIKE BONIN

City of Los Angeles  
Councilmember, Eleventh District

December 1, 2014

Eric Villanueva  
Office of the City Clerk  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 395  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Mail Stop 160

Dear Mr. Villanueva:

I strongly support Carole Nakano's petition to recognize the community of "Sawtelle Japantown" in West Los Angeles. The name, which pays homage to the historic roots of the community, would honor the contributions of Japanese-Americans to this westside neighborhood.

Japanese-Americans began arriving in Los Angeles in the 1890s, with many fleeing anti-Asian persecution in San Francisco. Sawtelle became an ideal home for working Japanese-Americans who were unable to live in nearby restricted communities like Bel-Air, Brentwood and Westwood. In the 1920s, cultural, community and religious organizations like the Japanese Institute of Sawtelle, West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple and United Methodist Church formed to support this vital community. Sawtelle existed as a separate city until 1922, when it was annexed to the City of Los Angeles.

Last year, local community members recognized the need to preserve this important cultural heritage and formed the Sawtelle Japantown Association to begin the process of renaming the neighborhood. This grassroots effort to recognize "Sawtelle Japantown" in West Los Angeles, with boundaries of Santa Monica Blvd. to the north, Pico Blvd. to the south, Centinela Ave. to the west and the I-405 to the east, has collected over 500 signatures in eight months. The designation will serve as an important reminder of the history of our great City and the neighborhoods and people that make it what it is today.

I am honored to recognize the achievements of Japanese-Americans in this vital West L.A. community, and I support the "Sawtelle Japantown" designation and placement of signs on Sawtelle Blvd. at both Olympic and Santa Monica Blvds.

Regards,

MIKE BONIN

Councilmember, 11th District

MB:ln

**Westchester Office**

7166 W. Manchester Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
(310) 568-8772  
(310) 410-3946 Fax

**City Hall**

200 N. Spring Street, Room 475  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 473-7011  
(213) 473-6926 Fax

**West Los Angeles Office**

1645 Corinth Avenue, Room 201  
Los Angeles, CA 90025  
(310) 575-8461  
(310) 575-8305 Fax

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK**

**PETITION FOR  
NAMING / RENAMING COMMUNITY**

Pursuant to Council action of January 31, 2006 (Council File 02-0196), a petition must accompany the application to name or rename a community. The petition must contain a minimum of 500 signatures of individuals who either reside in and/or have businesses, both profit and nonprofit, in the neighborhood being name or renamed. If the population of the neighborhood is under 2,500 people, then 20% of the population of the area being named or renamed is required. All addresses will be confirmed as to their location within the boundaries of the community being named/renamed. Therefore, to prevent any delay in the application approval process, it is recommended that additional signatures be collected in case some addresses are not located within the bounded area.

Petition for:

the Community of \_\_\_\_\_ (current name of community) to be renamed the Community of \_\_\_\_\_ (proposed community name).

OR

the area bounded by the following streets (street boundaries of area to be named)  
Northern Boundary: Santa Monica Blvd. from 405 Freeway to Centinela Ave.

Eastern Boundary: 405 Freeway from Santa Monica Blvd. to Pico Blvd.

Southern Boundary: Pico Blvd. from 405 Freeway to Centinela Ave.

Western Boundary: Centinela Ave. from Santa Monica Blvd. to Pico Blvd.

to be named the Community of Sawtelle Japantown (proposed community name).

I, Carole Nakano, do hereby certify that I am a resident of the City of Los Angeles; that my present, precise residential is 2106 Barry Avenue, in the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, CA 90025 Los Angeles, State of California; and that I was at least 18 years of age at the time I circulated this petition for signatures. Each signature on this sheet is genuine and was affixed thereto, on the date shown, in my presence, by a separate individual who declared at the time of signing to be a resident or business owner, profit or nonprofit, of the community being named / renamed, at the address as set forth.

**Declaration under Penalty of Perjury**

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 15th day of Nov, 20 14 at Los Angeles, California.

Carole Nakano  
(Signature of Circulator)

2106 Barry Avenue

(Residence Address)

Los Angeles, CA 90025

(City)

(Zip Code)

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK



APPLICATION TO NAME OR RENAME COMMUNITIES

**Filing Requirement**

Pursuant to Council action of January 31, 2006 (Council File 02-0196), an application, including a petition, must be submitted to either change a neighborhood name or create one where none previously existed. The petition must contain a minimum of 500 signatures of individuals who either reside in and/or have businesses, both profit and nonprofit, in the neighborhood being named or re-named. If the population of the neighborhood is under 2,500 people, then 20% of the population of the area being named or renamed is required. No fee is required for the submission of this application.

