



**Lancaster Neighborhood Vitalization
Commission
Goals, Priorities and Mission**

MISSION STATEMENT

The *Lancaster Neighborhood Vitalization Commission* develops information on needed quality of life matters in residential and commercial areas. Recommending cost-effective policy and program improvements to the Mayor and City Council, and serving in partnership with designated community groups to carry out programs to achieve long term fair-share balance, stability and sustainability for Lancaster's neighborhoods.

PRIORITIES

- 1) The Lancaster Neighborhood Vitalization Commission will examine the ongoing cumulative negative effects of an over-abundance of publicly-subsidized housing, and recommend policies and programs to deter the proliferation of subsidized housing until such time as the city is able to achieve fair-share parity with other cities in Los Angeles County.
- 2) The Commission will hear and consider policy proposals to assist the city in regulation and enforcement of behavioral rules governing non-owner occupied, owner-occupied, Section 8 Housing, state-licensed group homes and unlicensed sober living homes.
- 3) The Commission will engage city business organizations to support private sector plans and programs to maximize voluntary business compliance with city codes while positively effecting improvement in bottom line performance.

ACTIVITIES

In addition to holding a regularly scheduled public meeting monthly or more often as may be required, the Commissioners will, based on their individual availability and respective areas of expertise, meet individually with relevant constituencies, including, but not limited to, neighborhood and business homeowner associations, resource organizations, law enforcement, school officials and city, county, state and federal officials. Individual meetings will be for input, communication, education, action or event planning and/or coordination.

It is envisioned that Commissioners, individually and / or collectively, will be of help to municipal staff in developing sources and resources for the production of public communications in support of the Neighborhood Vitalization effort.

GOALS FOR 2009

- 1) Based on existing information, establish a baseline year number for subsidized housing by classification (i.e.) Section 8 single family residential, federally-subsidized apartments, state-licensed group homes and sober living residential facilities. Publicize city achievements to date.
- 2) Work with the Los Angeles County Housing Authority to decrease the number of problematic holders of Housing Choice Vouchers.

3) Assist staff in finalizing and distributing a Good Neighbors Guide, incorporating useful information on city standards, services, rights and duties of residents, and resources available to assist in neighborhood vitalization and quality of life improvements. Help to assure that the guide is readily available in traditional and new media, and work to initiate and implement a Good Neighbors program.

4) Working in cooperation with business-related organizations, develop and implement a voluntary business neighborhood and bottom line improvement campaign, including a component to positively recognize owners and managers who successfully transform the appearance of their business property while maintaining or improving bottom line performance.

5) Quantify and communicate the social and economic cost to the city from disproportionate allocation of subsidized housing, and recommend to the city council policies, projects and programs which may be helpful to Lancaster in achieving long term fair-share balance, stability and sustainability in all of its neighborhoods.

6) Advise and advocate on responsible initiatives to help Lancaster achieve its goals for neighborhood preservation and vitalization.

7) Report activities and progress to the Mayor and Council.

COMMISSION POWERS

Although sworn appointees of the Mayor and Council, and subject to provisions of the California Open Meetings Act, members of the Commission operate entirely as an advisory body, with no legislative, managerial or enforcement powers or authority.

PARTNERS & RESOURCES (including but not limited to):

AV Board of Trade
AV Building Industry Association
AV Jaycees
AV Union High School District
Black Chamber of Commerce
Eastside Union School District
Faith-based organizations
Greater AV Association of Realtors
Greater AV Chambers of Commerce
Greater AV Economic Alliance
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Lancaster School District
Neighborhood Watch organizations
Scouting councils
Westside Union School District