

Making Our Community

SAFER, CLEANER AND GREENER

Year-End Report from the 14th Council District



JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember of the 14th District

January 2007



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COUNCILMEMBER OF THE FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

January 2007

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you upon completion of my first year as the Councilmember representing the 14th District of the City of Los Angeles. The District encompasses the communities of Boyle Heights, Downtown, Eagle Rock, El Sereno, Garvanza, Glassell Park, Hermon, Rose Hills, Highland Park and Mount Washington.

These past twelve months I have focused my attention on achieving three main goals in the 14th District: making our communities safer, cleaner and greener. To that end, I am gratified by the efforts of the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department who successfully reduced violent crime in the Northeast by 10% and homicides in the Hollenbeck Area by 19%. As a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, I have and will continue to vigorously support increased funding to improve Public Safety throughout the 14th District. I will also continue to advocate for physical improvements, including installation of street lights at troubled intersections and for increased police patrols to make it safer for children as they walk to and from school.

I am thrilled by the hum of redevelopment activity signaling a long overdue renaissance in the 14th District. While I am proud to have helped see through to completion a number of community facilities like the Boyle Heights Youth Technology Center and Pecan Park gymnasium, I am looking forward to unveiling a host of new and improved developments throughout the District. I am especially excited to be working to expand green and open space in our community, including parks and recreational facilities, knowing that our children—including my two daughters—will have access to such wonderful facilities and programs.

While this report highlights some of the many goals and objectives I set out to accomplish this year to fundamentally improve the quality of life for the people, who live, work and play in 14th District, it is only the beginning. With your support, I know that we can continue to enhance our neighborhoods, build a better future for our children, and accomplish much more. I am privileged to serve one of the most diverse and vital districts in the City, and pledge to continue to work hard to make our District safer, cleaner and greener.

Please feel free to contact my staff in City Hall or at any of my three District offices with any questions, ideas or concerns you may have and thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

José Huizar
Councilmember, 14th District

SAFER, CLEANER AND GREENER

HIGHLIGHTS OF YEAR ONE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SAFER

- Secured over \$2 million in additional funding for police overtime in the Hollenbeck Police Division.
- Secured funding for installation of security cameras along major corridors in Eagle Rock
- Implemented major improvements to intersections at Whittier and Lorena Avenues and Lorena and Atlantic Avenues in Boyle Heights
- Hosted the first in a series of Public Safety Forums to stimulate constructive community dialogue and input on public safety issues in our community
- Established a partnership with LAPD and City Attorney to create Safe Passages to and from schools throughout the district
- Unveiled a \$10.9 million, state-of-the-art technology center in Boyle Heights including gang alternatives programming for children and youth

CLEANER

- Established a Bulky Item Pick-Up Program in all areas of the District and collected and disposed of several tons of bulky items and trash this past summer
- Championed a development renaissance in Eagle Rock and the restoration of the Historic Broadway Theater District
- Prioritized Downtown Industrial and Boyle Heights Area in the plan to revitalize the LA River
- Funded first-ever survey in Boyle Heights ensuring preservation of culturally and historically significant sites

GREENER

- Broke ground and/or celebrated the completion of numerous projects, some of which had been delayed due to lack of funding, including:
 - Evergreen Child Care Center
 - Garvanza Skate Park
 - Roosevelt High School Pool Panels
 - Ascot Hills Nature Park
 - El Sereno Valley Grade Separation
 - Pecan Park Gymnasium
- Finalized passage of the Northeast Interim Control Order to protect the integrity of the Northeast hillsides
- Distributed more than 10,000 free energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs

RESPONSIVE, ENGAGED OFFICE

- Secured funding for the Neighborhood City Hall in Boyle Heights
- Will pave over 12 miles of streets and trim 3,164 trees during the 2006-07 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007).
- Introduced over 180 pieces of legislation helping to make our District safer, cleaner and greener.

SAFER

CREATING SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS

The City's foremost responsibility—and my number one priority—is to ensure the safety of residents, especially our children.

Over the past year, we have made significant efforts to improve public safety in our District by fostering a partnership between the community and the Los Angeles Police Department and by supporting programs that give our youth genuine alternatives to gang life.

INCREASED POLICE PRESENCE

Working with Police Chief William J. Bratton and Mayor Villaraigosa, I was able to increase the police patrol presence around the **Dolores Mission** and **Ramona Gardens** areas of Boyle Heights. This was made possible, in part, with over \$2 million in funding to extend overtime hours for the Police Officers in the Hollenbeck Division.

*Over \$2 Million in
Overtime Funding
for Police in District*

I also directed over \$50,000 in CD14 discretionary funding, to pay overtime for Police Officers in the **Northeast Division** and in the **Skid Row** area for the period preceding the launch of the Safer Cities Initiative.

