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October 10, 2003

MAYOR HAHN ANNOUNCES CONGRESS OF NEIGHBORHOODS
Will launch Empowerment Academy program to empower neighborhood councils

LOS ANGELES - As part of his commitment to increase access to city government, Mayor Jim Hahn today invited the public to attend the Congress of Neighborhoods on Saturday, November 1st at the Los Angeles Convention Center, where neighborhood councils will meet with city departments to learn about services available. Mayor Hahn also announced that a new Empowerment Academy program will be launched to further educate community leaders how to successfully organize and run neighborhood councils.

"Last April, the Congress of Neighborhoods hosted 1,000 neighborhood leaders as they networked with each other, attended training sessions, and met with city departments and general managers," said Mayor Hahn. "I am looking forward to launching the City of Los Angeles Empowerment Academy to build and refine skills to create independent, influential, credible, and effective neighborhood councils."

The Empowerment Academy will be an on-going series of classes designed to teach people how to organize and successfully run a neighborhood council. Similar to a college curriculum, the Academy will offer nine different training series with four to eight classes in each. The classes will be repeated throughout the year. The first of these classes will be offered at the November 1st Congress of Neighborhoods event.

Participants may qualify for college credit from the L.A. Trade Tech. Registration will be opened to the public on Friday, October 17th at 8:00 a.m. To register, or for more information go to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's web site at www.lacityneighborhoods.com, or call the department toll-free at (866) LA HELPS.