



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Acting Mayor Garcetti Remarks from May 1 Confrontation Press Conference

Council President and Acting Mayor Eric Garcetti delivered these remarks at today's press conference regarding the May 1st confrontation between police and demonstrators in MacArthur Park.

Thank you.

I want to begin by thanking Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. According to our city's charter, when the Mayor leaves the State of California, it is the Council President's duty to serve as Acting Mayor. But please know that Mayor Villaraigosa has remained directly involved and directly connected from the moment this situation initially arose yesterday afternoon. I spoke to him last night and I spoke to him again today, and he spoke directly to the press from San Salvador. At the same time as he is representing our city and its future in Mexico and Central America, he continues to express his concern and maintain his involvement in what is happening in our city today.

I also want to thank the Mayor's Chief of Staff Robin Kramer, Deputy Mayor Arif Ali Khan and Communications Director Janelle Erickson for all their work.

The freedom of the people to assemble is a cornerstone of our democracy. The freedom of the press to operate without encumbrance is a cornerstone of our democracy. And the openness and the accountability of our institutions are cornerstones of our democracy.

Yesterday began as a beautiful day in Los Angeles. And until the very end, it remained one. Tens of thousands of Angelenos took to the streets in peaceful protest. Thousands of city personnel—traffic officers, public works personnel, police, firefighters—protected the public's right to free speech, and ensured the smooth operation of our city's functions for all of its residents. And from the streets, from the office towers, and from their homes, millions of Angelenos and Americans joined in a civic discussion about our city's and our nation's future.

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The overwhelming majority of Angelenos, those police officers, those city workers, those residents, assembled and protected and engaged in discussion with dignity and without incident.

Towards the evening, a confrontation ensued between a small group of protestors unaffiliated with the event organizers and police. My colleagues, the mayor, your Chief of Police and I are gravely disturbed by the images of that confrontation. It is our duty to protect the right of assembly. It is our duty to protect the media's right to report the news to citizens. And if there is evidence that those rights are ever in question, it is our duty to ensure an open and transparent civilian process to seek the truth and correct infractions.

You will now hear from Chief William Bratton on the events of yesterday; from Police Commission President John Mack, who will oversee the civilian investigation of the incident; and from my colleagues on the city council, Councilmember Ed Reyes, who represents MacArthur Park, Councilmember Jack Weiss, who chairs our city's public safety panel, and Councilmember José Huizar and Councilmember Jan Perry, who represent the downtown area of the day's marches.

Thank you all for coming. I'd like to conclude by reminding the public that you have the right to call the Inspector General's office to file a report. The inspector general is a civilian institution that reports to the appointed commission and the city's elected officials.

The Office of the Inspector General is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Complaints can be filed over the phone or in person. Complaints can be filed anonymously. The phone number is (213) 202-5866 and it is located at Figueroa Plaza, 201 N. Figueroa Street, suite 610.

Thank you.

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