

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Jim Hahn

April 17, 2003

I would like to take a moment before I begin to honor in silence the men and women who have already lost their lives during the conflict in Iraq, and to pray for the safe and swift return of all our other soldiers.

Los Angeles today is a strong and vibrant city, united by our faith in our country and in each other, and ready to meet the challenges of this new century.

This is a city on the move.

Last year we saw more new small businesses start in Los Angeles than in any place in America, reaffirming our position as the "Small business capital of the USA."

Rising real estate values are consistent with recent surveys that show L.A. residents are pleased with their overall quality of life.

New quality housing is being added all over the city and neighborhoods are being revitalized.

After years of declining test scores, the Los Angeles Unified School district is now showing real improvement, and more young students than ever are in quality after school enrichment programs.

Yes, Los Angeles is stronger than ever.

We have not been immune, however, to the problems that plague our national economy.

For two years, we have had to steer Los Angeles through the most difficult economic times in a decade. The recession, and September 11th have taken a large toll on the national, state, and local economy. In this budget, as in our last, we have had to reduce spending in many areas but, because we took decisive action early, we have been able to identify resources, fund key priorities, and maintain a strong financial footing. And, despite the tough fiscal situation, my administration has remained steadfastly focused on our top priority – making Los Angeles the safest big city in America.

At the time I became Mayor LAPD was in trouble. During the four years from 1998 to 2002, the department shrank by 905 officers. Training classes were being cancelled because of lack of interest.

As the department's ranks shrank, crime began to rise. Homicides rose every year from 1998 through 2002.

Rampart had severely damaged the organization's credibility and shattered the trust between officers and the communities they protect and serve.

Morale, for many reasons, was at a low.

It is a new day at LAPD.

The first step to reduce crime was to improve recruitment and get more police officers on the streets. To make LAPD more attractive to potential applicants, we implemented a more flexible work schedule, streamlined the hiring process, and reformed a discipline system that had become too onerous. The results speak for themselves.

This fiscal year we will hire 675 police officers - - nearly double last year's total, and an 88% increase over our original projections. After factoring in attrition, the department will grow by 325 officers this year. This will be the first year since 1997 that we have had a net gain of even one officer and we will have hired more than 300.

In my budget to be released tomorrow, we provide funding to hire 720 more police officers. Additionally, when the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the LAPD severed their relationship and the Sheriff took over the transit system, I made the decision to absorb those costs into the budget so we could reassign the officers that had been working on the subways back onto the streets. These officers are already trained, and in less than one month will be back patrolling our community. That means that by July of next year there will be over 500 more officers on our streets and in our neighborhoods than there are today, and 800 more than there were one year ago.

Every hiring class is full.

More officers are on the streets.

Morale is once again on the rise.

Now that we are restoring the department to full strength, we have to put those resources to the best use possible in order to reduce the violence, stop the gangs, and return our neighborhoods to law-abiding citizens. Look at the headlines in our local papers in the last few weeks:

"7 SHOT TO DEATH IN 30-HOUR PERIOD"

“SHOOTING CLAIMS LIFE OF 17 YEAR-OLD”

“MAN SHOT, KILLED AT VALLEY BUS STOP”

“POLICE SEEK HELP IN THE SLAYINGS OF 2 TEENAGERS”

“SHOOTING IN SOUTHWEST L.A. LEAVES THREE MEN DEAD”

These headlines represent the enormous challenge we face in Los Angeles everyday. Gang members have made a conscious decision to terrorize our communities and devastate the lives of anyone who is unfortunate enough to cross their paths. We mourn the countless victims, many of them children, caught in the crossfire in the streets of Los Angeles. Their deaths represent the opportunities that are lost if we do not protect our children and our neighborhoods from the tyranny of gangs. We must collectively accept the challenge and embrace the goal of making this a safer city. We must not accept gang violence as a fact of life, but stand united to bring peace and safety to our community. Our collective effort toward this goal honors the lives of the victims lost to this senseless violence. The community and the police department are forging a new partnership, led by our new Chief of Police Bill Bratton. When I hired Chief Bratton I made my agenda very clear:

Reduce crime.

Improve morale and recruitment.

Restore community policing.

Implement the consent decree and bring real reform to the Department.

Chief Bratton has grabbed that agenda and is running full speed ahead.

Homicides in Los Angeles have already dropped more than 21% from last year at this time. And the Chief has just implemented the Compstat system to better track crimes so we can put police officers in areas we need them most.

Recruitment and morale are back on the right track.

