

CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

CITY ATTORNEY MIKE FEUER

Invites You To Meet Your New

Neighborhood Prosecutor



Pictured: Neighborhood Prosecutor, Lauren Halligan and City Attorney Mike Feuer

WHEN

June 24th

6:30 pm

WHERE

Port of Los Angeles Administration Building

425 S. Palos Verdes Street

San Pedro, CA 90731

Light refreshments will be served

**Come
meet your
Neighborhood
Prosecutor
for these
areas:**

Harbor City

Harbor Gateway

San Pedro

Terminal Island

Wilmington



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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****PRESS RELEASE****

CITY ATTORNEY FEUER ROLLS OUT EXPANDED NEIGHBORHOOD PROSECUTOR PROGRAM

Los Angeles –Even as he doubles his Neighborhood Prosecutor Program, City Attorney Mike Feuer has announced that more will be on their way.

“Neighborhood Prosecutors are community problem solvers and make a real difference in people’s daily lives,” said Feuer while standing with his Office’s Neighborhood Prosecutors on the steps of City Hall. “When I ran for this job I said that I would double the number of Neighborhood Prosecutors. We have done that. Today I am also proud to announce that I will be hiring an additional five Neighborhood Prosecutors in the next few months, bringing the number to 21.”

The Neighborhood Prosecutor Program works with law enforcement and members of the community to tackle quality of life issues impacting neighborhoods, such as vandalism, graffiti, illegal dumping, blight and different types of disturbances. The scope of work also includes gang activity, gun violence, domestic violence, trespassing, prostitution, zoning code violations, health code violations and other issues affecting quality of life.

The Neighborhood Prosecutors are embedded in the community, working closely with schools, neighborhood councils, homeowner and residents associations, chambers of commerce and other civic organizations.

Feuer also announced that he and each of the 16 Neighborhood Prosecutors will hold “Meet Your Neighborhood Prosecutor Forums” during the next few months across Los Angeles. Upcoming meetings include:

Wednesday, June 4th, 6:30 p.m.
Community Coalition
8101 S. Vermont

Wednesday, June 18th, 6:30 p.m.
Canoga Park High School
6850 Topanga Canyon Blvd.

Tuesday, June 24th, 6:30 p.m.
Port of Los Angeles Administration Building
425 S. Palos Verdes Street
San Pedro

Thursday, July 10th, 6:30 p.m.
Goodwill Industries
3150 N. San Fernando Road
Glassell Park

The Neighborhood Prosecutors as assigned to LAPD Divisions (**Newly assigned NPs in bold**):

- Raffy Astvasadoorian, West Valley Division
- **Alvan Arzu, Southwest Division**
- **Susan Chung, Foothill Division**
- Verónica de la Cruz-Robles, Olympic Division
- Ayelet Feiman, Mission Division
- Tamar Galatzan, Van Nuys and North Hollywood Divisions
- **Cynthia Gonzalez, Hollenbeck Division**
- **Lauren Halligan, Harbor Division**
- Kurt Knecht, Central Division
- **Jackie Lawson, Hollywood Division**
- Claudia Martin, West Los Angeles and Pacific Divisions
- **Karine Philips, Topanga Division**
- **Gabrielle Porter Taylor, Northeast Division**
- **Erika Sandoval, Newton Division**
- **Bethelwel Wilson, 77th Street Division**
- **Mehrnoosh Zahiri, Wilshire Division**

CITY ATTORNEY NEIGHBORHOOD PROSECUTOR BIO'S

Alvan Arzu is the new Neighborhood Prosecutor assigned to the Southwest Division. Arzu is a Los Angeles native who received his Juris Doctorate from Loyola Law School. While a student at Washington State University he was a member of their 1998 Rose Bowl team and a member of the University All-Academic Team. Arzu worked as a Deputy District Attorney in the Criminal Prosecution Division of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office for over eight years. While in the Ventura County District Attorney's Office, Arzu prosecuted over 300 cases including: felony assaults, robberies, thefts, burglaries, firearm and felony narcotics offenses. Arzu was a member of the Ventura County Judicial Evaluations Committee and a Director for the Ventura County Bar Association.

