

An Honor For Norma



Norma Torres was honored by the Guatemalan government.

■ **Norma Torres, LAPD Communications and Club Member, gets top honor from Guatemalan government.**

POLICE DEPT. — Norma Torres, 911 Dispatcher for the LAPD, Mayor of Pomona, and Club Member, was honored Dec. 16 by the Guatemalan government's cultural affairs office. She was honored as "a Guatemalan to Be Known."
Norma, who was born in Guatemala, was hon-



ored at a festive event at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre. She is the first Guatemala-born mayor of Pomona.

The event was hosted by the Guatemalan government's House of Cultural Affairs as that office's "most important event ever to take place in the United States," according to a proclamation.

The honor is the highest distinction given by the Guatemalan Congress, according to the proclamation.

Congratulations, Norma!

Ride Your Bike To Work



Council President Eric Garcetti in front of the bike lockers for City Employees who want to bike to work.

■ **Council President Eric Garcetti opens facility for employees who bike to work downtown.**

COUNCIL — On Jan. 16, Council President Eric Garcetti announced that showers, bicycle and shower lockers, and additional bicycle racks are now available for City Employees working in the Downtown Civic Center area.

"If we're going to reduce traffic in this City, then people need to have real alternatives to driving a car to work every day," he said. "A few City Employees already bike to work, but my hope is that these new facilities will make it possible for more people to do it.

"I encourage City Employees who have ever thought about biking to work to give it a try. It helps reduce traffic. It helps our environment. And it's great exercise."

The new facilities are underneath City Hall East on level P3 and will be accessible using city employee ID badges. Employees who want access to the showers must visit the Commute Options and Parking Section to have their badges programmed to allow entry. Employees who regularly bike to work may also be eligible to receive a subsidy through the City's Bike/Walk to Work program, which is administered by Personnel.

Council President Garcetti worked with General Services, Personnel and Transportation to develop the new facilities and implement the process for acquiring access. The Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition provided assistance with making the new facilities effective for cyclists.

For more information on the City of Los Angeles's bike/walk to work options, please visit: <http://www.lacity.org/per/bikewalk.htm>.



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New Bomb Squad Facility

■ **LAPD opens new Bomb Squad facility in Granada Hills.**



Story and photos courtesy Officer Chris Carson, LAPD



The Police Department's new Valley Bomb Squad facility.

POLICE DEPT. — The LAPD dedicated its new Bomb Squad Facility Jan. 10. The event, which featured City dignitaries and others, was held at the new facility, 12001 Blucher Ave. in Granada Hills, within the Department's Davis Training Facility.

The Valley Bomb Squad Facility is an 8,2000-square-foot facility, built to serve as Valley Bureau Headquarters for the Department's Hazardous Devices Section ("Bomb Squad"). Deputy Chief Michael Downing is the commanding officer for

the Counter Terrorism and Criminal Intelligence Bureau (CTCIB), which includes the Bomb Squad. The facility will house officers and detectives assigned to the Bomb Squad to speed response times for calls for service in the San Fernando Valley.

The facility was built with funding from Proposition Q. On March 5, 2002, City voters approved a Citywide Public Safety Bond Measure, for \$600 million to improve, renovate, expand and construct Public Safety (Police-Fire-

Paramedic) facilities.

Scheduled to be in attendance were Councilmember Greig Smith, City Councilmember, 12th District; Commissioner Robert Saltzman, Board of Police Commissioners; Sharon Bruno, Proposition Q



Chief William J. Bratton (third from left) receives the key to the new facility. From left: Board of Public Works Commissioner Cardenas; City Councilman Greig Smith; Chief William J. Bratton; City Engineer Gary Lee Moore; and First Assistant Chief Jim McDonnell.



Citizen Oversight Committee; Commissioner Ernesto Cardenas, Board of Public Works; Chief William J. Bratton, Chief of Police; Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer; and Police Administrator III Rhonda Sims-Lewis, Commanding Officer, Administrative and Technical Services Bureau.



Councilmember Greig Smith, Club Member, welcomes attendees to the dedication ceremony.



The project management team for the Valley Bomb Squad project included members of the LAPD; Public Works/Engineering and Contract Administration; ITA; project architect (WWCOT); the general contractor (Bernards Construction); and other members of the Proposition Q Program Management Team.