STATE-OF-THE-ART POLICE STATION

A state-of-the-art police station is coming to Council District 14, including a multipurpose room that will be open to the public. Working with my office, the Los Angeles Police Department will have a new facility located in Boyle Heights at First Street and Chicago. Construction on the **Hollenbeck Community Police Station** is slated for completion in October 2008.



INNOVATIVE POLICING STRATEGIES

My office is funding the installation of security cameras along **Colorado** and **Eagle Rock Boulevards**. This innovative strategy, coupled with a partnership with private security companies and the LAPD, will support the community's efforts to combat graffiti and property crime throughout the Eagle Rock area.

*New Security Cameras
on Main Corridors
in Eagle Rock*

SAFER INTERSECTIONS

At my request, the Department of Transportation (DOT) made major improvements to the intersection at **Whittier and Lorena Avenue** after a pedestrian was fatally struck earlier this year. The physical improvements, including the repositioning of brackets and addition of new limit lines, will prevent future accidents.

Also at my direction, DOT will dramatically improve safety at the intersection at **Lorena Avenue and Atlantic Boulevard** by installing a new traffic signal. In addition, DOT is adding a school crossing guard, adding a right turn lane, stepping up patrols, installing a northbound speed feedback sign, and relocating signs for southbound traffic at the intersection. These changes are some examples of the many intersection improvements I promulgated throughout the 14TH District.



A SAFER HOLLENBECK PARK

Our parks are a community resource that should be accessible to all of our residents. I have worked with the California Department of Transportation to secure the installation of a concrete slope with rock blanket design to help eliminate the blighted conditions and vagrancy existing along the walkway directly beneath the freeway in Hollenbeck Park.

This improvement will allow all residents, especially those visiting the park from the Hollenbeck Palms retirement home, which is located directly across the street, to feel safe when using this entry point into the park. Work on this project is scheduled to commence in the next couple of months.

PUBLIC SAFETY FORUMS

I believe that community input is essential to effective policing. My office needs to hear YOUR voices. To that end, my office held a Public Safety Forum in **Boyle Heights**--the first in a series of forums to be held throughout the District—in which several hundred residents shared their insights about gang injunctions, the LAPD, and the role of community-based organizations.

These forums are designed to engage the community in a candid conversation about safety-related challenges that they face in their neighborhoods, things they would like to see happen to address those challenges, as well as ways they can become more actively involved.

*Safety Forums
Stimulated Constructive
Community Dialogue*





CRIME SOLVER REWARD MOTIONS

When crime does occur, the community must come together to identify those responsible to bring justice to the families and to our communities. Together with the LAPD, I offered a reward of \$50,000 for information related to the attempted murder of two **Hollenbeck Division** police officers as well as another a \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for the murder of **14-year-old Emmery Muñoz**.

SAFE PASSAGES FOR CHILDREN

In order to realize their full academic potential, our students have the right to be safe as they walk to and from school.

I partnered with the LAPD to deploy officers around CD14 schools including but not limited to Farmdale Elementary School in El Sereno during high-traffic periods as part of the **Kid Watch Program**, which I helped to create while serving on the Board of Education. I also introduced a Motion calling for development by LAPD of a comprehensive database of all known registered sex offenders and pedophiles and their locations relative to schools, parks and other areas children may frequent.

*Officers Deployed
Near Schools Create
Safe Passages*

In addition, I successfully fought to implement funding for the **Safe School Prosecutors Program** in the City's 2006-2007 budget. The Safe School Prosecutors Program—modeled after the City Attorney's highly successful Neighborhood Prosecutor Program—focuses specifically on prevention and law enforcement in the communities immediately surrounding schools in order to create safe passages for children as they go to and from school.

GANG PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

My office is a member of the advisory committee of the **Boyle Heights Gang Reduction Program**, one of five federally funded demonstration projects around the country focused on community-based gang prevention and intervention strategies. Along with the Mayor, we successfully secured additional federal dollars for continuation of this program which leverages government and community resources to provide a wide range of services, and promises to be a successful model for other communities Citywide.



TECHNOLOGY CENTER AND OTHER YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Building on my work at the School Board, I am actively promoting job skills development and positive opportunities for children and youth. It is our collective responsibility to provide young people with genuine alternatives to gang involvement, and the following are only a few of the activities sponsored by my office this past year.

- Our District recently celebrated the grand opening of a new, \$10.9 million, state-of-the-art **Technology Youth Center** which is the first of its kind in Boyle Heights.



The center will host a college preparatory high school and offer programs ranging from technology courses to employment preparedness programs and training.



