

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

May 9, 2012

Agenda Item #8

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WOMP (Westwood Organized MEGA Project)

WHEREAS, the inaugural Westwood Organized MEGA Project (WOMP) was launched in April 2010 as a collaboration between the Westwood community and UCLA, to create a “Town and Gown” partnership and to build a bridge between campus and community, between students and neighbors, and between merchants and property owners, to work together to improve the conditions of Westwood Village, the “front door” to UCLA since 1929, and to foster a sense of “community” in Westwood; and

WHEREAS, the Westwood Neighborhood Council is a major sponsor of WOMP, along with the Westwood Community Council, and the nationally acclaimed UCLA Volunteer Center; and WHEREAS, the third annual WOMP was held on Saturday, April 28, 2012, and welcomed a record number of more than 700 volunteers including Los Angeles Fifth District City Councilmember Paul Koretz, UCLA students, faculty, staff, administrators, Bruin alumni, Westwood neighbors and homeowner leaders, Westwood Village merchants and property owners, Westwood Business Improvement District members, Target volunteers, Westwood Village Rotary Club members, UCLA Undergraduate Students Association Council leaders, Westwood faith-based community members, L.A.P.D. officers and cadets, and California Conservation Corps members, among others; and

WHEREAS, WOMP 2012 undertook 30 community improvement projects in Westwood Village and, for the first time, Westwood’s North Village, home to thousands of UCLA students, faculty and staff, in order to make them safer and more beautiful, including planting new landscaping, filling in degraded tree wells to protect street trees and improve public safety, weeding, painting, installing North Village neighborhood beautification signs, creating Hygiene Kits for PATH (People Assisting the Homeless), and many other worthwhile volunteer projects; and

WHEREAS, WOMP is an leading example of UCLA Chancellor Gene Block’s expressed commitment to civic engagement, which builds goodwill among UCLA’s Westwood neighbors and provides tangible assistance to UCLA’s immediately surrounding communities; and WHEREAS, WOMP is the one day out of the year that brings the entire Westwood community together with UCLA community members, to work side-by-side to improve the Westwood neighborhoods in which tens of thousands of UCLA students, faculty, and staff live, work, and play; and

WHEREAS, 100 percent of the entire cost and expenses of WOMP are raised from voluntary private contributions and in-kind donations from the Westwood community, including businesses, property owners, homeowner associations, and civic groups, with no funds whatsoever coming from UCLA; and

WHEREAS, the principal commitment by UCLA to WOMP for the past three years has been to provide the administrative support services of the UCLA Volunteer Center to help plan WOMP and serve as a central gateway for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members to volunteer for WOMP:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Westwood Neighborhood Council calls on Chancellor Block to reaffirm and renew UCLA's commitment to the continuation of WOMP, and to pledge the continued active support and partnership with the UCLA Volunteer Center, to ensure that this powerful expression of UCLA's values of civic engagement and commitment to a partnership with its Westwood neighbors can continue for the betterment of both the Westwood and UCLA communities.