

Political Forum



Fire Dept. Hosts Their Children With Annual 'Bring Kids' Day

A good crowd of youngsters got a chance to see what Mom and Dad Firefighter do at the LAFD's annual Bring Your Kids to Work Day, April 24 at the Department's Frank Hotchkin Memorial Training Center on Stadium Way.

The day also featured coloring book contests, fire engine rides, a raffle and goodie bags, and a fire obstacle course. 🚒

Here are some of the sights of the day:



Event organizer Capt. Alicia Mathis with some of the department's offspring.



From left: Sarai Morales and dad, Hector Morales.



Michelle Mendoza, checking out an ambulance.



Youngster Nicholas Hill, son of LAFD Capt. Rudy Hill, checks out some equipment under the supervision of LAFD Firefighter Heron.



The LAFD's annual Bring Your Kids to Work Day.



Winter Shelter Program Extension Gives Homeless Chance at Success

by Jan Perry, Councilmember, Ninth District

For the many of us who work or visit the downtown Civic Center, we are reminded daily of a problem that exists in the City of Los Angeles. It is one that we cannot ignore as we walk the streets of our city's core and neighborhoods. Whether you live in the San Fernando Valley or Downtown Los Angeles, it is likely that you have come face to face with our city's growing homeless population.

Since taking office two years ago, I have worked to rebuild and improve the level of city services for the Skid Row Community. With the help of the Bureau of Street Services and the Los Angeles Police Department I have increased Public Works Services in Central City East, revitalized and brought forward the Downtown Community Court Project, created 84 beds at SRO Housing for the service resistant homeless, and added an outreach component to the people who live and sleep on the streets. We have worked hard to increase the level of emergency shelter services throughout the City of Los Angeles and to make them available year round.

On May 14, the City Council and the Mayor backed the plan to extend the Winter Shelter Program for the remainder of the year. This marked a new day for the

Council District 9 includes these communities:

- Bunker Hill,
- Little Tokyo, and
- South Los Angeles.

City of Los Angeles—a day when the entire Council stood together to acknowledge that homelessness is a citywide problem that must be addressed. The Council's action will provide emergency shelter services for 1,000 people. They will no longer have to live and sleep on the sidewalks of our city. Services to support their needs and assist them towards better supportive housing are now available year-round. Most importantly, the homeless being served at these shelters have let me know how much it means to them to have a safe and clean place to stay.

Now, we need to work toward funding more 24-hour beds with services to really begin helping people move from the streets to a more permanent supportive living situation. We know that this model of service to the homeless is most successful. I will continue to fight for both funding and services for the homeless population. No one deserves to be homeless. It is our job to see that people are given an opportunity to find success in their lives. 🚒

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.