Raffy Astvasadoorian is the Neighborhood Prosecutor assigned to the West Valley Division where he has worked since 2007. Astvasadoorian was born and raised in the California Central Valley and attended UCLA where he graduated with a B.A. in Spanish Language and Literature. He earned his Juris Doctor from the University of La Verne College of Law, graduating Magna Cum Laude. Before becoming a Neighborhood Prosecutor, Astvasadoorian worked as a Deputy City Attorney in Van Nuys for seven years where he prosecuted over one thousand cases. His fluency in the Spanish and Armenian languages allows him to connect with a wide variety of community members.

Susan Chung is the new Neighborhood Prosecutor for the Foothill Division. She grew up in the San Fernando Valley and earned her Juris Doctorate Degree from Loyola Law School and holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Literature from UCLA. Chung has been with the City Attorney's Office since 2003 beginning as a branch prosecutor in the Central Trials Branch and later joining the Gang Division where she was responsible for the filing and the prosecution of misdemeanor gang cases, gun crimes, graffiti vandalism cases, and gang injunction violation cases. In 2010, she was assigned to the Community Law Enforcement and Recovery Program in LAPD's 77th Division, and for the past year she has worked as the Neighborhood Gang Prosecutor there.

Verónica de la Cruz-Robles is the Neighborhood Prosecutor for the Olympic Division and is a Los Angeles native and a proud product of Venice High School. De la Cruz-Robles earned her Bachelor's Degree in American Studies from Stanford University with a Department Specialization in Race and Ethnicity in the United States. After earning her J.D. from UCLA School of Law, she became a staff attorney for Neighborhood Legal Services. De la Cruz-Robles has been a Deputy City Attorney with the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office since 2001. Her assignments with the City Attorney's Office have also included the Citywide Nuisance Abatement Program (CNAP), the Narcotics Enforcement Surveillance Team (NEST), the Housing Enforcement Section, and the School Safety Prosecutor Program.

Ayelet Feiman is the Neighborhood Prosecutor for Mission Division. Feiman was born and raised in Los Angeles, graduating from El Camino Real High School and receiving her BA from CSUN. Feiman spent time studying at Tel Aviv University and Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. Shortly after receiving her Juris Doctorate from Loyola Law School, Feiman joined the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. She worked in the Police Discovery Unit, Environmental Protection Unit, Central Trials, School Safety Prosecutor Program, and Neighborhood Prosecutor Program. Feiman has been a Neighborhood Prosecutor since 2004 covering different divisions – Foothill, Mission, Topanga, Devonshire and Rampart.

Tamar Galatzan has been a Neighborhood Prosecutor since 2002 and is assigned to the Van Nuys and North Hollywood Divisions. Galatzan previously served as Western States Associate Counsel for the Anti-Defamation League. She attended Birmingham High School in the San Fernando Valley, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from UCLA, and earned her law degree from Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. She is a member of the Los Angeles Unified School District's Board of Education, elected in 2007 and re-elected in 2011, representing the third district which covers the western half of the San Fernando Valley.

Cynthia Gonzalez is the new Neighborhood Prosecutor for the Hollenbeck Division. Having grown up in a low-income household in the city of El Monte, she was part of a community that faced many quality of life problems. One of the first in her family to attend college, she graduated UCLA with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a specialization in Developmental Disabilities, earned her JD from UCLA Law School. While in law school, Gonzalez externed at the Los Angeles County Office of Independent Review and the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office. After graduating law school and prior to joining the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, Gonzalez served as a public defender for the Committee for Public Counsel Services in Massachusetts.

Lauren Halligan is the new Neighborhood Prosecutor for the Harbor Division. Halligan has been with the City Attorney's office since 1998, where she began her career as a branch prosecutor in San Pedro, followed by assignments in the Hollywood and Central branches. She then joined Business and Complex Litigation on the civil side where she litigated breach of contract cases involving Board of Recs and Parks and the Coliseum Commission. In 2003, she joined the Consumer Protection Unit where she prosecuted cases involving fraud, unfair business practices, unlawful practice of medicine/law, sale of counterfeit goods, labor code violations, and unlicensed contractors. She also served in the City Attorney's Environmental Justice and Protection Unit and Pacific Branch and became the Assistant Supervisor of the San Pedro Branch in 2013. Halligan is a graduate of Loyola law School and the University of Pennsylvania.

