



## Political Forum

Each month, *Alive!* invites political leaders to speak directly to City and DWP employees and retirees. *Alive!* brings you these views as a public service. The opinions of those on this monthly column are independent of *Alive!* and the City Employees Club of Los Angeles.



### Proposed City Budget Aims to Make LA Safer

by Mayor James K. Hahn

City employees, thank you for your continued commitment to the City of Los Angeles.

Last month, I gave my State of the City address at the Police Academy. 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.

The budget cuts throughout the state of California led me to make tough decisions this year regarding the budget for the City of Los Angeles. Last month, I unveiled a \$5.1 billion budget for Los Angeles that includes funding to put over 500 additional police officers in Los Angeles neighborhoods and funding to create a Counterterrorism Bureau at the Los Angeles Police Department.

My budget also supports giving more chil-

dren positive alternatives to gangs and crime by opening three new libraries, providing funding to renovate seven libraries, and opening 40 new or expanded recreation park facilities. In addition, my proposed budget allocates nearly \$1 million for new playground equipment and \$1 million for the LA's BEST afterschool program.

I have also been working with business leaders and other local mayors to lobby the state to reform its workers' compensation system to reduce the city's long-term costs. The city's hiring freeze will continue and I have eliminated over 400 positions that are currently vacant because of the freeze.

Working together, I am confident we can improve service delivery to our neighborhoods and make Los Angeles the safest big city in America. 🏠



### Parks Outlines His Agendas In Returning to City Service

by Bernard Parks, Councilmember, Eighth District

After 37-years in the L.A.P.D., I am honored to serve as the City Councilmember for the Eighth District! I am very grateful to my family and my supporters for helping me through my campaign.

I believe the same know-how that brought a 35-year low in crime to Los Angeles will help me assist other Councilmembers in cutting the current growing threat to public safety in our communities.

#### Public Safety is Number One

My experience as an LAPD officer and an FBI graduate makes me well suited to handle the most important issue facing our city today. Public safety doesn't just involve crime. It also involves other aspects of city life. When there's a drop-off in public safety, we aren't comfortable walking the streets and businesspeople aren't comfortable bringing their stores into the community. A poor public safety agenda not only leads to a loss of countless lives, it also leads to a loss of economic opportunities.

I have a plan for increasing public safety. I call it *Prevention, Intervention, Education*. I'll tell you more about it in the future, as space permits.

#### Economic Development

For far too long, the Eighth District has been content to have fast-food chains throw the community "a bone" by opening a few restaurants in the area. But, why stop there? I want their warehouses, bakeries, distribution centers and administrative offices as well! Why should the Eighth District be happy with the small number of low-paying jobs that a restaurant provides, while fast food businesses continue to offer more jobs and higher-paying jobs outside of the city? I plan to require more businesses to include warehouses and other facilities, when they move into the Eighth District. I will also keep an eye on exactly what kinds of businesses are coming to the area. With one of the highest child obesity rates in the state, the Eighth District can no longer afford the ongoing expansion of fast-food restaurants.

#### Council District 8 includes these communities:

- Baldwin Hills,
- Crenshaw,
- Leimert Park,
- West Adams,
- Jefferson Park,
- Chesterfield Square, and
- Other areas of South Los Angeles.

#### Here's a quick guide to other agendas I want to focus on:

**Stop Playing the Waiting Game!** To flourish economically, the Eighth District can't depend primarily on the city or state to fund its developments and job creation projects. It simply takes too long. I want to influence private industry to build now.

**Building Community, Building Families ...** Jobs from new developments in the district can make it possible for working families to earn a livable wage.

**Housing.** I want to help my constituents buy homes!

**Senior Citizens.** I plan to work on district-wide programs that display the skills and expertise of senior citizens.

**Transportation.** The Eighth District is the only part of the city not linked to major transportation vehicles, like the Red Line and Blue Line. We need to expand these systems to our communities to ease traffic congestion and bring in even more jobs!

**Public Service.** People demand very simple things from their public servants. When they need the services they pay for, they want them performed correctly and in a timely manner. I'm determined to make my administration the most pro-active and responsive administration the city has ever seen! There are simply too many people who don't know who to contact to get their sidewalks fixed, their trees trimmed or their garbage picked up. I pledge to make every service readily available, and I pledge to make sure people know how to get access to them. 🏠

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### Sanitation Dept. West District To Host Open House May 24

The Western District of the Department of Sanitation will host an open house Saturday, May 24 to educate and reach out to the public.

The open house will be held at the Western District yard, 2027 Stoner Ave.

The City of Los Angeles Public Affairs Department will distribute fliers, inviting the surrounding neighborhood to the event.

There will be booth displays set up by the Recycle Commodity, Safety and Training, and other units within the Sanitation Department.

West L.A. District Superintendent Salvador Miranda, Public Works commissioners, Union representatives and several council district offices are expected to be on hand to share in the open house.

Refreshments and yard tours will be available. Interested parties will be able to climb aboard a satellite truck and enjoy a demonstration of the operation of sanitation equipment. 🏠

**Information: (310) 575-8392.**