■ellow Angelenos, members of the City Council, City Controller Chick, City Attorney Delgadillo, Mayor Riordan, Mayor Hahn, Superintendent Romer, Vice President Gore, Governor Schwarzenegger, representatives of the Congress and the California Legislature, fellow mayors, county leaders, members of the consular corps, distinguished guests:

Today is a day for thanks. I want to thank all of

What a great country this is! And what a great City this is!

Los Angeles has always led the way. You've always focused on what really matters. You've always disproved the doubters. When others said it couldn't be done, you elected the first African-American mayor of a leading American City. And,

believe me, early in our campaign, there were those who said it wasn't time yet for a Latino mayor. The faith you have placed in me makes me so proud to be an Angeleno today.

Thank you, Los Angeles.

I want to thank my wife, Corina, and my four children, Marisela, Prisila, Antonio and Natalia Fe. With these five, public service is a family affair, and I can't adequately express how much I appreciate their support and their sacrifices - and they have all made sacrifices. I love you each. I love you all.

I want to thank Mayor James Hahn for his decades of service to Los Angeles and for the graciousness and professionalism that both he and his staff have exhibited throughout these transition weeks. Thank you, Mayor Hahn. We wish you well.

Today, before God, family and community, I placed my hand on the Bible and took an oath to faithfully discharge the duties of the Office of Mayor. Fellow Angelenos, I am humbled by the support and trust that you have placed in me, and I will do my utmost each and every day to affirm that trust. Honoring this covenant with the people of Los Angeles will be the heartbeat of my administration. It will guide every decision we make and every action we take. I want you to know that I will be a mayor who takes responsibility and leads by example. I will work as hard as you do every single

But the ceremony that we mark here today is far bigger than any single person. And it's about much more than the oath of one man. It is about an oath we all must swear:

Today, we come together. One City. Angelenos

We come together not just to conduct an orderly transfer of power. We come here to transcend our differences, to meet our collective challenges, and to define our mutual dreams, to take stock of who we are and what we stand for, to remember where we came from, and to decide where we need

¡Que lindo es este pais!

Yo soy prueba de que los estados unidos es un pais de oportunidades y libertad.

¿En que otro pais del mundo podria yo estar frente a ustedes como el alcalde de una gran ciudad?

Los invito que sueñen conmigo.

I will never forget where I came from. It may be a short way from City Terrace to City Hall, but fellow Angelenos, we all know what a vast distance it truly is. It's a distance that can't be measured in miles or calculated in terms of the achievements of

I want to pay tribute today to all those who began that journey before us, and on whose shoulders we stand. I want to thank those who walked with us, side by side, along the road. And I want to remember, with deep gratitude and love, the one person who set me on my way.

I am here today because of the indomitable spirit and the boundless faith of my mother, Natalia Delgado. A woman who struggled as a single mom, who sometimes worked two jobs to put her kids through college. A woman who went through unspeakable circumstances as a victim of domestic violence in a home plagued by alcoholism. A woman who suffered more than her share of life's indignities, but who never surrendered her dignity.

I owe everything I am to her.

My mother's story is a classic L.A. story. Not the stuff of scripts or movie fantasy. A true story, like those of countless Angelenos, past and present. A story of working hard, of loving your kids, of having a clear picture of a better future in your mind's eye and driving for it with a ferocious sense of purpose.

Stories like my mother's are all around us, every day. We see them in the faces of people who clean homes and offices. Who work the night shifts and who empty bedpans. We see them in the faces of people who sweep the floors and load the freight. We see them in South Los Angeles and East L.A. and in the Valley and at the beaches. And even though we live in the entertainment capital of the world, it's not hard to see who the real stars are.

I said on election night that if my mother had been there beside me, she'd have said, with that vision of a better future still gleaming in her mind's eye, "Antonio, don't declare victory tonight, declare your purpose.'

Fellow Angelenos, it's time to remember the values that got us here.

Let's swear a common oath today.

Let's make Los Angeles a City of purpose. And, to do that, I'm asking you to dream with

For more than a century, Los Angeles has been synonymous with big dreams. The Australian writer and critic Clive James said it this way. "Call Los Angeles any dirty name you like... The fact remains that you are already living in it before you

Los Angeles is not only the one City that best embodies bold dreams. It is the destination of people's imaginations, all around the world, whether or not they ever set foot here.

Fellow Angelenos, I'm asking you to dream with me, because our City not only represents America's greatest hopes. We also face many of its most daunting challenges.