Please check one:      ☒ Name Community      ☐ Rename Existing Community

Petition Attached:      ☒ 500 signatures      ☐ 20% of population

$\frac{\text{Population Total}}{\text{Population Total}} \times .2 = \frac{\text{No. of signatures required}}{\text{No. of signatures required}}$

**1. APPLICANT INFORMATION**

The application requests advocates for a name change to form a group of two or more members who reside within the boundaries of the area to be named.

**Primary Applicant**

Name:      Nakano      Carole  
Last      First      M.I.

Mailing Address:      2106 Barry Ave.      Street Address  
Los Angeles      CA      90025  
City      State      Zip

Telephone:      310-473-7724      FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

Email:      flo.nakano@gmail.com

1. Name: Yotsukura Carrie

Last	First	M.I.
Mailing Address: <u>1749 Armacost Ave.</u>		
Street Address		
<u>Los Angeles</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>90025</u>
City	State	Zip
Telephone: <u>310-200-2112</u>	FAX: _____	
Email: <u>ceyots@yahoo.com</u>		

◆ ◆

2. Name: Fujimoto Randall

Last First M.I.

Mailing Address: 2110 Corinth Ave.

Street Address

Los Angeles CA 90025

City State Zip

Telephone: 310-922-6223 FAX:

Email: randall@sawtellejgis.org

**\*\*Please include additional members on separate sheet. \*\***

## 2. COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Proposed Name of Community: Sawtelle Japantown

Current Name of Community (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Name Change (Please state historical precedent or other reason):

From the early 1900s, the Sawtelle district of West Los Angeles has been one of the largest Japanese American communities in the United States. In order to preserve and promote its Japanese American heritage and culture, the community should be officially renamed to "Sawtelle Japantown" to become only the fourth Japantown community in the nation (joining Little Tokyo, San Francisco Japantown, and Japantown San Jose).

Street boundaries of the community to be named / renamed (Please attach map and/or legal description):

Northern Boundary: Santa Monica Blvd. from 405 Freeway to Centinela Ave.

Eastern Boundary: 405 Freeway from Santa Monica Blvd. to Pico Blvd.

Southern Boundary: Pico Blvd. from 405 Freeway to Centinela Ave.

Western Boundary: Centinela Ave. from Santa Monica Blvd. to Pico Blvd.

REQUESTING TWO (2) SIGNS: 1. On Sawtelle Blvd. just south of Olympic Blvd.,  
2. On Sawtelle Blvd. just north of Santa Monica Blvd.

Funding source for signs: Community funds.

ON BEHALF OF THE AFOREMENTIONED ADVOCATES, THE UNDERSIGNED AGREES TO PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE CITY CLERK OF CHANGES TO THE FOREGOING INFORMATION AND AGREES TO SUBMIT A REVISED APPLICATION AND PETITION IN THE EVENT THAT THIS OCCURS.

  
Signature

11/15/2014

Date

To be filed in the:

Office of the City Clerk  
200 North Spring Street, Room 395  
Los Angeles, California 90012  
eric.villanueva@lacity.org; 213-978-1073



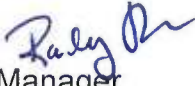
**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: February 6, 2015

To: Shannon Hoppes, Division Manager  
Council and Public Services Division  
Office of the City Clerk

Attn: Eric Villanueva

From: Randy Price, Division Manager  
GIS and Mapping Division  
Bureau of Engineering



Subject: Renaming of Community area as Japantown – CF 14-1686

The Bureau of Engineering has reviewed the application submitted to change the community name of a neighborhood in West Los Angeles. The application proposes renaming the neighborhood as Japantown.

There are approximately 3,050 properties with an estimated population of 16,323 people derived from the 2010 census. This community is a part of the 90025 and the 90064 zip codes and is solely within Council District 11. The community is found completely within both the Community Plan Area of West Los Angeles and the Neighborhood Council of West Los Angeles.

The attached maps shows the parcels within the proposed new community borders as shown on the application in relation to the boundaries of the Council Districts, Community Plan Areas, Neighborhood Councils, Census Tracts, and zip codes.

The Bureau of Engineering has no additional pertinent information concerning the historical use for this neighborhood in the community.

