

## STATEMENT FROM LEO WILSON

My family has lived in Uptown for several generations. My parents first met while waiting for a streetcar on the corner University Avenue and Park Boulevard while attending San Diego High School. My involvement in Hillcrest began in 1991, when I helped form and was a chair of the Hillcrest/North Park Citizens Patrol, shortly after the murder of John Wear and a series of other hate crimes in Hillcrest. Those were difficult times, and I was proud to have been involved.

I was also active in the environmental community; chairing the San Diego Sierra Club's Wilderness Subcommittee, and serving as President of Friends of Los Peñasquitos Preserve.

While working at the Hillcrest police storefront running the Safe Streets Now program, which targeted narcotics related issues and drug houses, I was asked to run for Uptown Planners. The main reason was they needed someone who had experience running meetings. I have been chair of Uptown Planners for many years since then, and attempt to run meetings fairly and encourage compromise when appropriate.

I have been a resident of Bankers Hill for about 20 years, and have been active in that community. I believe Bankers Hill is a successful example of property owners, businesses and residents working collaboratively together. Bankers Hill has welcomed new development, while at the same time worked to preserve its historic character. It is a beautiful community to walk through, because it is a mosaic of old and new buildings that co-exist in an attractive manner. I believe that new development and historic preservation are compatible, and can be done in an effective manner through effective community involvement in the public review process.