

Political Forum



Being Born, Raised in the District Helps to Serve It

by **Antonio Villaraigosa, Councilmember, 14th District**

In my first 30 days in office, I've initiated a campaign to improve my district that will I think will reshape the future of the Eastside for decades to come.

I was born and raised in the area that I now represent, so I'm no stranger to many of the challenges faced by my constituents. I've made these part of my crusade to improve the overall quality of life for people in my district, particularly, the poor.

I am keenly aware of the need to increase public safety, create additional green spaces in high-density urban areas, address gang violence and the importance of youth intervention. I also know that to achieve many of our goals to ultimately provide a safer and cleaner environment for our children, we have to build community partnerships between government, law enforcement and residents to create a sense of pride and neighborhood ownership.

Indeed, public safety and environmental awareness are among some of the most important efforts I've championed and supported, not just during my recent electoral campaign, but also throughout my

Council District 14 includes these communities:

- East Los Angeles
- Northeast Los Angeles
- El Sereno
- Eagle Rock
- Highland Park
- Boyle Heights

career in the State Assembly. In fact, just before I was sworn into office, I organized more than 1000 volunteers throughout the 14th Council District to help clean up problem areas.

Whether the task involves securing cleaning efforts along Cesar Chavez Avenue, sponsoring a National Night Out Program throughout the district to promote a safer environment in the inner-city, addressing transportation or infrastructure issues, or supporting a bill that would provide everyone in the state with a drivers' licenses, I want to be involved. 🏠

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