Seen from the Hollywood Hills at night, L.A. spreads out like a field of diamonds. And it truly is. But we also know that this shimmering vision obscures a darker truth. We know that there is a whole world of frustration lurking in the shadows between the lights, where too many parents fear for their children's safety, where too many people are denied the opportunity to fully develop their God-given talents, and where too many families

Crime affects every Angeleno and every community. But it is nothing less than a plague on our society's most vulnerable. A plague on children drawn to the streets by the lure of gangs and drugs. A plague on the poor whose neighborhoods bear a disproportionate share of the burden.

I want you to join me in the battle against crime and gun and gang violence. Join me in working with Chief Bratton and the brave men and women of the LAPD. Together we'll finally give them the tools they need to get the job done. It is time once and for all to put the police on our streets that will keep our City safe.

Surely, in this City of boundless creative genius and incalculable wealth, we can find the resources and the political will to hire more police officers!

But we also have to recognize that we will never address the problems of gangs and crime unless we reach out and expand opportunity for more of our

I can't say it more clearly: Reforming our public schools is the central challenge facing Los Angeles. And it will be a central priority of my administra-

I'm a proud progressive. But it's time for those of us who call ourselves "progressive" to do more

## "A City of Purpose"

Inaugural Address of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa July 1, 2005



Newly inaugurated Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa (center) stands next to his wife, Corina, and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, during the inauguration ceremony. At far left is former Mayor Jim Hahn.

are swimming against the tide of a declining quali-

Here in Los Angeles we have more museums and theaters than any other American City, but too many of our young people can't imagine life beyond the nearest street corner. Today, over one third of our students drop out before reaching

We are the undisputed commercial and cultural capital of the richest state, in the wealthiest nation in the world, but we're also home to the largest homeless population of any metropolitan area in the United States.

We stand at the global economic crossroads of Latin America and the Pacific Rim and the great consumer markets of North America, but we also face the incredible task of educating the most ethnically and economically diverse population in America – and maybe the world.

In short, we stand poised between the promise of immense possibility, and if we fail to act, a future of profound uncertainty.

I am asking you to dream with me.

Dream with me of a Los Angeles where our kids can walk to school in safety and where they receive an education that gives them a genuine opportunity to pursue their own dreams.

Dream with me of a Los Angeles that is the leading economic and cultural center in the world. As Venice was in the 15th century, as London was in the 19th century, Los Angeles can be the great global City of our century.

Dream with me of a Los Angeles where it doesn't matter whether you're African American, Latino, Caucasian, or Asian. Whether you're Jewish or Muslim, Protestant or Catholic. Whether you're from Watts or Westwood. Where every Angeleno is an equal stakeholder in our City's

Angelenos, we need to start thinking big again, and facing up to our biggest challenges. I intend to be a mayor who confronts those challenges. And I'll begin by leading the fight to make our neighborhoods safer.

than just defend existing government programs. We need to be passionate advocates for change.

I will immediately create a Council of Education Advisers made up of our brightest education leaders, whose charge it will be to draft a comprehensive proposal to make long-needed improvements to the L.A. Unified School District.

We will be sending that Council to summer school, and we'll expect to hear some of their recommendations before school starts in the fall. Their work will be guided by these bedrock principles: That dramatically improving student achievement and graduation rates is the goal. That eliminating achievement gaps is the urgent necessity. That students should be free of any threat of violence. That parents should be encouraged and empowered to get more involved in their children's schools. That teachers should be respected and well paid. That money should be spent in the classroom, not on bureaucracy. That schools should be neighborhood centers. And that no reform effort can succeed unless it's the product of earnest and honest collaboration and consensus among parents, teachers, principals and the community.

I have no illusions that there is a quick fix or a single path. But the stakes are too great, the needs are too urgent not to start now. Public education is not just the best investment we can make as a society. It can literally change a person's destiny. You see, I know, because I'm married to a great public school teacher who makes a difference in the lives of her students, every day. And because a great public school teacher named Herman Katz made just such a difference in my life—and in the lives of hundreds of other students, just like me.

You know, the people coming here in search of a better life today aren't any different from our grandparents and great grandparents. It doesn't matter if your family passed through Ellis Island or San Ysidro or whether they came from Malaysia yesterday or from Moscow a century ago.

