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STATE OF HOLLYWOOD ADDRESS
JANUARY 24, 2008
(AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY)

TWO WEEKS AGO, WE SAID GOODBYE TO HOLLYWOOD'S BEST FRIEND.

JOHNNY GRANT ARRIVED IN TOWN AT THE TAIL END OF HOLLYWOOD'S FIRST GOLDEN AGE AND HELPED USHER IN THE BEGINNING OF A SECOND ONE.

IN A TOWN BUILT ON DREAMS, JOHNNY DREAMED SOME OF OUR BIGGEST. BUT JOHNNY HAD MORE THAN DREAMS FOR HOLLYWOOD. HE HAD AN IMMOVABLE FAITH IN HOLLYWOOD AND UNDERSTOOD THAT DREAMS COME TRUE ONLY THROUGH HARD WORK. JOHNNY HUNG ON UNTIL HIS FAITH AND HARD WORK CHANGED THE FACE OF OUR TOWN.

THERE IS A TREMENDOUS ABSENCE IN THIS ROOM TODAY, BUT THERE IS AN EVEN GREATER PRESENCE ON THE STREETS OF A NEIGHBORHOOD THAT JOHNNY HELPED RENEW.

IN THAT SPIRIT, I SAY TO YOU TODAY THAT THE STATE OF HOLLYWOOD IS STRONG. AND AS WE CONTINUE A LEGACY OF DREAMS, OF FAITH, AND OF HARD WORK, WE WILL MAKE IT EVEN STRONGER.

THIS IS MY SEVENTH YEAR BEFORE YOU AT THIS PODIUM. I NEVER FAIL TO BREATHE IN THE WARMTH, THE DEPTH, AND THE BREADTH OF COMMUNITY IN THIS ROOM.

FOR THE LAST SIX AND A HALF YEARS, I HAVE TREASURED THE MOMENTS WE HAVE ALL SPENT TOGETHER IN FRIENDSHIP AND IN HARD WORK.

IT REMINDS ME OF THE WORDS OF BRITISH WRITER MARIA EDGEWORTH, WHO ONCE SAID "IF WE TAKE CARE OF THE MOMENTS, THE YEARS WILL TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES."

SO ALLOW ME TO GRAB THIS MOMENT IN TIME, AS WE LOOK TO THE YEARS

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AHEAD, TO SHARE WITH YOU A FUTURE FOR HOLLYWOOD, AND TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE WORK THAT REMAINS TO BE DONE.

I SEE AHEAD OF US A HOLLYWOOD THAT IS FIRST AND FOREMOST, A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD.

A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD IS A PLACE THAT'S A WORLD-CLASS TOURIST, ENTERTAINMENT, AND SHOPPING DESTINATION.

A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD IS A PLACE WHERE KIDS CAN BE SAFE, PLAY IN COMMUNITY PARKS, AND SUCCEED IN GREAT SCHOOLS.

A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD HELPS SUPPORT BUSINESSES AND REWARDS HARD-WORKING FAMILIES. IT EXPANDS OPPORTUNITY AND FOSTERS A CULTURE OF GIVING BACK.

I'M GOING TO TALK TODAY ABOUT WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER IN THE PAST YEAR AND OUR COMMITMENT TO THIS COMMUNITY AND THE DREAMS THAT WE SHARE FOR ITS FUTURE.

SO LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE WORK WE'VE DONE IN 2007.

TO DATE, THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES HAS USED \$700 MILLION IN PUBLIC MONEY TO ATTRACT \$5.5 BILLION DOLLARS IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT.

IN THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED A LOT. BUT SOME OF OUR BIGGEST PLANS HAVE ONLY BEEN DREAMS DRAFTED IN BLUEPRINTS. THIS PAST YEAR, THAT CHANGED.

TODAY, THERE IS NO MORE BEAUTIFUL SIGHT IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD THAN THE FLOCK OF CRANES OVER HOLLYWOOD. I LOVE THOSE CRANES. I LOVE THEM BECAUSE THEY SIGNAL THE ARRIVAL OF A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD REBORN, WITH HUNDREDS OF LIVING WAGE JOBS FOR ANGELENOS, A NEW FIRST-CLASS HOTEL FOR VISITORS, EXCITING RETAIL FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS, AND MUCH-NEEDED HOUSING.