- In Spring I was proud to inaugurate the CD14 Adelante Awards, recognizing outstanding students at **every elementary, middle and high school in the District.**

Winners were recognized for their academic achievement and community involvement at a school reception, and each received a certificate and one of my favorite books.

- My office again played in active role in the **Feria del Libro**, a tradition I helped found at Roosevelt High School in Boyle Heights.

This year, the book fair welcomed over 20,000 residents to the area around Los Angeles City Hall. In addition to buying books, children and their families had the opportunity to meet authors and storytellers and celebrate as students received recognition for reading "millions of words".

Over 20,000 people came to this year's Feria Del Libro

I was honored to join students in breaking the ceremonial piñata filled with little books.





- My office is aggressively working to improve conditions at the **9th Street Elementary School**, the only public elementary school serving children living in Skid Row. This school located in CD14 is home to some 400 homeless youth representing about 75% of the school's total enrollment.

We kicked off our partnership by sponsoring an end-of-the-year party with pizzas and soft drinks for students and faculty and certificates of appreciation for the dedicated, hard-working staff.



CLEANER

PROMOTING BEAUTIFUL AND ECONOMICALLY VITAL COMMUNITIES

We all deserve to live and work in clean communities that are free of graffiti, trash, and other forms of visual blight. This past year, I partnered with residents to beautify neighborhoods throughout the District and to jumpstart long-delayed capital projects.

HUNTINGTON DRIVE BEAUTIFICATION



Prior to my election, the Targeted Neighborhood Initiative/Neighborhood Block Grant Program in **El Sereno** had been languishing due to inadequate funding.

I am excited to announce that I have secured **funding for the first phase of planned façade improvement along Huntington Drive**. While my office is soliciting community feedback, I will continue to fight for the funds needed to see this project through to completion. (\$445,000)

SATURDAY BULKY ITEMS PROGRAM



I responded to community need for the disposal of bulky items by instituting an innovative pick-up program. On selected Saturdays each month **in every area of the District**, residents of CD14 are invited to drop off bulky items at designated locations or arrange for complimentary pick up.

*Call My Office
Anytime for Saturday
Bulky Item Pickup*

In addition, my office sponsored several Community Beautification Events to complement the Bulky Item Program.

At one event alone, staff and volunteers disposed of nearly 6 tons of bulky items and trash. This program continues to be a tremendous success.

REVITALIZATION OF THE LA RIVER

The City of Los Angeles has just completed an exciting Master Plan to make the LA River beautiful again. As a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on the LA River, I successfully advocated to prioritize the **Downtown Industrial and Boyle Heights Areas** as two of five areas of focus for both planning and new resources. The banks of the LA River offer tremendous potential, both to reconnect Boyle Heights and Downtown, and to create new open space for walking, biking, and recreation near in the heart of the City.

SOUTHWEST MUSEUM BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

The Autry National Center's historic **Southwest Museum of the American Indian**, located in Mt. Washington, currently holds one of the nation's most important collections related to the Native American, and I am committed to ensuring that this national treasure remains a destination site within Council District 14.

In May, I joined volunteers from the Highland Park and Mt. Washington area to plant over 150 indigenous plants and 5 native trees along Marmion Way, between the tunnel entrance and the museum driveway.

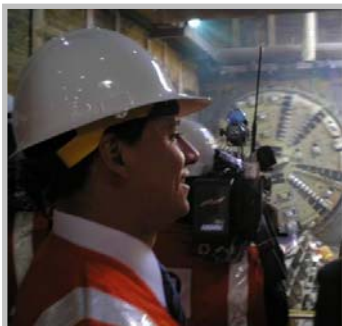
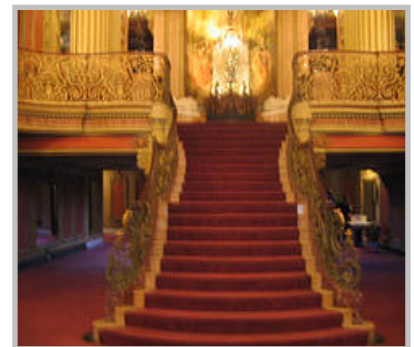


EAGLE ROCK RENAISSANCE

I am committed to the **revitalization effort in Eagle Rock**, and my office has been proud to partner with Eagle Rock residents, local community groups and City departments to develop an innovative parking ordinance for Colorado Blvd. and to plan welcome monuments marking the entrances to the community. Our valued partners in this effort include the Chamber of Commerce, The Eagle Rock Association (TERA), Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council, Eagle Rock Community Preservation and Revitalization Corporation (ERCPR).

