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## MAYOR HAHN, NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS PARTICIPATE IN BUDGET CONFERENCE

LOS ANGELES - Mayor Jim Hahn today hosted the Neighborhood Council Budget Conference at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The conference gave neighborhood councils an opportunity to provide direct input in the city's 2003-04 fiscal budget, explained the budgetary process and helped clarify the role of neighborhood councils in the procedure.

"My highest priority is to involve residents of Los Angeles to participate in the governance of the City," Mayor Hahn said. "Our residents have never been an integrated part of the budget process, but I cannot think of a better way to prioritize the needs of our neighborhoods."

The event included a briefing from the Mayor's Budget Director, Crista Binder, who defined the role of each neighborhood within the city budget and lead various workshops. Following an executive directive recently issued by Mayor Hahn, the conference gave neighborhood council leaders an opportunity to speak directly to each City Department manager. In addition, neighborhood councils received a survey identifying their service needs to ensure that the needs and priorities of each neighborhood are included in the budget process.

"I want residents to have direct access to every city department," said Mayor Hahn. "Our mission is simple, to improve Los Angeles neighborhood-by-neighborhood."