IF AT HOLLYWOOD AND VINE, THE EARTH HAS BEEN DUG UP, ACROSS THE STREET, HISTORY ITSELF HAS BEEN UNEARTHED. THERE, AS THE

BOULEVARD 6200 PROJECT MOVES TOWARDS A GROUNDBREAKING, CLARETT AND NEDERLANDER HAVE DUSTED OFF EIGHTY-YEAR OLD PLANS -- FOUND BY ROBERT NUDELMAN IN A STORAGE CLOSET -- FOR AN ART DECO OFFICE TOWER TO COMPLETE THE VISION OF THE PANTAGES THEATER.

SUNSET BOULEVARD IS ALSO CHANGING STARTING WITH OUR NEW

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BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT THAT CAME ON LINE IN 2007.

TECHNICOLOR'S NEW COMPLEX IS RISING AT SUNSET AND GOWER. THERE, HIGH-TECH ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY JOBS WILL KEEP "HOLLYWOOD THE NEIGHBORHOOD" HOME TO "HOLLYWOOD THE INDUSTRY," EXACTLY ONE CENTURY AFTER COL. WILLIAM SELIG MADE HOLLYWOOD'S FIRST FILM.

DOWN THE STREET, AT SUNSET AND GORDON, THERE'S A BUILDING GOING UP THAT WILL REACH THE GOLD LEED STANDARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN, A MARK OF RARE DISTINCTION. THE HOUSING THERE WILL INCLUDE AFFORDABLE, FOR-SALE UNITS, AND THE NEW OFFICE SPACE WILL ATTRACT NEW JOBS. THERE'S EVEN A NEW PARK FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

GROWING UP IN L.A., I WENT TO CONCERTS JUST DOWN THE STREET AT THE WORLD-FAMOUS PALLADIUM. FOR YEARS, WE HELD OUT AND TOLD ALL COMERS THAT WE WOULD PROTECT OUR HISTORY FROM THE WRECKING BALL. THIS YEAR, I GOT TO ANNOUNCE THAT LIVE NATION WILL BRING THAT VENUE BACK TO LIFE AND RESTORE ITS GLORY.

ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE DOES NOT MEAN FORGETTING OUR PAST.

IN EAST HOLLYWOOD, ANOTHER BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT ALONG VERMONT AVENUE CAME ONLINE. AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND KAISER, TWO STATE-OF-THE-ART HOSPITAL FACILITIES ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION. THESE EXPANSIONS WILL PROVIDE HUNDREDS OF NEW MIDDLE CLASS JOBS.

IF YOU LOOK AT WHERE WE WERE JUST A DECADE AGO, THIS HAS TRULY BEEN A WATERSHED YEAR.

TODAY, HOLLYWOOD IS HELPING TO KEEP LOS ANGELES STRONG. THERE'S NO QUESTION THESE ARE TOUGH TIMES. THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES FACES A HUGE BUDGET CHALLENGE. OUR NATION FACES A CREDIT CRISIS. BUT HERE IN HOLLYWOOD, WE'VE PROVEN THAT FAITH IN OUR DREAMS AND HARD WORK CAN KEEP US AFLOAT DURING EVEN

THE MOST DIFFICULT TIMES. AND IN THE COMING YEAR, I AM GOING TO KEEP HOLLYWOOD ON TRACK AND BRING ABOUT MORE INVESTMENT THAT IS THE ENGINE OF OPPORTUNITY IN OUR GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD.

I'M GOING TO BRING YOU TWO NEW PROGRAMS.

RIGHT NOW, A MAJOR PROJECT MUST BE REVIEWED BY UP TO TWELVE CITY DEPARTMENTS FOR APPROVAL. IT'S A DAUNTING PROCESS THAT

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SLOWS DOWN GREAT PROJECTS ONCE THEY HAVE ALREADY GOTTEN THE GREEN LIGHT FROM CITY HALL AND THE COMMUNITY. SO, I'M WORKING ON A PROGRAM CALLED "TWELVE TO TWO." PROJECTS GO TO PLANNING. THEY GO TO BUILDING AND SAFETY. AND YOU'RE DONE. FROM TWELVE CITY DEPARTMENTS TO TWO.