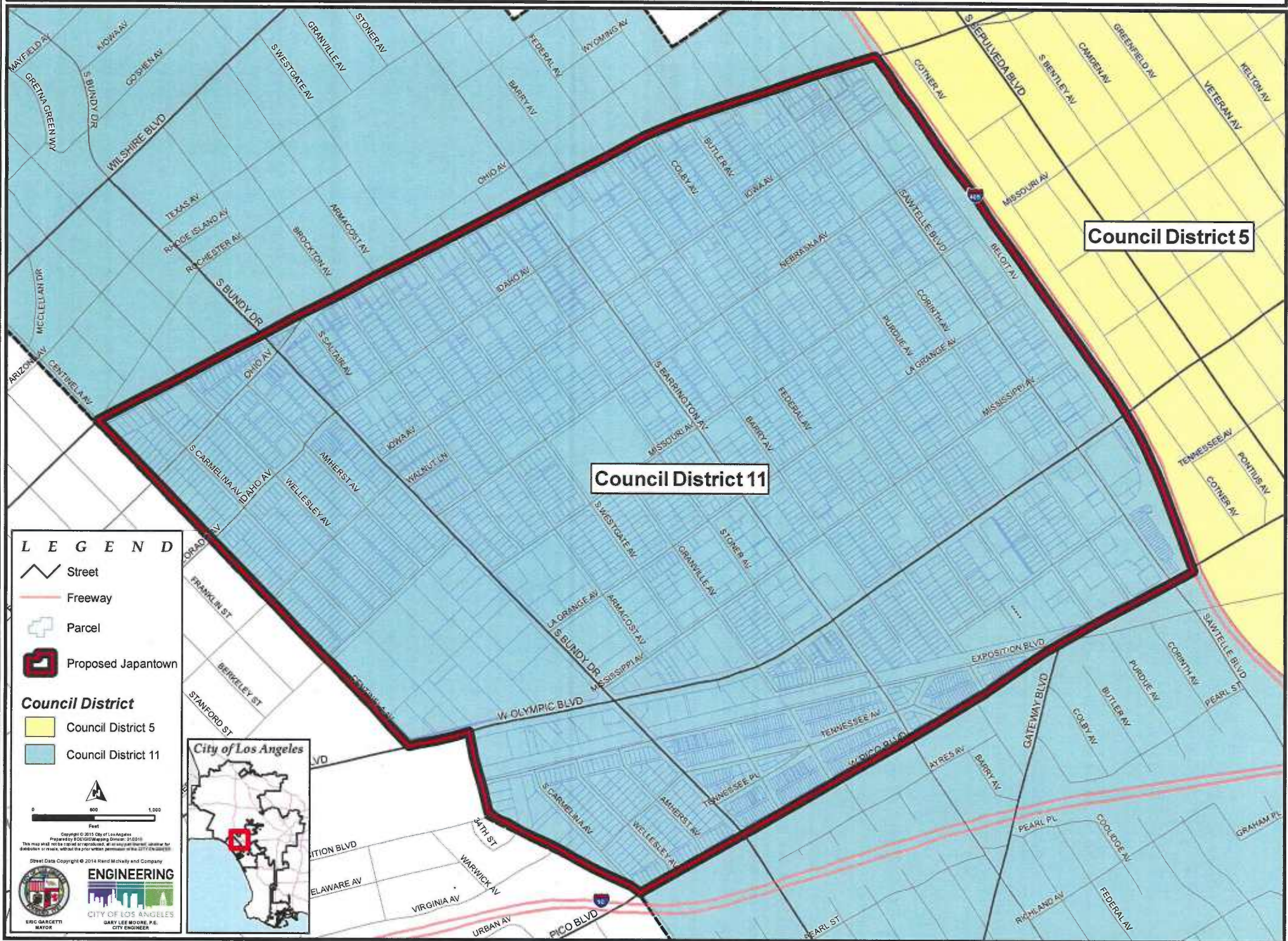
Contact Randy Price at (213) 482-7120 if you have any questions or need further assistance in this matter.