The dream and the obstacles to that dream are

In 1903, Rabbi J. Leonard Levy penned a fifth

question for the ritual of Passover. "Where," he asked, "do we find civil, political, and religious liberty united today?" He offered this answer: "To us, the United States of America stands as the foremost among nations granting the greatest liberty to all who dwell here. Therefore, we grace our table with the national flag. That flag stands for equal liberty to all men. It means equal rights for all. It means free hands, free lips, self-government. It means universal education, light for every mind, knowledge for every child. It means that the schoolhouse is the bulwark of liberty.

Fellow Angelenos, we still need light for every mind, and while the Rabbi's words are a century old, their meaning has never rung truer. The schoolhouse remains the bulwark of liberty.

I'd like to now turn to another matter that may not sound like the stuff of dreams, but is critical if we are to improve the quality of life of our City's residents. And that's traffic.

The time we spend stuck in traffic is time we do not spend helping our kids with their homework or being productive at work.

So, Los Angeles, join me in fighting for the investment in public transportation that is the hall- $\mbox{mark}$  of any great city. Join me in implementing the common sense traffic plans that have been bottlenecked for too long. Join me in transforming Los Angeles into a city that connects our communities and brings us all closer together.

And, because improving our quality of life means protecting the quality of the water we drink and the air we breathe, join me in making L.A. the greenest big city in America. Let's provide the national leadership that's lacking on conservation and recycling. Let's show the nation that we can light a city with green power. Let's fight together for tougher air and water quality standards.

Fighting crime and fixing schools and improving our quality of life are huge challenges. And there are many more.

We need to come together as a City to meet those challenges.

And we can't do it without the effort and contributions of every neighborhood and every community of interest. We won't succeed if people north of the Hollywood Hills feel like they are not equal partners in our civic life. And we can't truly prosper if those living south of the Santa Monica freeway don't feel fully invested in our economic success.

Join me, Los Angeles.

Dream with me, Los Angeles.

And work with me to fulfill our dreams.

I've lived here all my life, and there are many places I love around the City. But whenever I go through South Los Angeles, I always try to catch a glimpse of Nuestro Pueblo, which is Spanish for "Our Town." It describes a series of towers that rise over Watts like some improbable dream.

The Watts Towers were a 33-year labor of love, built by the Italian artist and immigrant Simon Rodia. He used simple tools and cast-off materials. He worked without the aid of scaffolding or the benefit of architectural designs. And he raised his towers from the ground up.

For over half a century, the Watts Towers have stood. They've withstood natural and man-made catastrophes. They've survived despite the efforts of critics and the ravages of earthquakes and the proximity of civil unrest. And they've stood. They've stood as both a tribute to individual imagination and as a monument to the power of differ-

Seen from afar, the Watts Towers rise like the spires of a great cathedral. But close up, you are immediately drawn in by their amazing complexity. Embedded in those walls are thousands of cast-off objects, representing every imaginable color and shape and texture and form. They're made from bed frames and bottles and broken glass, from scrap metal, pot shards and ceramic tiles. When I see those towers soaring over Watts, my thoughts always return to the pieces that make up that beautiful whole. To the value in those things that people, in their haste, are so apt to cast away. To the awesome power of disparate elements working together to achieve such dazzling harmony.

Fellow Angelenos, I will never forget where I came from. And I will always believe in the value of every Angeleno. This is truly our town. And we all have a contribution to make.

Simon Rodia was asked late in his life to explain the meaning of his work, and he offered this simple reply: "I had in mind to do something big, and I did

Let's heed Mr. Rodia's words today.

Let's do something big for Los Angeles. Let's raise our eyes skyward. Let's imagine the pinnacles that we can reach together. Together, all of us, without regard to race or geography or language, without regard to age or religion or gender or sexual orientation.

Fellow Angelenos, let's make Los Angeles a City of Purpose!

Let's dare to dream!

Let's dare to dream together! Let's dare to work together!

May God bless Los Angeles, and may God

bless the United States of America.

## Villaraigosa Has Work Cut Out for Him

## **Inauguration**

Continued from Page 1

Gore, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Cardinal Roger Mahony, former Mayor Jim Hahn, and many others.

"Dream with me, Los Angeles," he said in his official speech to the audience at his inauguration (see related transcript of his inaugural address). "And work with me to fulfill our

That work is likely to involve these issues:

Budget Cuts. The City could be facing serious budget issues again, according to a warning from City Administrative Officer Bill Fujioka. The warning said that the City could spend more than it brings in the next five years, and that deficit could approach \$1 billion.

