

September 12, 2006

Fellow Stakeholders:

To date I have not held such a position within my community. Until relatively recently, I have not considered such a responsibility. But over the years I have realized that quality of life does not just happen; it is carefully and often painfully constructed from the stakeholders within that community.

In a city like Los Angeles and within an area like Los Feliz, many disparate factions are often playing tug of war over issues of land use and the permanent alteration of our social and physical landscape. Too often families like mine are silent and unaware of great changes that are occurring in the community, only to see the results afterward and realize that we should have had a voice. I am guilty of that, justifying my lack of involvement to the constraints of work and family. Most often, once done, these changes cannot be undone and typically set a precedent for similar future changes.

I am a proponent for the voice of the people. In general, the people that live, work, and go to school in an area like Los Feliz know what is best for their community. All too often, I see decisions from outside our community for motives that are not in keeping with our own thoughts. My family has lived in Los Feliz for almost 7 years. We have a 6 year old daughter and plan to raise her here until she leaves our nest. I can't think of a better reason for community involvement than that.

Most of us know people that live within gated communities. Los Feliz, in conjunction with Griffith Park, is the inverse of that; it is the great playground of Los Angeles. The doors are wide-open for all to enjoy. It is in large part why my family is here. But inviting a city with millions of inhabitants to come play in our backyard is not something that can occur unchecked. We all have some unique responsibility here to help ourselves live the life we want. My goal would be not only to help, but to nurture responsibilities among all of us.

With this in mind, I would like to tender my offer to join the council and do some of the heavy lifting to keep Los Feliz the safe, desirable, and beautiful area we all want it to stay.

Stan Getz