I'M ALSO GOING TO BUILD ON OUR HARD-WON RENEWAL AND EXPANSION OF HOLLYWOOD'S STATE ENTERPRISE ZONE TO CREATE OUR CITY'S FIRST ENTERTAINMENT TECHNOLOGY DISTRICT. THE DISTRICT WILL EXPAND INCENTIVES AND CONCENTRATE NEW, GOOD JOBS WITH CAREER POTENTIAL RIGHT HERE, IN HOLLYWOOD.

I HAVE WORKED TO BUILD A CITY GOVERNMENT THAT SEEKS NEVER TO IMPEDE, BUT ALWAYS TO EMPOWER. WE NEED TO KNOW WHEN TO GET OUT OF THE WAY AND WE NEED TO KNOW WHEN TO PITCH IN. AND WE ALWAYS NEED TO REMEMBER TO LISTEN, FOR MANY OF OUR BEST IDEAS HAVE COME FROM HEARING YOUR CONCERNS.

YOU SAID THAT THE CITY'S BUSINESS TAX WAS TOO HIGH AND WE LISTENED. TODAY WE HAVE RETURNED MORE THAN \$100 MILLION TO LOCAL BUSINESSES THROUGH TAX REFORM. YOU SAID THAT GRAFFITI WAS AN ENDEMIC PROBLEM FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES ALIKE AND WE LISTENED. THREE YEARS LATER, WE HAVE REDUCED GRAFFITI BY 68 PERCENT IN OUR DISTRICT. WE ARE MAKING OUR DREAMS A REALITY.

THIS PAST YEAR, GARY SHAFNER TOLD ME ABOUT HIS DREAM. GARY IS A LOCAL LA BUSINESSMAN WHO GREW UP HERE IN HOLLYWOOD. AFTER SEEING THE NEWEST CIRQUE DU SOLEIL SHOW IN LAS VEGAS, HE WANTED TO BRING THE WORLD'S PRE-EMINENT STAGE COMPANY TO HOLLYWOOD, THE ENTERTAINMENT CAPITAL OF THE WORLD. HE APPROACHED SHAUL KUBA AT CIM, AND TOGETHER THEY ASKED CIRQUE TO OPEN A SHOW HERE.

THEY GOT A QUICK ANSWER: NO. THEY WENT BACK AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN. THEY TRAVELED TO CANADA. I WENT WITH THEM TO LAS VEGAS. EACH TIME, CIRQUE WAS FLATTERED, BUT THEY GAVE US THE CLASSIC HOLLYWOOD LINE: DON'T CALL US, WE'LL CALL YOU. ALWAYS PERSISTENT, GARY AND SHAUL FINALLY CONVINCED CIRQUE'S PRESIDENT TO JUST COME SEE HOLLYWOOD. I'LL COME TO HOLLYWOOD, HE SAID, BUT I'M STILL GOING TO SAY NO.

BUT WHEN HE GOT HERE, AND HE SAW WHAT HOLLYWOOD HAD BECOME, AND SAW THE KODAK THEATER AND THE STREETS AROUND IT, HE REALIZED WHAT GARY AND SHAUL HAD KNOWN ALL ALONG: THAT CIRQUE DU SOLEIL AND A RENEWED HOLLYWOOD WERE A PERFECT FIT.

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GARY AND SHAUL HAD A DREAM... AND GREAT FAITH IN THAT DREAM... AND WERE WILLING TO PULL OFF FEATS AS ACROBATIC AS ANY IN THE CIRQUE DU SOLEIL TO MAKE THEM A REALITY. IN NOVEMBER, I WAS HONORED TO JOIN THEM TO ANNOUNCE A 10-YEAR AGREEMENT TO BRING A BRAND-NEW SHOW ABOUT THE STORY OF HOLLYWOOD TO THE KODAK AND HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO OUR ECONOMY.

I'LL SEE YOU ON OPENING NIGHT.

SOME DREAMS ARE BORN FROM WHIMSICAL IMAGINATION, OTHERS ARE BORN OUT OF COLD REALITY.

JOEL ROBERTS, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE ASSISTING THE HOMELESS, OR PATH, HAD A DREAM TO BRING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER TO WAGE A COMPASSIONATE AND EFFECTIVE FIGHT AGAINST HOMELESSNESS.

