

## 500 turn out for Padilla breakfast

By Lisa M. Soddors  
Staff Writer

**SYLMAR** — Celebrating the community support he has received, Los Angeles City Council President Alex Padilla thanked community leaders and supporters Saturday, saying, "No one succeeds alone."

About 500 people turned out for the community appreciation breakfast at the Palacio Torres Banquet Hall in Sylmar, which also marked Padilla's re-election as Los Angeles City Council president.

Padilla spoke of the many improvements in Pacoima, where he grew up, Sylmar and the east San Fernando Valley, including new libraries, parks and the Mission police station.

But he said there is more work to be done, particularly in the areas of safety, health and education.

The event drew a variety of officials, including most of the Los Angeles City Council, state Sen. Richard Alarcon, Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Executive Secretary of the L.A. County Federation of Labor Martin Ludlow, Los Angeles Unified School District

Superintendent Roy Romer, LAUSD Board President Marlene Canter and LAUSD board member Julie Korenstein.

Tiny 5-year-old Kyrsti Chavez of Arcadia, dressed in a sparkling, sequined red dress and matching headband, wowed the dignitaries with a powerful version of the national anthem.

And the crowd gave standing ovations to both Padilla and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who also spoke.

Villaraigosa said Padilla's first term as president of the City Council helped pave the way for his election as mayor, showing voters that "we all want the same things," regardless of racial or ethnic backgrounds.

He noted that the San Fernando Valley has become more ethnically diverse than any other part of the city, embodying the true ideal of Los Angeles.

"I can't tell you how proud I am," Villaraigosa said. "I see a limitless future."

Padilla noted that Villaraigosa didn't just win the Latino vote, but voters from all backgrounds. "All of Los Angeles has placed their trust and confidence in Mayor Villaraigosa, and to me, that's just remarkable," Padilla said.

Mission College President Adriana Barrera said Padilla and Villaraigosa are excellent role models for students.

"If (Villaraigosa) had given up four years ago, (when he was defeated by former Mayor James Hahn), he wouldn't be mayor now," Barrera said. "Education prepares you, but you must stay true to your goals and not give up."

is on vacation.



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