



Some of the members of the LAPD Recruitment Division who, with Personnel, produced the event. Mayor Villaraigosa speaks to the group attending the morning VIP panel session.

## Safety Officer Career Expo

### ■ LAPD, LAFD host Black History Month Career Expo.

Story and photos courtesy Bruce Whidden, Public Information Director, Personnel



An LAFD recruiter helps an interested candidate put on the more than 60 pounds of equipment used every day in fighting fires.

**PERSONNEL** — The LAFD and LAPD Black History Month Career Expo – a day of seminars, demonstrations and displays – took place Feb. 23 at Crenshaw Christian Center.

Mayor Villaraigosa kicked off the Black History Month Career Expo with a VIP program featuring LAFD Chief Douglas Barry; LAPD Chief William Bratton; Maggie Whelan, General Manager, Personnel; and City commissioners.

Presented in cooperation with Personnel, the daylong Black History Month Career Expo featured hiring seminars by both departments as well as two

opportunities to take the LAPD written examination, the first step toward a career with the LAPD. A highlight of the day was hands-on demonstrations offered by the LAFD. Young men and women attending the expo had the opportunity to see for themselves if they have what it takes to do "L.A.'s Hottest Job" by participating in a series of challenging strength and skill exercises including the hose drag, dummy pull and ladder lift.

The Black History Month Career Expo provided a chance for community members to meet police officers and firefighters and learn about the challenges and rewards of working in the public safety field. Visitors learned about the diverse career opportunities the LAPD and LAFD have to offer as well as gather information on how to prepare for success in the hiring process.



More than 104 men and women took the 90-minute LAPD written test during the two sessions at the Black History Month Career Expo. Personnel Department proctors conducted the test.



## Black Personnel's Trailblazers

### ■ LA Association of Black Personnel hosts annual Trailblazers reception.

Photos by Haywood Galbreath

**LAABP** — Community leaders, Councilmembers and City staff came together Feb. 21 for the Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel's Trailblazers Reception, held in the Tom Bradley Room at City Hall. The annual event was co-sponsored by the Oscar Joel Bryant Association and the Brotherhood Crusade.

"This event recognized individuals who have contributed to the progress of African Americans in City government as well as achieved notable positions in their City careers," said LAABP President Cora Jackson-Fossett who made the award presentations with Oscar Joel Bryant Association President Ronnie Cato.



Trailblazer honorees and participants included (back row, from left) Kenneth Garner, Cora Jackson-Fossett, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Imudiase Aimiuwu and Ronnie Cato. Seated: Rita Robinson, Bertha Hurd and Regina Adams.

The honorees were Regina Adams, Executive Officer, Rec and Parks, who started 28 years ago as a Clerk Typist and advanced to Assistant General Manager; Imudiase Aimiuwu, a Statistical Research Analyst at the DWP and who serves as the DWP's program administrator for the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan; Deputy Chief Kenneth O. Garner, Commanding Officer, LAPD's West Bureau; Bertha Hurd, the City's first and only African-American nutritionist, who is responsible for more than 1.7 million annual meals provided to City residents who are 60 years and older; and Rita Robinson, General Manager, Transportation, former director of the City's Public Works/Sanitation, and Club Board Member.

Among the 100 guests offering salutes to the honorees were Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; City Councilmembers Jan Perry and Wendy Greuel; Commissioners Valerie Lynne Shaw and Paula Daniels of the Board of Public Works; Laura Trejo, General Manager, Aging; John Reamer, Inspector, Public Works; Assistant General Managers John Fisher, Amir Sedadi and Selwyn Hollins; and City Executives Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Joseph Rouzan and Rev. Leonard Jackson.

Committee members for the events were Co-chairs Susan Huntley and Shelia Brooks-LeFridge, Linda Lanier, Jannette Allen, Adriene Allen, Amber Johnson, JoAnn Moss, Janeshia Robinson, Victoria (Tori) Orellana, and Lillian Woodfin-Parker.

The LAABP is the official representative for City of Los Angeles employees of African-American heritage. Incorporated in 1972, the LAABP advocates equal employment within the City's workforce and increased opportunities for "people of

color" to attain management and executive positions. Among the services the organization provides are career development seminars, mock interview programs and networking forums.

### 2008 Trailblazers

**Regina Adams** serves as Executive Officer, Recreation and Parks. She began her career as a Clerk Typist in 1980 and held several professional positions in the Office of the City Administrative Officer as well as Budget Director for General Services and Assistant General Manager for Animal Services. Adams received her Bachelor's degree from Cal State Los Angeles and her MBA from Cal State Northridge. She is also a California Registered Tax preparer.

**Imudiase Aimiuwu** joined the City in 2000 as a Project Assistant with General Services. He has held a variety of increasing responsible positions and currently works at the DWP as an Operation and Statistical Research Analyst, overseeing the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan and the Affordable Housing program in partnership with Housing. Aimiuwu, who studied in Florence, Italy, holds a Bachelor's degree in architecture, a Master's degree in urban planning, and a Certificate in geographic information systems.

**Kenneth Garner**, Deputy Chief, LAPD, is Commanding Officer of LAPD's West Bureau. A 30-year employee, Garner has more than 20 years of supervisory experience. He received his Associate's degree from L.A. Harbor College, his Bachelor's degree from Cal State Dominguez Hills, and he graduated from the FBI National Academy, the Supervisory Leadership Institute and the Senior Management Institute Program at Boston University. Garner is active with the Oscar Joel Bryant Foundation, the Association of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

**Bertha Hurd** is the City's first and only African-American nutritionist. She is respon-



Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa (center) joined committee and LAABP Board members (from left) Amber Johnson (Controller's Office), Audrey Atkins (Airports), Jannette Allen (LAPD), Shelia Brooks-LeFridge (Controller's Office), Linda Lanier (Personnel), Adriene Murphy (Public Works), DeMarlo Sims (DWP), Mignon Washington (Housing), Sharon Loudd (Controller's Office), Cora Jackson-Fossett (Public Works), and Terrence Montgomery (Public Works).

sible for insuring that 1.7 million annual meals provided to City residents who are 60 years and older meet federal standards for nutritional quality, and state and local requirements for safety requirements. Hurd, who began her career 21 years ago with Aging, has participated in several initiatives, including the launch of the Meals on Wheels Los Angeles program and the certification for employees of all caterers providing meals for programs funded by the City.

**Rita Robinson**, General Manager, Transportation, directs 2,000 employees to provide for the safe and optimal mobility of people and goods throughout the City. Formerly director of Public Works/Sanitation, she has served several executive assignments in the Office of the City Administrative Officer, and Rec and Parks, Housing and Community Development. Robinson, who has more than 30 years of service, is a longtime resident of Southern California and a graduate of Scripps College in Claremont.