

# UPDATES

## A Neighborhood Victory: Garfield Library Will Open

A well-choreographed and sometimes moving demonstration by newly united Westside residents did the trick Tuesday night — or at least part of it. The council voted unanimously to re-open the recently shut down Garfield Park branch library at least half time and at least until a funding feud with the county comes to a showdown in September.

The Westside Neighbors group, backed by some 1200 petition signatures, paraded children, elders, representatives of the handicapped, and just plain folks to the podium, while scores of supporters crowded the council chambers with banners and bodies. The theme was consistent, with speakers insisting that libraries should be the last to get the Jarvis axe and that the closing of Garfield Park was essentially a political act.

Playing a bit to the crowd, every council member present urged — and eventually voted for — opening the library doors. City staff was directed to find funds in the city coffers to open the library immediately at city expense. Still in the air is the status of the city/county agreement to fund jointly all libraries in the county (except Watsonville). □

Last week the county supervisors added LAFCO to the heap of planning and environmental review functions cut in the Prop. 13- and recall-inspired budget slashing. The supervisors cut off funding for the executive director's position as of Oct. 1, and are investigating the possibility of the county administrator taking over the staff function of the LAFCO director's office.

"There won't be much of a LAFCO function in this county, if that happens," commented Dan Cardoza, executive director of LAFCO. The development of "spheres of influence" for incorporated areas and special districts, vital in the formation of a county growth management plan, is the most important function of LAFCO at present, according to Cardoza.

The five-member commission could take the matter to court, but two county supervisors, Cecil Smith and Pat Liberty, are also commission members. "The board indicated they were willing to test their decision in court," said Cardoza, "but I'm not sure the votes are there on the commission to sue."

At a meeting Monday, Commissioner Robley Levy couldn't get support for a motion to begin legal action against the board. She says she will try again at a Sept. 6 meeting. □

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