Enclosure

cc: Robert Kadomatsu  
Leslie Wall

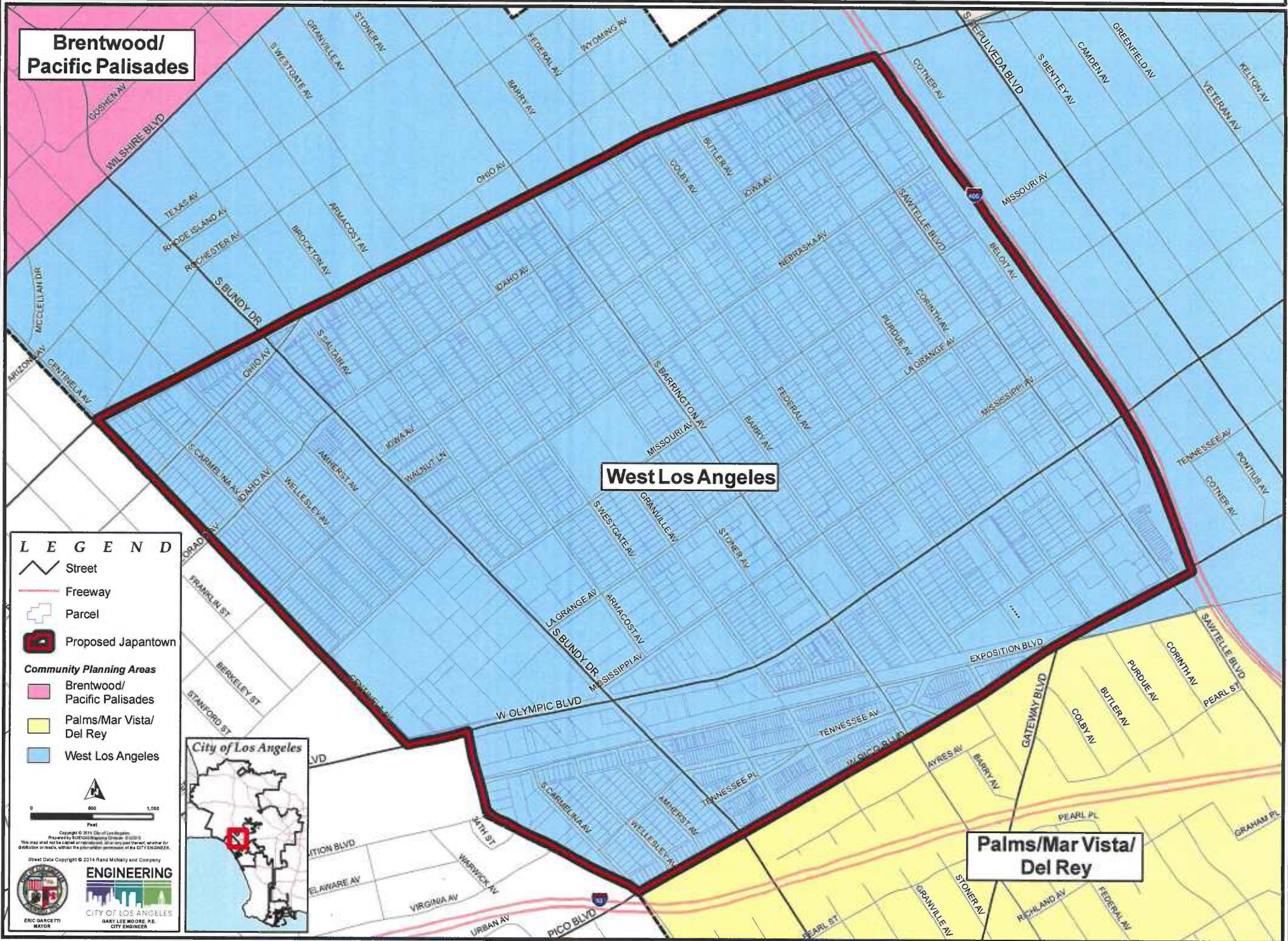


## Japantown Neighborhood Area Council Districts



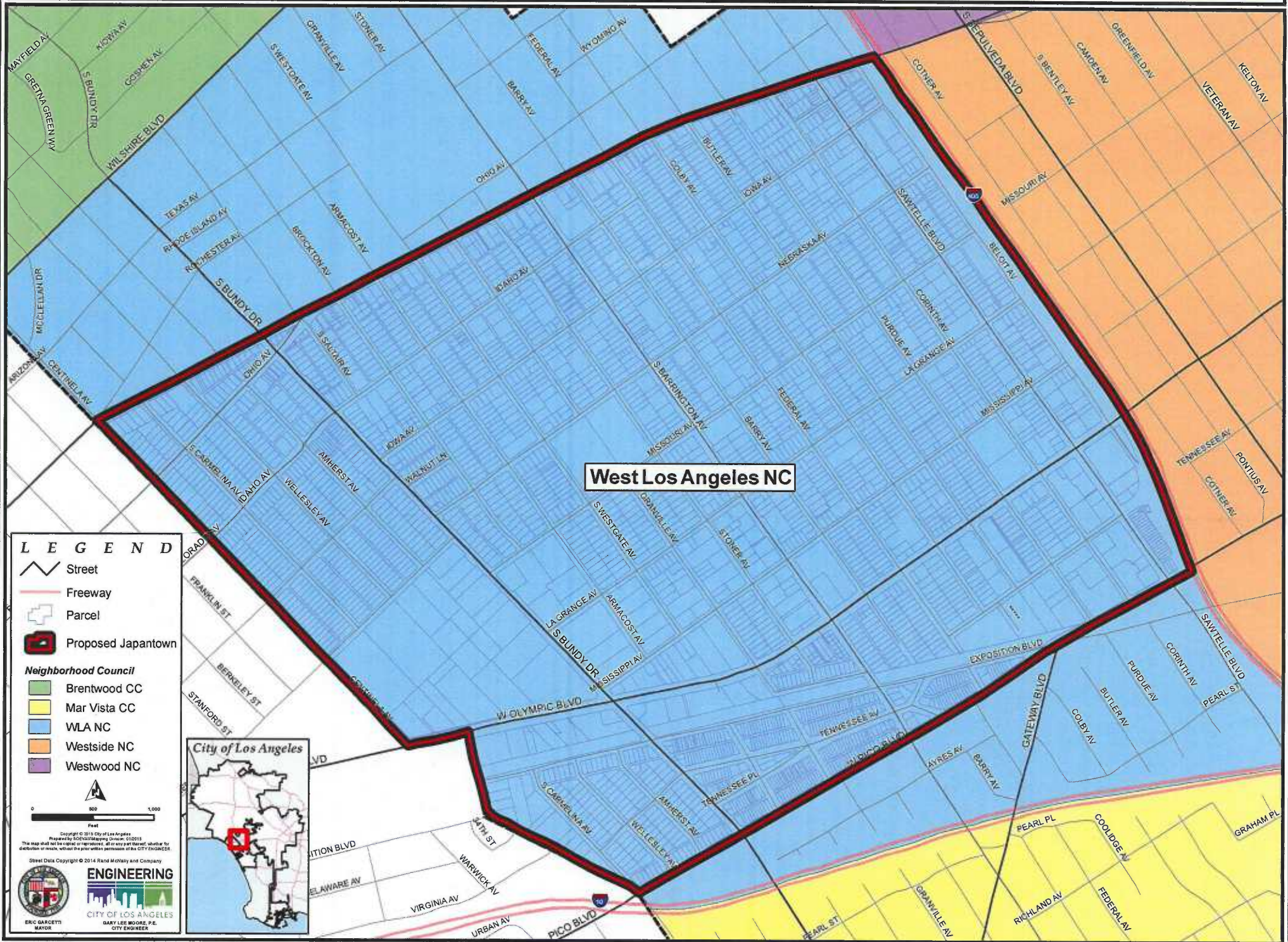


# Japantown Neighborhood Area Community Plan Areas



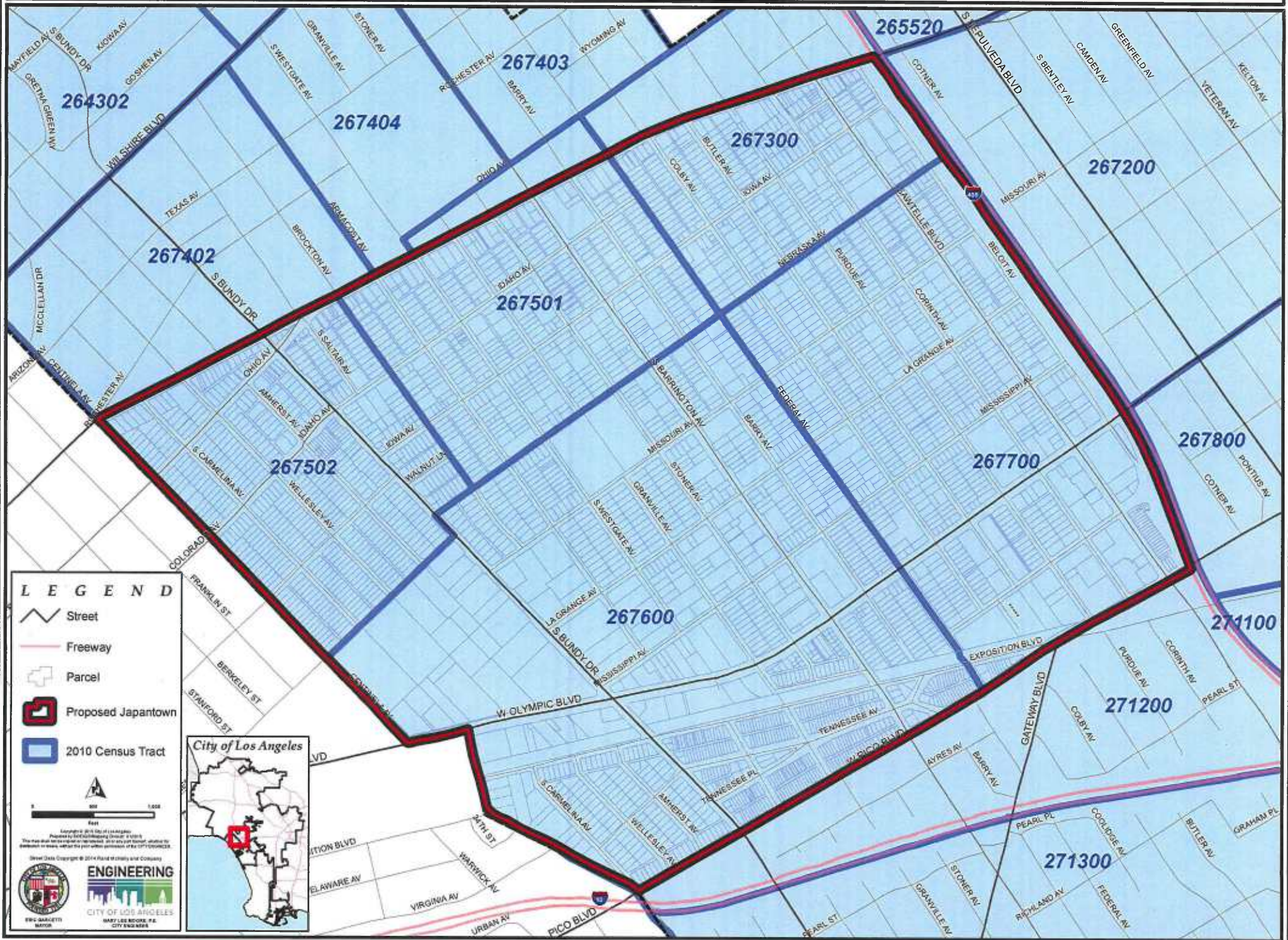


# Japantown Neighborhood Area Neighborhood Councils



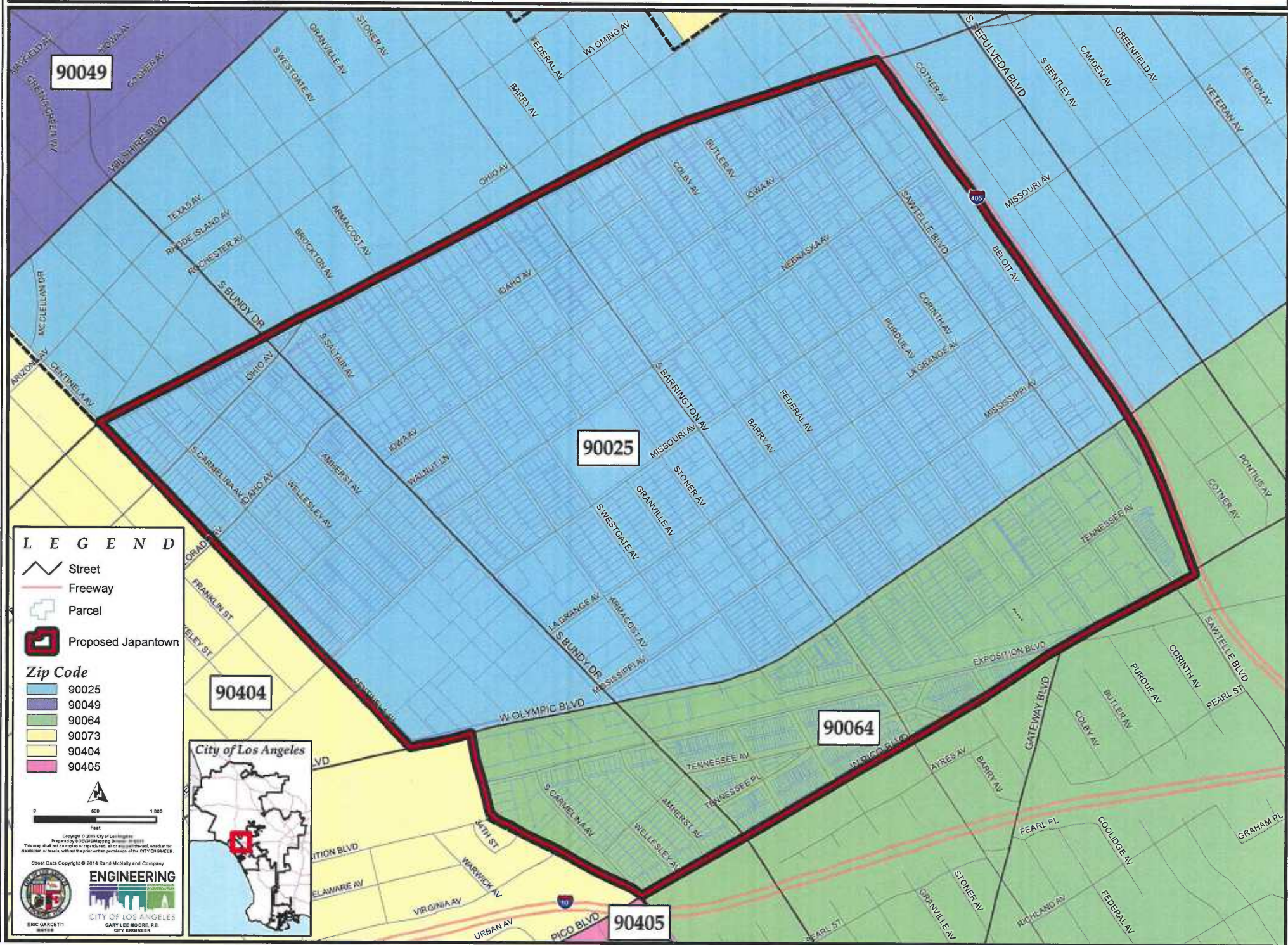


# Japantown Neighborhood Area Census Tracts





# Japantown Neighborhood Area Zip Codes



Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council

Name: Jay Handal

Phone Number: [310 466-0645](tel:3104660645)

Email: [sgrest@aol.com](mailto:sgrest@aol.com)

Date of NC Board Action: 1/28/2015

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 02/01/2015