"What I will announce after July 1 is a disturbing trend of growth in our budget that I don't believe we can sustain over time," Villaraigosa told the Los Angeles Times. "People are going to be surprised.'

"I believe that one of our priorities is going to be to reduce this deficit," Villaraigosa said. Departments might be asked to scale back, he was quoted as saying.

**LAPD:** The first stop Villaraigosa made the morning after his election was to visit LAPD Chief William Bratton. Police forces can be a mayor's best friend or worst enemy.

Generally, crime statistics during the Hahn administration lowered. Villaraigosa's challenge will be to keep them there, or lower them still.

And increasing the number of officers so that the ratio is more on par with similar-sized cities has been on the burner for years. Last year, voters turned down a tax increase to fund more officers. Will Villaraigosa renew the efforts to increase the number of officers on the streets? Time will tell.

**Harbor:** The Port of LA is facing challenges on a number of fronts, all of them large-scale and expensive to treat:

- Handling increasing cargo traffic, perhaps significantly so, while keeping the Port safe from terrorism
- Allowing for commercial development along the Ports O'Call while keeping neighbors happy
- Continuing the reduction of air pollution caused by the big container ships
- Managing the huge volumes of truck traffic that can neighboring freeways

Also, Mayor Hahn came from that area of town. The San Pedro and Wilmington neighborhoods might be looking for the same home-town dedication. Will Mayor Villaraigosa be able to attend to them to their liking?

Ethics: Then-City Councilman Villaraigosa got a lot of campaign mileage by pledging a cleanup of City Hall should he be elected. So it was not surprising that the City Council became the first stand in that pledge. Five days after his inauguration, Villaraigosa urged the Council to pass legislation involving four reforms, which the Council did.

Those reforms:

■ a ban on City commissioners participating in the process of evaluating and recommending City contracts that their commissions will eventually vote on



- a ban commissioners from earning money to lobby City Hall
- a requirement that paid campaign consultants and fundraisers register with the City Ethics Commission and take classes on campaign finance rules
- a requirement for lobbyists to file their quarterly activity reports online to make it easier for the public to follow their

Also, Villaraigosa signed an executive directive that requires his staff and his appointees to commissions to attend annual ethics training and sign an ethics pledge. He also ordered commissioners to excuse themselves from voting on matters in which they have a conflict of interest.

**Transportation:** Villaraigosa is so concerned about traffic that he mentioned it specifically in his inaugural address, a pulpit usually reserved for dreaming and positive vibes.

The problems of traffic that grows more choking every year, is daunting. What is the solution? More roads? More public transportation? Legislated advantages for companies that practice time-shifting? Or could it be as simple as coordinating traffic lights, a subject that Villaraigosa has been known to bring

Whatever the possible remedies, it's viewed as important for the new mayor to address traffic, since, despite many serious challenges, it's the one most of the citizens of the City are likely to be talking about when they finally get to work.

**Wanna be heard?** What should Mayor Villaraigosa focus on? Send us a letter to the editor! talkback@cityemploy-





You probably won't get to meet Club Claims Administrator Cecilia Talbot very often ... until you really need her. That's when her service shines. So, to assure you that you are in good hands, from time to time Alive! will reprint letters commending the service given by Cecilia and her excellent staff. —Ed.

Excellent, superb. I could not have done the service without your help. Not only did you give me information and helpful suggestions, but also the financial support I needed. Plus continue to keep this attitude of love, consideration and support. In addition, you kept my personal business confidential. That meant a lot to me. God bless you, Cecilia, and others. I love you all:)"

— Dorothy J. Hinton-Adams, June 2005

Your service is very great. I was very happy the way City Employees Club responded to my need."

— Edward Walker, May 2005

The service I received was great, very f I nice and helpful in every way. Thank you for everything. A-plus."

— Shirley Dyer, May 2005

It has been most helpful! Everyone I've called has been courteous and have been patient with my questions. It was awkward for me to handle some of the things to do because of my inexperience as the Power of Attorney. Thanks for all your help!"

— Lou Dean Chamless, April 2005

xcellent! Special thanks to Cecilia T. CGreat help with questions, answers and investigation ... everyone is so helpful. Thanks, keep up the good work!"

— Tishandra Hardy, April 2005

Your service was excellent. During my bereavement, all questions were answered in a timely manner. I was always able to call and get complete answers to my questions. I was very satisfied."

- Farnise Lewis, April 2005

n a scale of one to ten I would evaluate your service at ten, because your service was very fast and to the point."

— Willie F. Garris, April 2005

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