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Metro's Jennifer Gill among 10 Constituents Honored at 46th Assembly District 'Women of Action' Awards

< Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez and Jennifer Gill, a consultant in Community Relations, at awards luncheon in Boyle Heights.

- Assembly Speaker Pérez honors Community Activist Jennifer Gill for Outstanding Contributions to the Quality of Life in the 46th Assembly District

(April 21, 2010) Less than a month into his term as the California State Assembly Speaker, John A. Pérez, who represents District 46 in Los Angeles, hosted the annual "Women of Action" luncheon and awards presentation March 27 in Boyle Heights.

The event was held to honor 10 women whose accomplishments have improved the quality of life in the 46th District during the past year.

Jennifer Gill, a consultant in Community Relations who supports Metro's constituent program management and outreach programs, was chosen by Pérez for the top ten honors. The diverse 46th District, which includes a broad range of populations from downtown Los Angeles, Westlake, and Boyle Heights to Vernon and Maywood, was celebrated for the accomplishments of the 2010 awardees.

Gill, who has resided in the Westlake District for 13 years, loved networking with the room full of civic leaders.

"I was surprised and honored to be included in this accomplished group of women," said Gill.

"One of the honorees runs the Homegirls Café; another is an environmental activist battling brown water issues in Maywood, and another wrote and directed the film 'Real Women Have Curves,' "she said.

"Jennifer Gill wears many hats," Pérez said in his introduction of the Westlake constituent. Pérez noted that Gill currently serves as the vice president of the MacArthur Park Neighborhood Council, sits on the community advisory board of the Community Redevelopment Agency, is a park advisory board member for both MacArthur Park and the Levitt Pavilion, and, is currently working on a documentary on the history of MacArthur Park.

"This is the kind of engagement in every level of the community we are here to celebrate," said Pérez.

Gill, an avid cyclist and noted photographer, is "one of the rare Angelinos who doesn't own a car," said Pérez, who is a proponent of public transportation and strong supporter of Measure R.

"That's why I'm so excited that we're looking to do the 'subway to sea' and why I'm so excited to see the new light rail revitalizing Boyle Heights, much in the same way that the subway is helping to create economic stimulus in MacArthur Park," said Pérez, recalling the "days of public transportation to everywhere," when his grandfather would take the family to the beach every Sunday on the Pacific Red Car.

Gill's long history of community activism began with a stint in the U.S. Peace Corps in Africa, where she spent 3 years teaching at the Staff Training Institute in Swaziland.

During a 15-year career in film production, while living in Puerto Rico, she took the opportunity to attend and document international film festivals in Spain, Nicaragua and Cuba. Her installation of a photography exhibit at the MSA Gallery in San Juan, Puerto Rico, documenting the festivals drew international acclaim.

As Speaker Pérez handed out engraved plaques to each awardee at the luncheon, he thanked them for their contribution to the community. "You are the latest in a long line of leaders who brighten the lives of so many people," he said.

--from Gayle Anderson