Kurt Knecht is the Neighborhood Prosecutor assigned to the Central Division. A graduate of UCLA and UCLA Law School, Knecht has over 17 years of experience as a prosecutor for the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. While working in Criminal Division, he prosecuted over 100 jury trials to verdict with cases including Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Driving Under the Influence, Domestic Violence, Vehicular Manslaughter, and Sexual Assault. Since January 2013, Knecht has worked as the Neighborhood Prosecutor for Central Division. In that capacity, he has worked closely with Central Division's Safer City Initiative (SCI) Officers and Local Service Providers in coordinating homeless outreach. For the past two years he has been a volunteer crisis counselor for Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services.

Jackie Lawson is the new Neighborhood Prosecutor for the Hollywood Division. Lawson joined the City Attorney's Office in 2003. A graduate of Southwestern Law School, Lawson's first assignment in the City Attorney's Office was with the Workers' Compensation Division where she handled hundreds of claims defending the city and saving taxpayers millions of dollars. In April of 2007, Lawson transferred to the Criminal Division. Prior to becoming an attorney, Jackie had a successful career as a business owner, operating two successful retail stores and a home children's clothing business that became a nationally recognized label selling in major department stores nationwide.

Claudia Martin is the Neighborhood Prosecutor assigned to both West Los Angeles and Pacific Divisions. Born and raised in Los Angeles, she attended UCLA where she received a B.A. in History and graduated from Loyola Law School. Following her graduation from law school in 2003, she became a volunteer attorney for the City Attorney's Safe Neighborhoods Division where she handled narcotic based evictions of nuisance tenants. In 2004, Martin formally joined the City Attorney Office's and was assigned to the Central Trial Unit where she prepared and prosecuted a broad range of misdemeanor criminal cases. In 2006, Martin became a Neighborhood Prosecutor for the Pacific Division.

Karine Philips is the Neighborhood Prosecutor for Topanga Division. Philips was born in Moscow, Russia and immigrated to the United States settling in the Los Feliz neighborhood of Los Angeles. Philips is a graduate of the University of Southern California Gould School of Law and was hired by the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office in 1997 where she was assigned to the Domestic Violence Unit. In that capacity, Philips handled spousal abuse, child abuse and elder abuse cases, until she left the office in 2006 to enter private practice and later as private counsel for the University of Southern California. Philips is the proud mother of two children and an active volunteer in Parent Teacher Organizations.

Gabrielle Porter Taylor is the new Neighborhood Prosecutor of the Northeast Division. A graduate of Loyola Law School, Taylor spent many years as special prosecutor with our Family Violence Unit where she vigorously prosecuted domestic violence perpetrators and child abusers. Taylor came to the City Attorney's Office in 2006, originally from the Riverside County District Attorney's office where she was a Deputy District Attorney. Taylor was an educator and administrator throughout Los Angeles including Pico-Union, Boyle Heights and Watts.

Erika Sandoval is the new Neighborhood Prosecutor for the Newton Division. She is the first in her family to graduate college, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Juris Doctor from UCLA. Upon graduation she served as the Election Protection Volunteer Coordinator in Tuscon, Arizona for the League of United Latin American Citizens. Upon returning to Los Angeles, Sandoval taught Spanish to high school students at the Inglewood Unified School District and then served as Assistant Director of State Government Relations at UCLA. In 2008, she joined the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office as a Criminal Prosecutor, where she prosecuted numerous quality of life crimes. Most recently, she served as a defense attorney for the Los Angeles City Attorney's Worker's Compensation Division.

Bethelwel Wilson is the new Neighborhood Prosecutor for 77th Street Division. Born in Slidell, Louisiana, Wilson is an alumnus of UCLA and UC Berkeley School of Law and a former high school athlete, and spent the first three years of his legal career practicing as an Associate City Attorney with the Bakersfield City Attorney's Office, where he prosecuted quality of life offenses, assisted in nuisance abatement actions, and performed various other municipal duties. He subsequently practiced two and a half years in the private sector, defending corporations in complex commercial disputes and advising school districts on labor and employment matters. He has a long history of community involvement, serving as a mentor to underserved youth and a Board Member on a local Chamber of Commerce.

Mehrnoosh Zahiri is the new Neighborhood Prosecutor for the Wilshire Division. A Los Angeles native, Zahiri received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History from U.C.L.A, and her Juris Doctorate from Southwestern School of Law. She worked as an associate with the law firm of Dapeer, Rosenblit and Litvak, LLP., where she served as a City Prosecutor for numerous L.A. County cities. During those six years her emphasis was on improving quality of life issues. Zahiri worked closely with different Police, Code Enforcement, and Building and Safety Departments to reach the most appropriate and effective resolutions to a variety of problems.