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## MAYOR HAHN ANNOUNCES OVER 70 NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS CERTIFIED

LOS ANGELES \* Mayor Jim Hahn today announced that the MacArthur Neighborhood Council (#71) and Pico Union Neighborhood Council (#72) completed the certification process and surpassed a goal he announced last year to have 70 Neighborhood Councils certified by today.

"I am pleased to be here with you to celebrate the certification of our 71st and 72nd neighborhood councils," said Mayor Hahn during a meeting at Mama's Hot Tamales with members of the MacArthur and Pico Union Neighborhood Councils. "My priority has been to shorten the distance between our neighborhoods and City Hall. By participating in neighborhood councils, people throughout the city are helping us do just that."

Mayor Hahn said he expects to have 100 neighborhood councils up and running by June 2004. Last week, Mayor Hahn designated 7 Neighborhood City Halls in the North Valley, South Valley, Central, West Los Angeles, East Los Angeles, South Los Angeles, and Harbor communities so that residents will not have to travel downtown to conduct city business. Mayor Hahn also discussed his new TeamWork LA initiative, which brings together top-level representatives from key city departments to identify and solve neighborhood problems.

The MacArthur Neighborhood Council includes the communities of Westlake, Lafayette Park, and MacArthur Park. Pico Union Neighborhood Council includes the Byzantine-Latino Quarter population centered around Pico Boulevard.

"These neighborhood councils have an opportunity to set the standard for how to meet the challenge of finding new ways to involve immigrants in civic participation efforts," said Department of Neighborhood Empowerment General Manager Greg Nelson. "The nation is watching."