

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MAYOR HAHN ANNOUNCES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BUDGET DAY 2003**

*Mayor will unveil plan to give Neighborhood Councils direct role in budget process*

**LOS ANGELES** – Mayor Jim Hahn today announced that his Budget Team, the City Administrative Officer (CAO), and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) will join him this Saturday at this year's Neighborhood Council Budget Day at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Mayor Hahn will unveil his proposal to give neighborhood councils, for the first time, real input into the development of the city budget.

"I encourage representatives from each certified neighborhood council to join me this Saturday in developing the city's annual budget for important city services, like tree trimming, sidewalk repair, and public safety," said Mayor Hahn. "Neighborhood councils are reshaping our communities with their involvement in city government and by giving neighborhood councils a stake in the budget process, we are giving neighborhood councils the opportunity to plan, implement, and make decisions regarding the city's future."

Mayor Hahn is inviting three representatives from each certified neighborhood council, with elected boards, to participate in the Neighborhood Council Budget Day on Saturday, July 26. The event will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

At the event, Mayor Hahn will unveil his proposal to give neighborhood councils the opportunity to directly participate in the city's budget process much the same way each of the city's departments do. Mayor Hahn's proposal will group the neighborhoods into seven regions, and the neighborhood councils within those regions will work collaboratively to establish priorities they want addressed in the city budget. Then, during the budget hearings that the Mayor holds each year in February with the city departments, each of the seven regions of neighborhood councils will be given an opportunity to convey their priorities directly to the Mayor. Details on how this process will work, and guidance in how to develop these priorities will be provided during sessions at the Budget Day conference on Saturday.

"We are cutting out the middle men. The neighborhood councils will establish priorities for their areas and bring them directly to me, exactly the way our general managers do with their budgets," said Mayor Hahn.

"When I told a city department executive that Mayor Hahn was going to involve the neighborhood councils in developing the city budget he said, 'This is revolutionary!' and he is right. This is," said Department of Neighborhood Empowerment General Manager Greg Nelson.

"Mayor Hahn's plan to involve neighborhood councils in developing the city budget proves Mayor Hahn is taking his promises and making them a reality," said Board of Neighborhood Commissioner Bill Christopher.

For more information regarding the Neighborhood Council Budget Day or to register for the event, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at 1 (866) LA-HELPS.