



**Office of the Mayor
City of Los Angeles**

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

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**Contact: Matt Szabo
(213) 978-0741**

**MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA, CHIEF BRATTON ANNOUNCE LARGEST
LAPD DEPLOYMENT IN CITY HISTORY**

Police buildup has helped record citywide crime rate drop to its lowest level since 1956; number of homicides drop to 38-year low

LOS ANGELES -- Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa today joined Police Chief William Bratton and City Councilmembers Eric Garcetti, Jack Weiss and Tom LaBonge to announce that the Los Angeles Police Department has expanded to its largest deployment in its history at 9,895 officers.

“Over the past 4 years, we have implemented the most aggressive, efficient, and progressive police hiring plan in the nation,” said Mayor Villaraigosa. “And that investment is paying dividends for every household in our City.”

As a result of the most aggressive police recruitment strategy in the country, the Los Angeles Police Department will surpass its previous largest officer deployment of 9,852 recorded in June 1998. The 1998 high was due in large part to an aggressive hiring effort by former Mayor Richard Riordan which was funded by the federal government’s COPS program. When the COPS funding waned, the department began a steady decline in its ranks.

While most big cities continue cutting police budgets, Los Angeles has expanded its police force by over 700 officers and remains on track to reach 10,000 officers by the end of the year. Refusing to balance the City’s budget at the cost of the City’s public safety, the Mayor has worked with the City Council to maintain the 1,000-officer expansion a top budgetary priority.

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“We must not forget that safety is the foundation of a successful City, and we will not pull back from a strategy that makes our streets secure,” said Mayor Villaraigosa.

Since initiating the City’s police build up, LA has seen the citywide crime rate drop to its lowest level since 1956, the total number of homicides fall to a 38-year low. Gang homicides were down more than 24 percent in 2008.

Complementing the City’s historic police buildup, the Mayor’s office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development has targeted gang intervention and prevention efforts where they are needed most – in the areas of highest gang crime. In the 2008, GRYD helped to record the City’s safest summer in more than 30 years by keeping the lights on at eight parks in the most gang ridden neighborhoods with its Summer Night Lights program.

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