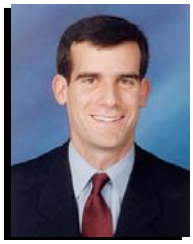

ERIC GARCETTI
President, Los Angeles City Council
COUNCIL DISTRICT 13

200 N. Spring St. Room 470 • Los Angeles • CA 90012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Photographs Available

Contact: Josh Kamensky (213) 473-7013

GARCETTI, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, "WALK FOR PEACE"

NEIGHBORHOOD WALK GIVES RESIDENTS INFO AND A SYMPATHETIC EAR

Council President Eric Garcetti joined lay leaders from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in East Hollywood in the neighborhood's first-ever "Walk for Peace." The grassroots initiative directly connected members of the community by organizing nearly 100 local residents and members of the church to walk door-to-door in this low-income area in small teams, listening to concerns and providing information about available city services.

"Though East Hollywood is one of the densest areas of the city, people live for years without meeting their neighbors," said Garcetti, who walks the different communities of his district every month. "Today's walk provided us with an opportunity to let people know about city services and to listen to community's concerns. It also gave neighbors a chance to break down the barriers that divide us from one another."

"For years, the Immaculate Heart Church has been a rather quiet partner in the community, rarely involving ourselves in the goings-on of the neighborhood," said Father Rodel Balagtas. "Our vision has changed, and as we move into the 21st century we hope to be a church that engages in the public discourse about social problems and can become a voice for the community. Today's walk was an amazing start to what will one day become an intimate bond between the neighborhood and the church."

The walk reached out to residents in the area stretching from Vermont Avenue on the east to Western Avenue on the west and Sunset Boulevard to the north to Melrose Avenue to the south, covering one square mile of Garcetti's 13th Council District. The walk was designed to tell residents about the services provided by the city, ranging from affordable housing to street cleaning to anti-gang measures.

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