



**ERIC
GARCETTI**
President, Los Angeles City Council
COUNCIL DISTRICT 13



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GARCETTI NAMES PILAR QUISPE 2008 PIONEER WOMAN

Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti today announced that he has selected community activist Pilar Quispe as the Council District 13 Pioneer Woman of 2008. The City of Los Angeles established the Pioneer Woman awards in 1988 to recognize extraordinary women during March, which is National Women's History Month.

"Pilar epitomizes the definition of a 'pioneer' and we are all very fortunate that she chose to dedicate more than two decades of her life to making Los Angeles a better place for us all," said Garcetti.

Originally from Peru, Quispe moved to Los Angeles more than 20 years ago to seek new opportunities for her family. Top among her priorities was ensuring that her children had access to a quality education. As her children attended local schools – Grant Elementary, Le Conte Middle, and Marshall High – Quispe organized parents to fight for more resources to help them learn and prepare them for future success.

In recent years, Quispe has expanded her community activism to include fighting for resources to address at-risk youth and gang violence in the community. She is currently working with the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and the Drug Free Community Initiative, which is organizing local residents to help prevent drug and alcohol abuse among at-risk young people.

Quispe has helped dozens of neighbors form their own neighborhood watches and helped to build a network of Peruvians living in Los Angeles that raised funds to send to Peru after the tragic earthquake of 2006.

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