JOEL FOUND A POWERFUL ALLY: THE HOLLYWOOD BUSINESS COMMUNITY. JUST AS THE HOLLYWOOD CHAMBER BACKED PROJECT YIMBY TO PROVIDE A POSITIVE VOICE TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS, KERRY MORRISON AND OTHER BUSINESS LEADERS STEPPED UP, AND IN 2007 THE HERO TEAMS WERE BORN. TODAY, HERO TEAMS HIT THE STREETS AND REACH OUT TO HOMELESS PEOPLE THROUGHOUT HOLLYWOOD.

NEXT WEEK WE WILL VOTE ON A NEW HOUSING PROGRAM WE HAVE DEVELOPED TO GIVE HOMELESS FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS THE ABILITY TO RENT HOUSING AND GET THE SERVICES THEY NEED TO GET THEIR LIVES ON TRACK. HERO TEAMS AND THE HOUSING PROGRAM TOGETHER WILL HELP HOLLYWOOD'S HOMELESS GET OFF THE STREET ONCE AND FOR ALL. WE'RE MOVING FROM MANAGING HOMELESSNESS IN HOLLYWOOD TO ENDING IT.

FOR SOME A DREAM IS FINDING A PLACE TO LIVE. FOR OTHERS, IT'S FINDING THEIR FIRST GOOD JOB. THIS PAST OCTOBER, I HELPED OPEN THE HOLLYWOOD WORKSOURCE CENTER ON THE CAMPUS OF LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE, CONNECTING EDUCATION TO JOB PLACEMENT. THE DAY I WAS THERE, I SAW A YOUNG MAN RUN UP TO A WORKSOURCE CENTER EMPLOYEE SHOUTING, "I GOT THE JOB! I GOT THE JOB!" IT WAS CLEAR THAT DAY THAT HIS DREAM CAME TRUE.

TIME AND AGAIN, WE IN HOLLYWOOD HAVE BEEN TOLD "NO"... OR "IT CAN'T BE DONE." AND TIME AND AGAIN WE PROVED THESE NAYSAYERS WRONG.

HOLLYWOOD CENTRAL PARK IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF A VISIONARY DREAM AND WE MADE BIG PROGRESS THIS YEAR IN SACRAMENTO AND WASHINGTON TOWARD MAKING IT A REALITY.

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A PARK TO UNIFY A NEIGHBORHOOD OVER THE 101 FREEWAY IS SIMPLE AND IT'S BRILLIANT. AND I HOPE YOU WILL JOIN ME THIS SATURDAY AT 9 AM FOR OUR FIRST HOLLYWOOD CENTRAL PARK COMMUNITY MEETING AT SELMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

PART OF MY DREAM FOR MY DISTRICT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE CREATION OF NEW PARKS, BOTH GREAT AND SMALL. WHEN I WAS FIRST ELECTED IN 2001, I PROMISED TO DOUBLE THE THIRTEEN PARKS IN MY DISTRICT. TODAY WE HAVE THIRTY-THREE.

THE MOST RECENT PARK WE OPENED BEARS THE NAME OF SEILY RODRIGUEZ, AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD GIRL ATTENDING SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL WHEN SHE WAS STRUCK AND KILLED BY A CAR IN JANUARY 2005.

THE PARK IS NESTLED BETWEEN APARTMENT BUILDINGS IN SEILY'S NEIGHBORHOOD, WHERE MORE THAN 30,000 PEOPLE ARE PACKED INTO EACH SQUARE MILE. WHEN WE DEDICATED THE PARK LAST MONTH, HUNDREDS OF KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES WALKED TO THEIR NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK. SEILY'S LIFE WAS CUT SHORT, BUT THE JOY IN THE FACES OF THE CHILDREN WHO PLAY IN HER PARK WILL HONOR HER MEMORY FOR YEARS TO COME.

FOR ME, THE CREATION OF PARKS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT THE CREATION OF SAFE SPACES FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE. BUT LAST YEAR, ON THE EASTERN EDGE OF MY DISTRICT, A 16 YEAR-OLD GIRL WAS SHOT IN THE BACK AND KILLED JUST TWO BLOCKS FROM THE GLASSELL PARK RECREATION CENTER.