HISTORIC BROADWAY

I am passionate about the preservation—and restoration—of the spectacular pre-War theatres in **Broadway's Historic Theater District**. At my direction, City departments are working to make a full report on the efforts necessary to revitalize the area. The report will explore investment in public infrastructure necessary to support a more vibrant night life including historic facades, streetscapes, and parking; commercial and entertainment venues; and the development of Broadway as a center for entertainment, retail, and residential uses.



METRO GOLD LINE EXTENSION

By 2009, an extension of the Metro Gold Line will link our District with downtown, Hollywood, Pasadena, the South Bay, and LAX. My office is intensively planning for this day to foster community-friendly

By 2009, the Metro Gold Line Will Connect Boyle Heights and Downtown LA

development at transit hubs. In partnership with the MTA, the CRA, private developers, and the community, we are working to attract and retain mixed-use developments that will create sustainable, transit-driven communities along the Gold Line.

PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL SITES

Historically significant sites are our cultural heritage, and I am working proactively to protect them for this and future generations. I believe it is imperative to know what resources we have so that we are better equipped to protect them. Therefore, at my request, the Community Redevelopment Area is preparing to conduct a first-ever survey of the Adelante Project Area.

Through Council Motion, I called on the Planning Department to make all of Boyle Heights a pilot in a City-wide survey of culturally and historically significant sites.

Finally, my office is working closely with the LA Conservancy to secure Historic Designation for some of our communities' rich landmarks, beginning with the Bandshell at Hollenbeck Park.



BIOMEDICAL PARK

Boyle Heights will welcome a new life sciences research and development park adjacent to the newly renovated Los Angeles County (LAC) General Hospital and USC Health Sciences Campus. This 1,207-acre “**BioMedTech Focus Area**” will help concentrate leading-edge high-tech industries in Boyle Heights and create highly skilled job opportunities within the community. My goal is to link this new life sciences research and development park along the valley corridor east adjacent to another great educational resource: California State University, Los Angeles.

OLYMPIC PARK INDUSTRIAL PARK DEMONSTRATION PROJECT



The Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles (CRA/LA) is working with stakeholders to **create an integrated and vibrant industrial park** that includes the design and construction of targeted public improvements in a 120-acre industrial area adjacent to the Sears mixed-use, “urban village” development.

Improving and upgrading the industrial park area is an important part of the redevelopment plan for the area. As such, my office has partnered with the Bureau of Street Services and CRA/LA to expedite the resurfacing of 11th St. between Soto St. and Grande Vista Ave. by several months, thus benefiting businesses in the area.

GREENER

CREATING HEALTHY, LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Our residents' daily quality of life is impacted by the state of the environment in which they live. Over the past year, we have worked hard to preserve and expand green and recreational spaces throughout the 14th District including my personal pledge to plant 101,000 trees in the District.

BOYLE HEIGHTS GREEN CORRIDOR PROJECT (BLUEBERRY HILL)

My office is leading the Boyle Heights Green Corridor Project, a collaborative effort between a variety of public and nonprofit agencies, including teachers and students from Hollenbeck Middle School, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and the office of County Supervisor Gloria Molina, and Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez. This project seeks to **create a green corridor linking the Blueberry Hill steps with Hollenbeck Park** along Sixth Street allowing for street greening, parks, stormwater management, and installation of recreational park amenities. This project will serve to bring recreational improvements and native ecology to the densely populated Boyle Heights neighborhood. I am working to bring \$500,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to this project to realize the vision of creating a cleaner, greener, and environmentally sustainable corridor.

BOYLE HEIGHTS GREEN CORRIDORS



EVERGREEN CHILD CARE CENTER



Soon after I was elected, I was able to jumpstart construction of the new Child Care Center at Evergreen Park. The project had been delayed for over a decade; but through the dogged perseverance of my staff and I, funding needed to make it a reality has been identified. The Center was designed with extensive community input and at 4,150 square-feet, will serve 50 children and include a new and completely modern kitchen, washer and dryer, and computer room. This **state-of-the-art, \$3 million dollar facility** is scheduled

for completion in September 2007.

NORTHEAST INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE



After some delays, I introduced the **Northeast Interim Control Ordinance (ICO)**, adopted unanimously by the City Council, which temporarily regulates hillside development in the Northeast section of the City (Mt. Olympus, Paradise Hill, Rose Hills, El Sereno, Monterey Hills, etc.). The ICO is designed to **preserve the integrity of the Northeast hillsides** and allows for the development of homes that are consistent in scale with the existing community. I am also actively working

with the City's Planning Department to improve the participatory planning process that allows the community to participate directly in important planning decisions.

PROSPECT PARK PLAY AREA

I recently joined members of Soledad Enrichment Action (S.E.A.), a gang-prevention & intervention program, to install **new playground equipment** in the new children's play area in **Prospect Park in Boyle Heights**.



