

LWV- ELGIN
OBSERVER REPORT
July 23, 2008

MEETING: Elgin City Council
DATE: July 23, 2008
LEAGUE MEMBER OBSERVING: Sigi Psimenos
ELECTED OFFICIALS ATTENDING: Council Members, Mayor, City Manager
ABSENT: Councilman Powers
PRESS IN ATTENDANCE: Yes
PRESS COVER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES: Yes and No

SUMMARY OF MEETING: Issues discussed & approved unanimously & covered in the papers:

- 1) Petition 15-08 to give preliminary approval for a trial restriction on street parking in 4 densely populated neighborhoods (Cobblers Crossing, Gifford Park, Summit Park & Randall Ridge) beginning in Sept 2008. Parking would be banned 12am-5pm with parking allowed on the odd side on odd dates, and even on even dates.
- 2) Passed unanimously & covered in the press was consideration of an Ordinance prohibiting prostitution and prostitution related activities. These tougher penalties would include heavier fines for violators, loss of vehicle, and publication of all parties names in the press.

The following item was not covered in the press: over 100 citizens were in attendance to voice their concerns over what they feel is harassment & discrimination by the police in terms of profiling the Latin community and demand equal treatment. Specifics: Wherein the Anglo community has car rallies, motorcycle races, etc., there is a cultural difference when it comes to Latinos- they prefer attending car shows where they can display their "tricked out" cars & latest sound systems. While they agree with the 75 Ft. Noise ordinance- they specifically obtained permits to hold a Car Show where music was amplified from these cars; how was this any different then bands playing at Festival Park who are much louder and on a PA system. They were asked by the police to fold up their show and leave- the participants asked to see a copy of the complaint and none was provided. Others provide background, in terms of how family members, including children have been harassed. The Council appointed Councilman Guillian to meet with the group to see what could be done.

NEST MEETING: August 13, 2008

