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## MAYOR HAHN ADDRESSES CONGRESS OF NEIGHBORHOODS

Announces proposal for neighborhood councils to review city department general manager performance

Los Angeles – Mayor Jim Hahn today addressed neighborhood council members at the biannual Congress of Neighborhoods, which brings together neighborhood leaders and government officials for a day-long series of training and educational workshops. At the event, Mayor Hahn announced a proposal to empower neighborhood councils to give their input on the performance of city department general managers.

“With the success of neighborhood council participation in the budget process, I am now looking to involve councils in reviewing our general managers and their effectiveness in delivering the services they identify as priorities,” said Mayor Hahn.

Under Mayor Hahn’s proposal, neighborhood councils from different areas of the city would appoint several representatives to a citywide panel. The panel would then outline criteria to evaluate general managers of each city department, and would later evaluate how well department heads met the criteria. Mayor Hahn said that he would work with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to have the evaluation system in place by the next Congress of Neighborhoods in November 2004.

“In a short period of time, you have demonstrated the power of neighborhood councils,” Mayor Hahn continued. “You have weighed in on pressing issues like the city’s budget, and you continue to make your voices heard. I want to keep finding new ways for neighborhood councils to participate because I believe in this process and I’m proud that neighborhood councils are making Los Angeles the epicenter of participatory democracy in America.”

The theme for this Congress of Neighborhoods is “LA Working Together.” Workshop topics included emergency preparedness, communicating with stakeholders, accomplishing neighborhood improvement projects, homelessness, and increased cooperation with Los Angeles schools. There are currently 81 certified neighborhood councils in the City of Los Angeles.