PECAN RECREATIONAL FACILITY GYMNASIUM



During the past twelve months, I worked with City Departments to ensure this much needed facility was finally completed. I was very proud to unveil the new, state-of-the-art gymnasium at Pecan Park Recreational Center in Boyle Heights. **This new 8,600 square foot facility** consists of a new full-sized basketball court, player benches, spectator seating, electronic scoreboards, park staff offices, lobby, restrooms, storage, exterior handball courts, and more.

GARVANZA SKATE PARK



I secured **over \$450,000 to fully fund**—and break ground on—the long-delayed Garvanza Skate Park.

*Construction on
the Garvanza
Skate Park Has
Finally Begun*

This long awaited and much-needed facility will provide local youth with **positive, constructive alternatives** to socialize in a fun and safe environment with others who share similar recreational interests.

ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL POOL PANELS

This past month I launched the construction of more than **450 new wind pool panels**



to surround the entire Olympic-sized, year-round pool at Roosevelt High School in Boyle Heights. The panels will increase security, privacy and protection for swimmers, and will replace panels that were badly cracked and damaged. The pool is used not only by Roosevelt students, but also the general public. While still a LAUSD school board member, I secured **over \$400,000 in funding** needed to initiate the project. More recently, I helped secure an additional \$2.7 million in State monies to complete renovation of the pool and bathhouse.

ASCOT HILLS NATURE PARK



Open space in our neighborhoods is essential for all of our residents, particularly our children and families.

I am proud to have secured an **additional \$250,000** for the Ascot Hills Nature Park, **a one-of-a-kind, 140-acre project**. I will continue to look for ways to make this a premiere nature park for children and families.

DODGER DREAM FIELD

Together with the Los Angeles Dodgers/Dodgers Dream Foundation, Bank of America and Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles, I recently unveiled a "Dream Field" baseball park at **Evergreen Recreation Center in Boyle Heights**. This project is particularly special to me in that I played little league baseball at the park with dreams of my own as a child growing up in Boyle Heights.



The new field will be home to Evergreen Little League and the Roosevelt High School baseball team and boasts a synthetic infield, state-of-the-art lighting and bleachers, dugout covers, improvements to the irrigation system and two new electronic scoreboards. I am particularly proud to have funded one of the new scoreboards. The project also includes \$100,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations to enhance programming at the park, including the **creation of a girls' softball team**.

LANI POCKET PARK



The community recently celebrated the grand opening of the new **LANI Pocket Vest Park in Boyle Heights**. The new LANI pocket park is the first of what I hope to be many such parks sprinkled throughout our community. Increasing green and open space is and will remain a focus of mine as Councilmember for the 14th District.

OPERATION CONSERVATION

My staff along with over 400 volunteers **distributed more than 10,000 free energy-efficient compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs** to District 14 residents. The primary focus was to significantly reduce energy consumption by residents of the 14th District while also helping to alleviate the financial impact of the Department of Water and Power's electricity rate hike for customers participating in the program.



STATE ST. RECREATION CENTER

A number of **improvements to the State St. Recreation Center** were recently completed, including improvements to the baseball field, new grass, bleachers, lights, equipment storage rooms, and irrigation.

YORK BLVD. PARKING RESTORATION



In January, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) resurfaced York Blvd. and installed left turn pockets that eliminated more than 80% of storefront parking. My office successfully **restored all of the parking** along the area's business corridor and at the same time provided safer conditions for pedestrians and motorists by approving new left turn lanes and crosswalks. In addition to restoring the previous parking spaces, this initiative increased parking in the area by an additional 20%.

VALLEY GRADE SEPARATION

After eighteen years of delays, construction on the Valley Grade Separation Project in El Sereno will begin early next year. The new bridge and improvements will **elevate Valley Blvd. at the Union Pacific Company's El Paso Tracks** in order to reduce traffic congestion and train related noise that has plagued the surrounding community for decades. The project will also include street improvements, including new concrete pavements, curbs and gutters, sidewalks, lighting, utilities, and landscaping.

ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR

In October, I partnered with the University of Southern California to launch **the first-ever area Health Fair**. An estimated 1,000 people attended the event. Health providers offered free screenings, dental cleanings and other health services to the El Sereno and Boyle Heights communities. The event was so successful that my office and USC have committed to making it an annual affair.

EL SERENO RECREATION CENTER PARKING LOT

My office is working to secure Proposition O funds to **repave the El Sereno Recreation Center parking lot**, which has needed repair for some time. City staff is currently preparing the initial designs for the resurfaced lot. The repaved lot will benefit residents visiting the recreation center and the faculty at Farmdale Elementary School, which first brought the issue to my attention while I served on the Board of Education. By drawing on Proposition O dollars, I will be able to **divert Community Development Block Grant** funds originally dedicated to this project to the long-delayed façade improvement project along Huntington Drive and various other beautification projects in El Sereno.

