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CONTACT: Sahar Moridani

**MAYOR HAHN ANNOUNCES CERTIFICATION OF WEST VAN NUYS/LAKE
BALBOA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

LOS ANGELES * Mayor Jim Hahn announced the certification of the new West Van Nuys/ Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council at Saturday's Congress of Neighborhoods, bringing the citywide total of neighborhood councils to 82.

"The addition of the West Van Nuys/Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council is another step towards a stronger, more unified Los Angeles," Mayor Hahn said. "When we give people the opportunity to better their communities, we are helping people invest in their futures. The West Van Nuys/ Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council is a great addition to the city family."

The new neighborhood council district includes more than 43,000 city residents and is the 27th neighborhood council in the San Fernando Valley. The district is bounded by the Sepulveda Basin, Van Nuys Airport and the Anheuser Busch Brewing plant.

General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Greg Nelson also commended the community.

"This group of dedicated people worked long and hard to become exactly what a neighborhood could and should be," Nelson said. "They have broad-based and diverse support from a significant number of people who want to be a voice for the entire community. They have made themselves a model for others. It's a honor to welcome them into the neighborhood council family."