TO PREVENT MORE TRAGIC LOSSES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, I STARTED A PROGRAM CALLED AT THE PARK AFTER DARK, WHICH KEPT THE REC CENTER OPEN WELL INTO THE NIGHT DURING THE SUMMER. NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS COULD COME TO SKATEBOARD, PLAY SPORTS, PAINT, LEARN HOW TO DJ OR MC, AND HANG OUT IN A SAFE, SUPERVISED PLACE.

THIS SUMMER, I WANT TO BRING AT THE PARK AFTER DARK TO HOLLYWOOD, AND I NEED YOU TO HELP ME BECAUSE THE THREAT TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IS ALL TOO REAL.

I CELEBRATE THE AMAZING WORK THAT WE HAVE ALL DONE—LAPD, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, CITY HALL, OUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS—TO MAKE 2007 THE SAFEST YEAR IN LOS ANGELES IN FIFTY YEARS.

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BUT WE NEED TO DO OUR PART TO PREVENT MORE TRAGIC LOSSES. ONE LIFE LOST IS TOO MANY AND SOME OF YOU JOINED ME LAST YEAR AT VIGILS FOR STUDENTS AS YOUNG AS 14 FROM SCHOOLS LIKE VIRGIL, FAIRFAX AND HOLLYWOOD WHO LOST THEIR LIVES.

AT THE PARK AFTER DARK KEPT KIDS SAFE IN GLASSELL PARK. AND IT CAN KEEP KIDS SAFE HERE, TOO.

I NEED YOUR HELP TO KEEP FACILITIES OPEN AT LEMON GROVE PARK THIS SUMMER. AND I NEED YOUR HELP TO KEEP HOLLYWOOD REC CENTER OPEN AND SAFE AS WELL.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WRITE A CHECK TODAY, ALTHOUGH I'M CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO STOP YOU. BUT PLEASE, TAKE A LOOK AT THE FLYER ON YOUR TABLE AND JOIN US IN EXPANDING THIS PROGRAM. WE NEED THESE PARKS OPEN AT NIGHT SO THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE CAN LIVE TO FULFILL THEIR PROMISE AND THEIR DREAMS.

LET ME DEDICATE THIS SPEECH TODAY TO JOHNNY GRANT. HE WAS A DREAMER, HE WAS A BELIEVER, AND HE WAS A DOER. HE HAD DREAMS FOR HOLLYWOOD AND HE GOT THEM DONE.

WHAT ARE YOUR DREAMS FOR HOLLYWOOD? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO THIS YEAR TO MAKE THEM COME TRUE?

AS JOHNNY ONCE SAID "HOLLYWOOD IS BIG ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE'S DREAMS."

GENE AUTRY USED TO CALL JOHNNY AFFECTIONATELY "TIGER" OR "TIG" FOR SHORT. JOHNNY IN TURN PASSED ON THAT NICKNAME TO A FEW OF US IN THIS ROOM. THE LAST TIME I SAW JOHNNY WAS AT WILL SMITH'S HAND AND FOOTPRINT CEREMONY IN DECEMBER. HE WAS HIS USUAL SELF—ON-TIME, FUNNY, GENEROUS.

AS THE CEREMONY FINISHED, WE STOOD TO THE SIDE AS PHOTOGRAPHERS TOOK PICTURES OF WILL SMITH WITH VARIOUS PEOPLE UNTIL JOHNNY TURNED TO ME WITH A SMILE AND SAID, "DON'T STAND HERE, GET IN THERE, TIG!"

YOU SEE, JOHNNY DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT ANY OF US SHOULD STAND BY THE SIDELINES. HE BELIEVED WE SHOULD BE IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL.

THE GOLDEN AGE WE ARE EXPERIENCING IS NOT AN ACCIDENT OF HISTORY. THIS GOLDEN AGE IS IN US, AND TO MAKE IT HAPPEN IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF DREAMERS. THAT MEANS OUR DREAMS MUST BE BIG ENOUGH, GRAND ENOUGH TO HONOR

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HOLLYWOOD'S HISTORY AND TO WRITE ITS NEXT CHAPTER. WE MUST NEVER LOSE FAITH IN THOSE DREAMS. AND, LIKE JOHNNY DID, WE MUST ALL DO THE HARD WORK TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

WE'VE ALL GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO TO MAKE HOLLYWOOD'S DREAMS COME TRUE.

SO I SAY TO ALL OF YOU: "GET IN THERE, TIG."