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 14-1686

Agenda Date: 1/28/2015

Item Number: 4.1

Brief Summary: The West L.A. N.C. unanimously approved support of the neighborhood Naming change to "Sawtelle Japantown" as per the council file.

Additional Information:



**MINUTES OF THE WEST LA SAWTELLE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**West L.A Neighborhood Council Office-In WLA Municipal Building**  
**1645 Corinth Avenue West L.A., CA 90025**  
**January 28, 2015, 7:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Jay Handal called the meeting to order at 7:01PM.

Council members present: Jay Handal, Al Casas, Grace Tabib, Jean Shigematsu, Rosie Kato, Zana Glisovic, Tom Donovan, Kirk Watanabe, Jack Fujimoto, Helga Hakimi, David Levitus.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA: (Pre meeting)**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**December and January Special** - Motion was made (Casas), seconded (Shigematsu).

Approved - unanimous.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Motion to approve a CIS re council file 14-1686 Support of Sawtelle Japantown Naming** - Motion was made (Fujimoto), seconded (Watanabe). Approved - unanimous.

**Issue of board status changes reporting to DONE (Kato)** - Kato indicated concern with organizational representative status.

**Motion to approve Grace Tabib as Secretary** - Motion was made (Watanabe), seconded (Glisovic). Approved - unanimous.

**DWP REPORT (Watanabe):**

Nothing to report.

**Public Work Report (Kato):**

Nothing to report.

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE (REPORT):**

**Discussion/action of Stakeholder Survey** - Tabled until February meeting.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

**Officer Kirk Report (Pre meeting)**, Crime up 6.8% from last year. Burglary up from 3 to 6%. General theft down 36%. Increase in homeless encampments. Leaf blower issue: technically illegal to use gas power leaf blower in Los Angeles, but no enforcements or fines. Jay Handal sending issue to the Public Safety Committee for discussion and strategy.

**Introduction of Neighborhood Prosecutor Victoria De la Cruz**, Will be attending February meeting.

**BY LAWS COMMITTEE (DONOVAN):**

Nothing to report.



