



ericGARCETTI

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

District 13 ? 200 N. Spring St. Room 470 ? Los Angeles ? CA 90012



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2004-5 BUDGET WILL SUPPORT A SAFE, LIVABLE CITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Councilmember Eric Garcetti applauded the fiscal year 2004-5 budget passed by the City Council for preserving and expanding vital city services in difficult fiscal times.

"Walking into this budget year was like going into the Temple of Doom," said Councilmember Garcetti, who sits on the five-person Budget and Finance committee that held grueling all-day sessions to prepare the FY2004-5 budget for a vote. "With the state responding to its fiscal crisis by taking away our local tax base, it looked as though the floor would fall away beneath us. But we emerged intact with the prize in hand: a fiscally responsible budget that helps us build a safe and livable city of opportunity in Los Angeles."

"Here's what we accomplished," said Garcetti. "We added to our police and fire departments. We provided for street paving, a need we can't afford to ignore. We added a capacity the city sorely needs: an Office of Grants that will spend every waking moment sniffing out the federal dollars that have eluded us for too long. We kept the Department of Building and Safety whole, and added an expedited plan check service in our Planning Department; these two accomplishments will accelerate investment in our communities, and keep us on the road to recovery. We saved the Cultural Affairs Department, the Environmental Affairs Department, and kept the Commission on the Status of Women and the Department of Aging independent and capable of fulfilling their important missions. And we made a down payment on our grandchildren's futures by funding the cleanup of our waterways."

"Not only that, but we did it all on time," added Garcetti. The city charter requires that the budget be approved before June 1st.

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