Community policing has once again taken root. Senior Lead Officers are back in our neighborhoods providing an invaluable link between the community and the Department. As Chief Bratton has made clear many times, if we are going to make Los Angeles the safest big city in America, the Police Department can not do it alone. Its success will rise or fall on the strength of the bond between the police officers and the communities they serve.

Chief Bratton shares my commitment to once and for all bring real reform to the LAPD. We are providing every resource necessary to meet the requirements of the consent decree. Chief Bratton has restructured the Department's leadership and made the consent decree's implementation the priority it must be if we are going to rebuild trust between the LAPD and the community. For the first time ever, the City released comprehensive data tracking the race of those stopped by LAPD. As never before, the Department is becoming transparent in all of its operations so the LAPD badge can become a trusted symbol once again.

I also want to thank the hard working members of our Board of Police Commissioners – President Rick Caruso, Vice President David Cunningham, and Commissioners Rose Ochi, Sylvia Saucedo, and Bert Boeckmann. On behalf of the City, let me say how grateful I am for your commitment to improving public safety, and working to restore the luster of the LAPD badge. Please stand and be recognized.

And most of all I want to recognize the dedicated men and women who serve in the Department. They are filled with a new sense of commitment, and a common agenda to make this a safer city.

Our city's firefighters are a key part of our public safety team. My proposed budget will include funding for our Emergency Medical Services Resource Deployment Plan and adds more paramedics and ambulances to improve service and reduce response times.

I have provided funding for additional firefighters to add a tenth-member to more task force stations in the city. This will enhance firefighter safety, and provide more flexibility in staffing and improve the department's ability to respond to emergencies. The men and women of our fire department are incredibly dedicated to this city and the well being of all our communities. Thank you for all you do. I also want to recognize Fire Chief Bill Bamattre, as well as the members of our Fire Commission, President Jay Grodin, Vice President Corina Alarcon, and Commissioners Roland Coleman, Louise Frankel, and Tyrone Freeman.

Under the leadership of City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, we also have a new corps of dedicated neighborhood prosecutors, who are working in partnership with the community to identify and solve quality of life problems that plague neighborhoods. Thank you Rocky for your work and leadership.

Security has taken on a broader meaning than just police officers and firefighters on the streets. Since September 11, 2001, we have taken unprecedented steps to secure our city and be more prepared. We have heightened security at LAX and Van Nuys Airports. Our law enforcement presence at LAX, supplemented by LAPD, includes hundreds of uniformed and plainclothes officers. Numerous federal agencies including the FBI, U.S. Air Marshals, and U.S. Customs in

addition to K-9 patrols and special operations units are in place to help ensure the safety of passengers and cargo traveling through our airport.

The Transportation Security Administration has hired more than 2,800 federal aviation screeners at LAX to electronically screen all passengers and their luggage. There are more federal screeners assigned at LAX than any airport in America.

At the Port of Los Angeles, sea marshals are boarding cruise and cargo ships prior to docking for inspection.

The Department of Water and Power has also increased security around our water and power supplies and is testing the quality of our water 250,000 times a year.

Last month I proposed, and the City Council approved, funding to purchase first responder gear for police, fire, traffic officers, public works employees and other city employees who may be called upon to respond to an emergency. We could no longer wait for federal funding to arrive and committed our own precious resources.

LAPD's new Counter-Terrorism Bureau, headed by John Miller, is responsible for gathering and analyzing intelligence, establishing and maintaining relationships with other cities, investigating potential terrorist plots, and planning and executing the Department's response to terrorist-related emergencies.

And I was pleased when last week the Department of Homeland Security announced that Los Angeles would receive an additional \$12 million to prepare our first responders and our city in the event of an emergency. This funding makes Los Angeles one of seven cities nationwide that will receive funding from the Urban Area Security Initiative. Though it is not enough to meet all of our needs, it is a good first step, and we will continue our pressure on Washington to provide more resources for Homeland Security.

Though the front line in the effort to make the city safer is made up of the police and fire department, the next line is our responsibility to our children to give them positive opportunities. Every child who is in an after-school program or at the library is one less child on the street being recruited by a gang or other temptations that lead them down the wrong path.

By the end of this fiscal year we will have opened 17 new and expanded libraries in communities across the city, all of them either on time, ahead of budget, or both. I am proud to announce that ours is the largest library infrastructure construction project in the country. The communities of Central City, West Los Angeles, Pacific Palisades, Woodland Hills, Cypress Park, Highland Park, Chinatown, Koreatown, North Hollywood, Reseda, Mar Vista, Sun Valley,

Sherman Oaks, Sylmar, Encino/Tarzana, Westchester, and Lakeview Terrace will all benefit from these beautiful new facilities.