RESPONSIVE, ENGAGED OFFICE

My staff has worked with residents throughout the District to address fundamental quality of life issues, and to build a relationship with the community that is based on trust and open communication.

NEIGHBORHOOD CITY HALL AND CONSTITUENT CENTER

After considerable efforts, my office secured a unanimous City Council vote to move forward with the acquisition of the Chicago Plaza Building to house the much-needed **Boyle Heights Neighborhood City Hall**. The Neighborhood City Hall is a major part of my strategic vision for the **creation of a “mini civic center”** complete with a Neighborhood City Hall, refurbished library, pocket park and state-of-the-art (Hollenbeck) police station at the intersection of First and Chicago. When completed, the newly renovated building will house City departments and services bringing government closer to District 14 residents. Additional services will include space for community-based and non-profit organizations.



In addition to the Boyle Heights Neighborhood City Hall, the El Sereno field office staff will be moving into new and improved facilities. The **El Sereno Constituent Service Center/Barrio Action Youth and Family Center**, scheduled for completion by July 2007, will include general office space, community basketball courts, computer centers, and art rooms, as well as the CD 14 field office.

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES

Public works—street resurfacing, sidewalk repairs, tree trimming, and street lighting—are among constituents’ most fundamental needs. My staff has worked with the Department of Public Works during this fiscal year to:

- Provide 12.6 miles of street resurfacing and reconstruction and 22.68 miles of slurry seal (a liquid asphalt coat that extends the life of the street surface);
- Repair approximately 3 miles of sidewalks equitably distributed across the District;
- Trim 3,164 trees;
- Repair 6,150 potholes to date;
- Remove 4,241 cubic yards of illegally dumped debris to date.
- Remove an average of 167 tons of bulky items a month to date.

STAFFED 3 FIELD OFFICES AND CITY HALL

To ensure that the residents of Council District 14 have access to quality constituent services, our City Hall and field offices in Boyle Heights, Eagle Rock, and El Sereno are open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. In an effort to enhance responsiveness and ensure quality constituent service, I have hired field staff from the communities in which they serve and **insisted on a “field forward focus”** in how we manage our time, money

and personnel resources. Additionally, I have made myself personally available for weekly meetings with constituents, either on a walk-in or appointment basis, during regular office hours at each of the three field offices.

INCREASED GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

When constituents know what their government is up to, they have a better chance of ensuring that decisions treat everyone equally and protect the common conditions that are important to everyone's welfare. As the Chair of the Audits & Governmental Efficiency Committee, I have fought for **greater openness, communication, and accountability** in Los Angeles government in a number of ways, including, but not limited to:

- The City annually awards millions of dollars in professional and personal services contracts annually. However, a recent Controller's review of the City's contracting process indicates that the City lacks an adequate oversight and control mechanism over the contracting and procurement systems. In response, I have introduced a motion calling for modifications in the City Charter and/or the Los Angeles Administrative Code to **improve transparency, simplify processes, and ensure consistency** in the City contracting system.
- Controller Chick's recent management audit of the Los Angeles Fire Department indicated that complaint handling and disciplinary practices are poorly documented, untracked, inconsistent, and often perceived as unfair, a finding that has been affirmed by recent events. I have instructed the Personnel Department and the Chief Legislative Analyst to prepare a **comprehensive analysis** of the LAFD's existing disciplinary policies and **best practices** in other large urban fire departments for the Fire Commission's consideration.
- The most basic way for constituents to hold leaders accountable is to vote in fair, open elections. As such, I successfully fought to place Proposition L on the March 2007 ballot to **bring Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) elections into line with best practices in good government**. If approved, the initiative would:
 - Establish campaign contribution limits and disclosure requirements for LAUSD Board Members;
 - Limit Board Members to three 4-year terms;
 - Increase penalties for violating campaign finance rules;
 - Give enforcement authority to the City Ethics Commission;
 - Establish a compensation review committee to oversee Board Members' salaries.

ANNUAL EVENTS

I have continued the grand CD14 District traditions by sponsoring major annual events in the Community. This year many were bigger and better than ever, thanks to the hard work of CD14 staff and the generous spirit of community partners and volunteers. These are just a few of the major events we held this past year.

