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## MAYOR HAHN ADDRESSES CONGRESS OF NEIGHBORHOODS

LOS ANGELES \* Mayor Jim Hahn on Saturday addressed the Congress of Neighborhoods, a biannual meeting of the Neighborhood Councils that brings neighborhood leaders and government officials together for a day-long series of training and educational workshops. Mayor Hahn's speech focused on emergency preparedness, general manager evaluations and the budget.

"The Neighborhood Councils give members of the community a voice and an opportunity to become involved in civic life," Mayor Hahn said. "I am proud to see so many Los Angeles residents working to create a better Los Angeles."

Mayor Hahn outlined his plan to help Neighborhood Councils prepare for emergencies by partnering with the Emergency Preparedness Department. Each Neighborhood Council was asked to appoint one person to join a blue ribbon committee that will create an emergency preparedness plan for Los Angeles.

During the Congress of Neighborhoods Mayor Hahn also introduced general manager evaluations, which for the first time will give Neighborhood Councils the power to assess the city's general managers. Fourteen Neighborhood Council representatives will meet personally with the general managers to discuss their goals. The representatives will then report back to Mayor Hahn, who will consider their opinions in making his evaluations.

Mayor Hahn also assured the Neighborhood Councils that they could soon hope for fewer restrictions on their \$50,000 budgets. Mayor Hahn supports a Department of Neighborhood Empowerment report, soon to be delivered to the city council, which will give Neighborhood Councils greater flexibility to spend their budgets on community issues such as school programs.