In the year ahead we will open 10 new libraries – in Silver Lake, Pico Union, Playa Vista, South Los Angeles, Canoga Park, Chatsworth, El Sereno, Hyde Park, Northridge and Hollywood. I urge each of you to become acquainted with your local library. If they do not already have one, get your child a library card and give them a great gift - - a love of reading. Our library system is one of the great jewels of Los Angeles and provides safe, educational, and free services to our kids. I want to thank our city librarian, Susan Kent, and the Board of Library Commissioners, Lucy McCoy, Dr. Cynthia Telles, Allison Thomas, Robert Chick and Rita Walters for making sure that the City of Los Angeles library system is a shining jewel in our city's crown.

We continue to expand the LA's BEST after school program, and have added 27 schools and over 4,000 students to the program in the last two years. In total 105 schools serving 18,000 kids are now part of LA's BEST. This year's budget will again include funds for this great program and we will continue to seek private, federal, and state dollars to supplement our efforts.

And in the coming year, we will fund 40 new and renovated parks and recreation facilities across the city as well as add new playground equipment to our parks.

We are also providing a whole new range of opportunities to children and families throughout our city through our unprecedented commitment to the development of affordable housing. When I was elected, I committed to creating a \$100 million affordable housing trust fund within two years to address our housing crisis. When less than 39% of our residents own homes, and with nearly 400,000 overcrowded housing units in our city, something needs to change. Working with committed community leaders like Alvivon "Bon Bon" Hurd, David Grunwald, Bill Harris and Sister Diane Donoghue change is coming. Real change.

Last year we provided the first \$47 million. This year, despite the budget challenges, we have provided the balance of \$53 million to keep our commitment. This is the largest local trust fund in the nation. This historic investment in our City's future is being accompanied by an aggressive housing policy agenda that will work to facilitate housing production, preserve our housing stock for all income levels and create new opportunities for home ownership.

The first phase of the Housing Trust Fund is specifically designed to secure our fair share of state and federal dollars and maximize our investment with public and private dollars. We have already committed \$17.8 million to developments throughout the City and that commitment combined with state and federal funding will bring a total investment of over \$111 million to Los Angeles. This investment not only represents homes for working families and seniors, it also

represents jobs and construction business for our city at a time when we need it the most.

By providing safe opportunities for children through after school programs, libraries, and recreation programs, and by strengthening communities by providing safe and clean housing options, we will also contribute to making this a safer city.

Last November, the voters of this city sent a clear message -- keep Los Angeles united. But the issues raised during the debate were valid and important. We in city government must consistently be critical of how we deliver services and find ways to improve.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the Los Angeles City Council for their dedicated and united effort to break the mold at City Hall in order to redefine how the city conducts its business and provides services. It is an honor to work with the members of this council individually and collectively. Each of them serves their district and the city as a whole with enormous integrity, boundless energy, and intense passion. Thank you for your commitment to the people of Los Angeles and I look forward to our continued partnership in the year ahead.

To that end, it is not an overstatement to say that City government and how we deliver services is undergoing a revolution.

The neighborhood council system continues to grow ahead of expectations. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment expects to meet or exceed its goal of certifying 70 neighborhood councils by June 30, 2003. Seventy-percent of the city's population is within the boundaries of a certified neighborhood council.

The vision of a citywide system of independent and influential neighborhood councils, and the creation of a city department to guide that process, was the centerpiece of the new City Charter that was approved by voters in June 1999.

Our system of neighborhood councils and the creation of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment have begun to significantly improve the two-way communication between the public and government. This year the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment implemented the Early Notification System that alerts subscribers to meetings and agenda items coming before the City Council, Council Committees, Boards and Commissions.

This year the voices of neighborhood councils are being heard. Last summer, the West Hills neighborhood council united in opposition against the development of the Ahmanson Ranch and asked the city to join them in their efforts and we did. Neighborhood councils have the potential to become the most important lobbyists and strongest voice in the City of Los Angeles.

