

Walk With Us Reclaiming a Community



The Skid Row Neighborhood Watch Walk began in July 2005 as a means of bringing hope and change to an area long thought of as filled with despair. For the first time ever, social service providers and formerly homeless individuals took to the streets alongside law enforcement, business and property owners to clean up Los Angeles' Skid Row.

Central City East Association (CCEA) manages three Business Improvement Districts



Arts District



Industrial District



Toy District



**The Central City East Area
of Downtown Los Angeles**

CCEA BIDs encompass

- 110 Blocks
- 525 Acres
- 1,166 Businesses
- \$1.34 billion in annual sales
- 575 Property owners



Safe Team



Clean Team

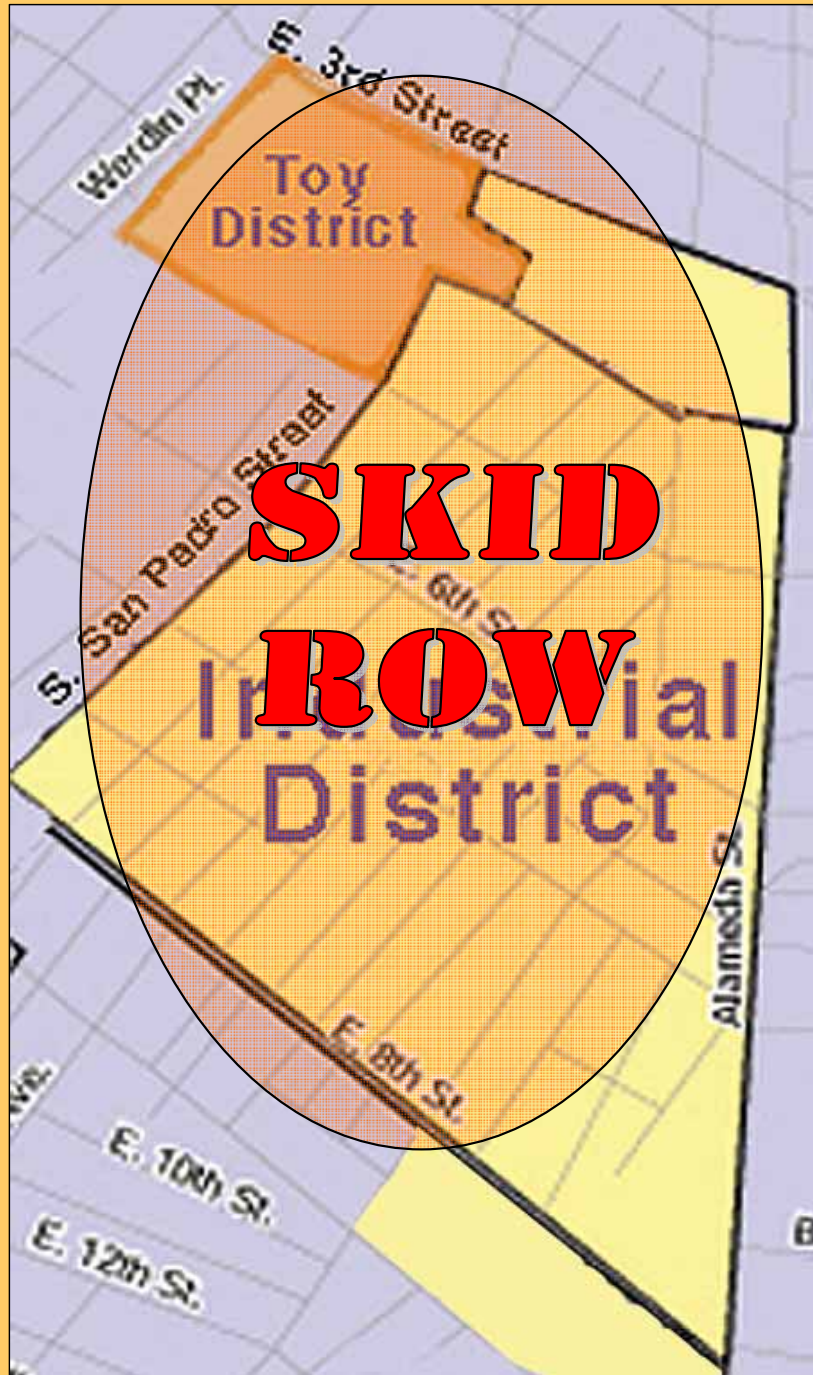
In 2006 CCEA's Public Safety Dispatch Center

- Responded to 77,000 calls for service
- CCEA's "Clean Team"**
- collected over 150,000 bags of trash



Skid Row Neighborhood Watch Walk

Area History:



The industrial eastside of Downtown Los Angeles originally evolved from an agricultural area. With the arrival of the railroads early Los Angeles was quickly transformed into a railhead for the southern and central regions of the state of California.

The area provided many jobs in the rail and other industries, including agriculture products such as livestock, fruits and vegetables and the related operations of growing and shipping.

The need for many small hotels sprung from the hundreds of worker layovers, seasonal employment and the general influx of new Los Angelinos relocating to the area.