**CD 11 - COUNCILMAN BONIN (REPRESENTED BY LEN NGUYEN, FIELD DEPUTY):**

Sawtelle Japantown application: city clerk office processing the application.

(Handal), In conversation with Councilmen Bonin's office, office suggested providing concessions to New West and indicated lack of support from community members. Handal believes Bonin potentially wavering support of the Board's position to prevent New West from student expansion and relaxed conditional use permit conditions. Handal requested that meeting notes reflect the Board's unhappiness with Bonin's wavering position. The Board does not support any concessions to New West. Handal has requested a town hall to discuss New West's request for expansion and has yet to receive a response from Bonin's office.

(Casas), Online petition - currently only 44 signatures. Encouraging community to send letters/emails to Councilman Bonin.

(Donovan), Requesting response from Len's conversation with Councilman.

(Kato), Voicing the difficulty for community members to attend meetings downtown in the middle of the work day.

**MAYOR OF LA - GARCETTI (REPRESENTED BY DANIEL TAMM -WESTSIDE AREA):**

Absent.

**ASSEMBLY MEMBER BLOOM - (REPRESENTED BY STEPHANIE COHEN):**

Absent.

**CONGRESSMAN TED LIEU - (REPRESENTED BY JANET TURNER):**

Secretary McDonald announced settlement re: homelessness in West LA Veterans Administration lawsuit. Entertaining town meeting with US Postal Service.

**ASSEMBLY MEMBER RIDLEY THOMAS - (REPRESENTED BY SCOTT MAILSEN):**

Absent.

**STONER PARK REPORT (JASON LISS):**

Successful skateboard event last Saturday.

(Handal), University High School principal seeking use of baseball field by the JV team.

**MEDICAL MARIJUANA REPORT (NATHAN):**

Motion in committee to stop issuing tax certificates to illegal collectives. Will be informed when moves to City Council. Advising the community to report any illegal collectives to Nathan or Len.

**FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT (ZANA):**

Voting on new allocation of budget in February meeting

**PLUM COMMITTEE PROJECT PRESENTATION, REPORTS AND/OR PLUM ACTION RE PROJECTS:**

**Martin Expo Center development Bundy and Olympic (Motion re deir letter),** Motion made to approve letter (Casas), seconded (Watanabe). Approved - unanimous.

**Application to erect a cell tower at 12026 Wilshire,** No discussion.

**Literati Café: Renewal of their CUB Wilshire and Bundy,** Requesting CUB renewal. Motion to support was made (Fujimoto), second (Shigematsu). Watanabe abstain. Donovan recusal. Motion approved.

**Update Mississippi/Sawtelle light & mitigations (Kato),** Traffic signal has been approved.

(Casas), Traffic light has been funded and approved by City because of accidents occurring at the intersection warranting a traffic signal for safety purposes. The safety required meets the threshold for a traffic light by state warrant.

(Kato), Suggesting no thru traffic on Mississippi during certain hours. Casas has advised for Kato to contact Mo directly.

**Update Olympic/Butler project (Kato),** Did not receive notification for hearing as per 500 feet of the project.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

(Donovan), Bingo at Buddhist Church once a month - half the proceeds go to the Church.

(Casas), Encouraging signing of online petition and sending letters to Councilman Bonin re: New West expansion. Feb 24 and 25 PLUM and City Council meetings.

(Tabib), There will be an Outreach Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 10 at 7:30PM. We encourage anyone interested in discussing events for the remainder of the year and next fiscal year to attend.

(Kato), Sawtelle businesses and trash problems- remanded to Public Safety Committee

(Handal), PLUM meeting in February - consider making it a joint Board/PLUM meeting.


**ADJOURN:**

Motion was made (Casas), seconded (Donovan). Approved - unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:52PM.

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: February 17, 2015

To: Eric Villanueva, Legislative Analyst  
Council and Public Services Division

From:   
Todd Gaydowski, Division Manager  
Records Management Division

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY NAMING APPLICATION  
SAWTELLE JAPANTOWN  
(COUNCIL FILE NO. 14-1686)**

I have reviewed the indexes to the City Council records and the City Archives records inventory database for references to Sawtelle Japantown. The designation "Sawtelle Japantown" appears to be a newly proposed designation and does not appear in the historical record as such. The area proposed to be named was consolidated into the City of Los Angeles as part of the Sawtelle Consolidation in 1922, per ordinance 43,863. The area was part of the formerly independent town of Sawtelle.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (213) 473-8449 or via e-mail at [todd.gaydowski@lacity.org](mailto:todd.gaydowski@lacity.org).