FIRST ST. BRIDGE LIGHTING CEREMONY & CD 14 TOY GIVEAWAY

The lighting of the historic First St. Bridge between Mission Road and Vignes St. officially kicks off the holiday season. This year, my office and our partners put on a tremendous festival drawing over 8,000 attendees. Families enjoyed the wild animal show, arts and crafts booths, pictures with Santa, and real-live snow. The bridge lighting ceremony, as always, was a spectacular success at which the **CD14 team distributed toys to 5,000 boys and girls.** My office also co-hosted in collaboration with Healthy Start, a “Winter Wonderland” at the El Sereno library where my staff and I **distributed over 3,000 toys to local children.**



EAGLE ROCK EGG HUNT



My office held the **1st Annual Easter Egg Hunt** at Yosemite Park in Eagle Rock. Staff distributed more than 1000 Easter Baskets, and I awarded 12 brand new children's bicycles to children who found the golden eggs. The Egg Hunt was complimented by arts & crafts, face painting, temporary tattoos, and a special visit from the Easter Bunny.

FESTIVAL DE LA GENTE

Thousands of residents attended the 7th Annual Festival de la Gente celebration of the Day of the Dead on the 6th St. Bridge. We were proud to join Mayor Villaraigosa and Assembly Speaker Nunez in sponsoring a growing community tradition in Boyle Heights.



OPERATION GOBBLE GOBBLE

Working with local businesses, including Ralph's Grocery Company/Food4Less, we **distributed over 1,000 turkeys** to families throughout Council District 14 at the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, ensuring that everyone had a bountiful Thanksgiving.

EAGLE ROCK MUSIC FESTIVAL

We are proud to have taken on a greater role in sponsoring the **Eagle Rock Music Festival** produced by the Center for the Arts Eagle Rock and sponsored by a number of local organizations and businesses. CD 14 committed over \$25,000 in resources. Thanks to the joint involvement and cooperation of the community with our staff, the festival, attended by over 7,000 people, was a phenomenal event!



LEGEND OF CREEPY HOLLIS HALLOWEEN EVENT

On Halloween Night, my office inaugurated the **1st Annual "Legend of Creepy Collis" Halloween Event in El Sereno**. Every Halloween, the area is inundated with trick-or-treaters. This event provided a safe, well-lit location for kids and their families to enjoy the holiday with plenty of fun-filled activities which my daughters and I are looking forward to participating in next year as well.

CITIZENSHIP DAY



This year, I **helped almost 3,000 legal permanent residents apply for citizenship**. These Angelinos lack only the formalities of proper paperwork to become voting US citizens.

Citizenship Day, cosponsored by my office and held at the LA Convention Center, offered a one-stop to Citizenship, featuring legal advice, passport photos, and application processing all under one roof. As a result, 1,200 attendees are now on the road to citizenship. I plan to bring this event into the District for an additional event early this spring.

CHARTER BUS SERVICE FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS

My office is pleased to support special events organized by our local schools, senior centers, and community-based organizations that enrich the lives of our residents. In the past year, we have funded and arranged for a total of **24 buses** to provide transportation for those events.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS & ACTIVITIES

I am proud to have supported a variety of local organizations in every way possible, including assistance with street closures, special event permits, tables, chairs, and equipment rental, and other means of support.

My Office Supported:

20th Century Women's Club
9th Street Elementary/Homeless Unit
A La Brava
Abuelitos de Boyle Heights
Arte Calidad
Boyle Heights Senior Center
Bushnell Elementary & Hermon Advance Team
Carlos Overstreet
Casa del Mexicano
Center for Education & Immigration Services
Center for the Arts
Centro de Ayuda
Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas
Costello Seniors
Downtown Dog Rescue
Eagle Rock Community Cultural Assn.
Eagle Rock Elementary Education Fund
Eagle Rock High School Football
Eagle Rock Music Festival
El Sereno Chamber of Commerce
El Sereno Senior Center
Farmdale Elementary
Filipino Association
Fire Station 12
Fuego Technology
Girls Today Women Tomorrow
Greater El Sereno Chamber of Commerce
Hollenbeck PAL
Hollenbeck Police Volunteers
Hollenbeck Recreation Center
Hollenbeck Youth Center
Homeboy Industries

Hubners Hockey Monsters
Inner City Struggle
International Institute Azteca or Buenos Amigos Club
J. Michael Walker & Hermon Advance Team
LA Boys & Girls Club
La Purisima Neighborhood Watch
LAFD Fire Station #17
LAPD - Central Division
Los Angeles Filipino Association of City Employees
Los Angeles Little League
Multnomah Elementary
Neighborhood Music School
North East Trees
Outpost for Contemporary Art
Proyecto Pastoral
Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission:
Comunidad en Movimiento
Resurrection Senior Club
Rock Teen Center
Roosevelt High School
Roosevelt High School Football
Roosevelt Mariachi Trust Account
Rose Hills Community (RHCHA)
Rose Hills Review (RHCHA)
Soledad Enrichment Action
Soto Street Elementary School
Stevenson Middle School
University Hills
Uptown Gay and Lesbian Alliance
Victory Outreach
White Memorial Charitable Foundation

PARADES & FESTIVALS

My office has participated in a number of parades and festivals honoring the many cultures inhabiting in this great City.