Of the 110 blocks represented by CCEA, 50 blocks comprise Skid Row. These 50 blocks have been home to one of the largest stable populations of transient persons (homeless) in the United States. First-time visitors to this area are often shocked by the sight of cardboard boxes and camping tents lining the sidewalks.

Most of the city's homeless and social service providers (such as the Midnight Mission, Union Rescue Mission and the Downtown Women's Center) are based on Skid Row.

While Downtown Los Angeles witnessed an unprecedented transformation in recent years, the Skid Row problems seemed beyond reach.

Currently there are over two dozen SRO (Single Room Occupancy) hotels where several hundred formerly homeless and the disadvantaged residents are trying to restore their lives. The area is also home to thousands of small, medium and large business' employing 15,000 individuals who live throughout Los Angeles, Riverside and Orange counties.



Skid Row Neighborhood Watch Walk

The Street Conditions



Gang Presence



Multiple Encampments



Abandoned Property



Drug Use



Drug Sales

- **Sidewalks covered with people injecting drugs day and night.**
- **Addicts in full overdose seizures**
- **Acts of prostitution** in full view of passing vehicles and pedestrians
- **Violent transient-on-transient attacks**
- **Communicable diseases** from people eating, vomiting, defecating and urinating in the same place.
- **Proliferation of sale and use of street drugs** luring people out of recovery programs and back, to the streets on a daily basis.
- **Hospital and Law Enforcement Dumping** of patients and inmates deemed homeless, who become society's discards on the sidewalks of Skid Row.



Health Hazards



Hospital Dumping

Skid Row Neighborhood Watch Walk



Manufacturing/Industry

The community is host to varied stakeholders.

Industry, residents and persons seeking social services have decades of uneasy alliance. The criminal and drug culture became entrenched after decades of civic neglect.

Community Members

15,000 Employees



6,500 Residents
living in SRO Units



Schools with over
5000 students
attending yearly



Social Service
Providers



Central City East Association



Skid Row Neighborhood Watch Walk

The Walk begins...

...and a community unites In July 2005, the Central City East Association rallied a diverse group of stakeholders to call for an end to drug-related lawlessness in the area. With the support of the Los Angeles' 9th District Councilmember Jan Perry, the Midnight Mission's Director of Public Affairs Orlando Ward and LAPD Captain Andrew Smith, a monthly Neighborhood Watch Walk was started.

The walk soon became a vehicle by which to educate government leaders, the public and the press about the dangers of life (and death) on Skid Row. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, members of the LA City Council, and many California state leaders have now walked the streets of Skid Row after dark and have a greater understanding of the entrenched problems in the area.

Local law enforcement agencies and area hospitals that are accused of "dumping" released prisoners and indigent patients are under scrutiny. The over-concentration of registered sex offenders in Skid Row has become cause for concern in a community where women and children are increasingly present.



Central City East Association



Skid Row Neighborhood Watch Walk

Outreach/Intervention



Two LAHSA workers express (in Spanish) how they can help.

In a few short months the Walk expanded to include forms of outreach and intervention.

A partnership was formed with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Emergency Response Team (ERT) Program. The ERT outreach workers brought vans to every walk for immediate transportation of Individuals to shelter or services.



Over the course of the year dozens of homeless Individuals were convinced to go into shelter, provided with medical and mental health treatment and reunited with their families.



CCEA Safe Team officers receive special training on outreach methods to the homeless community.



Information was handed out on how and where with to seek services.

Central City East Association



Skid Row Neighborhood Watch Walk

Media/Press Attention



LAPD Captain Smith & CCEA Exec. Director Estela Lopez



U. S. Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard



Southern California ACLU President Ramona Ripston



Councilmember Jan Perry holds press conference at Walk kick-off.

- Media Attention
- Community Outrage
- Civic Awareness
- Legislative Changes
- National Attention



Los Angeles City Councilmembers

Skid Row Neighborhood Watch Walk

Positive Impact

Since the walk began in July of 2005 several severe problems have been positively impacted. Mayor Villaraigosa, Police Chief Bratton and City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo brought the Safer Cities Initiative (SCI) to Skid Row in September 2006, almost one year after the walk began.

Through enforcement, enhancement and outreach SCI is bringing long-deferred civic attention to Skid Row. The BIDs donated a network of surveillance cameras to the LAPD to serve as a “Force Multiplier” to officers on patrol.



Laws were enforced regarding the sale of alcohol & stay away ordinances for registered sex offenders near schools.



Sidewalk Pressure Washing



Tree trimming & street light repair



Elimination of ‘drug bazaars’



10 Surveillance Cameras installed in high crime areas.



Eliminate gang presence & influence over skid row



Hospital dumping addressed by City Attorney



Skid Row Neighborhood Watch Walk



Before



Now

Thirty years of civic neglect will not disappear overnight,
but every journey begins with one step.

A community initially suspicious of one another joined together to
save a neighborhood. Leaders listened. A nation watched.
A downtown organization never lost hope.

Contact

For more information

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Photo Credits:

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www.centralcityeast.org

When we walk

1st Wednesday of every month
6:00 pm
Depart from the Midnight Mission
601 S. San Pedro St. Los Angeles

Central City East Association