This year we also began the Neighborhood Council Funding Program. Neighborhood councils can be granted up to \$50,000 a year to be used for necessary operating costs and neighborhood improvement projects. With the help of our City Controller Laura Chick, we created the Stored Value Card system so neighborhood councils can access the funds. Each council will be issued a Stored Value Card that will be credited with quarterly increments of \$12,500. The Reseda Neighborhood Council received its card a few weeks ago and to meet our goal of providing all certified neighborhood councils with this funding, my Proposed Budget increases the Neighborhood Council Funding Program from \$2 million to \$3 million dollars in fiscal year 2003-04.

To the skeptics of neighborhood councils, my challenge to you is - - - get involved. Join us. Nothing will change if people merely sit back and point fingers. Change happens when people participate.

Three years ago, when we adopted a new City Charter, it created seven Area Planning Commissions. Building on this movement to decentralize city government with Neighborhood Councils and Area Planning Commissions, I unveiled TeamWork LA, a comprehensive city government reorganization plan that does not create another layer of bureaucracy or elected officials.

Under TeamWork LA, city departments are reorganized into Neighborhood Service Cabinets, which facilitate service delivery tailored to meet the unique needs of Los Angeles' diverse neighborhoods. As a result of increased communication, between city departments, quality of life issues such as illegal dumping, graffiti and the proliferation of abandoned vehicles are being resolved more efficiently and with renewed swiftness.

Let me provide one example. During a TeamWork LA meeting, an LAPD representative asked for assistance from other city departments on the removal of shoes hanging from utility lines, which blight neighborhoods, and which to some indicates gang activity. Well it was quickly recognized that DWP has trucks roaming the city daily fixing these same utility lines. As a result, we announced in March that the DWP would begin removing these shoes from utility lines across the city. Since that day, we have received nearly 400 phone calls from residents asking the city to remove these shoes and DWP crews are responding.

Over the next year, TeamWork LA will continue to bring city government to Los Angeles neighborhoods. To create greater access to services, we are also creating seven Neighborhood City Halls, so all residents can receive services from a City Hall in their own area -- Van Nuys Neighborhood City Hall, which will be reopened in June as the Marvin Braude Service Center, the Harbor Area Neighborhood City Hall and the Mark Ridley Thomas Constituent Center which serves as the South Los Angeles Neighborhood City Hall, are already up and running.

We are getting creative and working to breathe life and energy into innovative programs that will help to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Last week I announced the “Eyes on the Neighborhood” initiative -- part of the TeamWork LA program. “Eyes on the Neighborhood” engages and empowers our frontline city workers by giving city employees, like our sanitation workers who visit every home in the city once a week, a direct stake in improving Los Angeles by telling us what they see while driving our city streets. The program provides workers who are out in the communities with service request forms to fill out at the end of their shift to report problems like potholes, street damage and graffiti. Dedicated city employees developed the concept for this program, and City Controller Laura Chick had the vision and determination to implement the program as a pilot during her tenure as a City Councilmember. I would like to thank Julie Butcher, General Manager of SEIU 347, for helping us implement this initiative and encouraging her members to embrace the program citywide.

As part of my commitment to improve services for Los Angeles residents, we have implemented the 3-1-1, “One Call to City Hall” Citywide Service Directory. Since its launch in October 2002, 3-1-1 has helped ease the number of non-emergency calls currently received through the city’s 9-1-1 emergency system.

By reducing the burden on 9-1-1, emergency operations are able to handle an increased number of calls that actually need an immediate response.

3-1-1 gives Los Angeles residents and businesses easy access to information for over 1,400 city services. 3-1-1 agents provide accurate information about city services, locations, telephone numbers, hours of operation and other general information. 3-1-1 agents provide information in Spanish, English and for the hearing impaired.

We have logged over 25,000 calls in the last few months and over the next year 3-1-1 will be expanded to “One Call Does It All,” through integrating a service request system that will allow agents to accept and process residents’ requests for city services.

We also provided record numbers of services to neighborhoods in terms of street paving, sidewalk repair and tree trimming. We will continue to maintain very high levels in the current budget. I am committed to ensuring that every community receives quality service from every part of city government.

The successes and the challenges we face in the year ahead define who we are as a city. We are a city of contrast and diversity. In the last two years we have demonstrated time and again that we are resilient and embrace the great challenges facing us as individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities. We must all work together to send a message to the countless families who have lost their children to street violence, that we share their pain. We share their

anger. We share their grief. And we share their determination to stop the violence and reclaim our streets from the reckless gangs who have turned too many of our neighborhoods into places of fear and despair.

Together we have kept this city united. Together we are returning power to neighborhoods. Together we are building a solid foundation for our children's future and together we will make Los Angeles the safest big city in America.

Thank you.