A summary list of some of the festivals in which we participated:

Cinco de Mayo at El Pueblo
Chinese New Year's Parade
Dia de los Abuelitos
Eagle Rock Music Festival
Eagle Rock Veterans Day Parade
El Sereno Independence Day Parade
International Kids' Day Fair

Nagoya Sister City Parade, Japan
Los Angeles' 225th Birthday Celebration
Mariachi Festival
Santa Cecilia Event
SOS Community Leadership Day
Northeast Parade

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: SELECTED COUNCIL MOTIONS

SAFER

- Enforcement of laws prohibiting dangerous gypsy taxicabs
- Skid Row anti-encampment ordinance
- Improve vehicle access at Hollenbeck Police Station
- Alley closure to discourage illegal activity in Historic Broadway District
- Increase the number of trained paramedics by establishing an LAFD paramedic training academy
- \$50,000 reward for information leading to an arrest for the attempted murder of LAPD Officers Alexander Alvarez and Alonso Ramirez in Boyle Heights
- Ensure distribution of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) within City-owned recreation centers and training in their use
- Support statewide legislation to protect and provide medical and dental services to children in the foster and probation systems
- Support statewide legislation to establish a 3-year pilot educational program for youth in juvenile probation camps, ranches or forestry camps.
- Install a helicopter landing pad at County-USC Hospital
- Equip personnel at the Department of Building & Safety with mobile technology for use in the field

CLEANER

- Relieve truck and vehicular traffic in neighborhoods near State Route 60
- Generate revitalization in the Historic Broadway Theater district.
- Merge the Adelante Eastside Redevelopment Project Area with the County's Whiteside Redevelopment Project Area
- Survey culturally and historically significant sites in Boyle Heights to ensure their preservation
- Increase parking and loading facilities within the Broadway Theater District

GREENER

- Develop a plan to encourage the City's largest commercial and industrial customers to reduce energy and water usage.
- Create a bus-only lane on the existing Soto Street bus corridor to encourage alternatives to driving in the single passenger auto.
- Develop a Community Parking Pilot Project to retain and enhance the pedestrian - oriented character of Colorado Boulevard and surrounding Eagle Rock neighborhoods.

RESPONSIVE, ENGAGED OFFICE

- Move forward with the acquisition of the Chicago Plaza Building for the Boyle Heights Neighborhood City Hall.
- Modify the City Charter and/or the Los Angeles Administrative Code to increase transparency in City contracts, simplify the contracting process, and ensure consistency for all City contracts requiring Council review and approval.
- Place Proposition L, a historic initiative that would align LAUSD elections with best practices in good government, on the March 2007 ballot.

A RESPONSIVE, DEDICATED STAFF

As the representative of a District that is home to more than 250,000 residents, I rely upon my staff to represent me in the community. I am extremely proud of the dedicated staff that I have assembled. Our team is committed to working with all of you to improve the quality of life throughout the 14th District.

ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY STAFF

Joseph Avila, Chief of Staff
Francine Godoy, Executive Assistant
Amy Cooper, Legislative Director
Amy Yeager, Senior Policy Advisor
Samantha Yu, Senior Budget and Policy Advisor
Sarai Molina, Special Assistant

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS STAFF

Tony Ricasa, Chief Advisor
Paul Vizcaino, Community Affairs Director
Jessica Wethington McLean, Planning Director
Rogelio Navar, Economic Development and Capital Projects Director
Esmeralda Velasco, Special Events Coordinator
Patricia Soto, Communications Director

BOYLE HEIGHTS STAFF

Denise Campos, District Office Coordinator
Olga Arroyo, Field Deputy
Lydia Flores, Field Deputy
Paul Aguilar, Field Deputy
Belinda Ortiz, Council Aide

EL SERENO STAFF

Frank Torres, District Office Coordinator
Ricardo Monroy, Senior Field Advisor
Cecelia Alatorre, Field Deputy
Ben Nate, Field Deputy

NORTHEAST STAFF

Frank Aguirre Jr., District Office Coordinator
Efren L. Mamaril, Field Deputy
Luis Hernandez, Field Deputy
Juanita Ramirez, Field Deputy
Garth Weir, Field Deputy
Zenay Loara, Field Deputy
Paul Habib, Field Deputy



JOSE HUIZAR

Councilmember, Fourteenth District

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