



**ERIC
GARCETTI**
President, Los Angeles City Council
COUNCIL DISTRICT 13



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GARCETTI CUTS TAGS BY 2/3 L.A. DODGERS' GIFT WILL FUND TRUCK FOR GRAFFITI FIGHTERS

Council President Eric Garcetti joined with Board of Public Works President Cynthia Ruiz, LAPD Central Area Commander Andrew Smith, and representatives from the L.A. Dodgers and Central City Action Committee to announce that Garcetti's campaign against graffiti, Uniting Neighborhoods To Abolish Graffiti (UNTAG) has slashed graffiti by two-thirds in Council District 13 during its first three years. Having surpassed its goal of reducing graffiti by half during the first two years of the program in 2006, community members, city paint out crews, and the police department intensified their efforts over the last twelve months to further erode the influence of taggers in Garcetti's Thirteenth Council District.

"UNTAG proves that if we organize neighbors and demand quick response, we can eliminate visual blight and improve quality of life," said Garcetti.

Using a consistent methodology during each of the past three years, Garcetti's staff counted 20,763 tags to establish a baseline in 2004. Two years later, they counted 9,419 tags in the 13.13 square miles of Council District 13, a 55% reduction. This year, that number fell to 6,677, a nearly 68% drop over the three year span.

Garcetti was joined by members of the Dodgers organization who presented a check for \$15,000 to the Central City Action Committee (CCAC), one of the city's graffiti paint out crews. The funds will be used to purchase an equipment truck for CCAC.

"The Los Angeles Dodgers are proud to be a part of such a worthy community project through our friends at the Central City Action Committee," said Dodger Senior Vice President of Public Affairs Howard Sunkin. "Jamie and Frank McCourt have increased the Dodgers' efforts in the community dramatically and keeping the areas surrounding Dodger Stadium clean and beautiful is extremely important to the entire organization and its fans."

"Driving down any street in this area when UNTAG started three years ago, it was clear how much a program like this was needed," said Cynthia Ruiz, President of the Board of Public Works. "UNTAG is a model for the entire city of Los Angeles."

"Working with the council district and the community, the Los Angeles Police Department is committed to rooting out the base crimes that threaten our neighborhoods," said Assistant Commander Andrew Smith of the Central Division. "Councilmember Garcetti continues to work to improve the quality of life in the downtown area and beyond through programs like UNTAG."

UNTAG utilizes a network of community members who take responsibility for reporting tags to graffiti removal crews. Garcetti has recruited 313 active "block captains" who work to quickly report tags, simultaneously discouraging taggers and reducing their ability to intimidate communities.

Furthermore, Garcetti has continued to find funding for the installation of cameras at graffiti "hot spots." This gives police 24-hour access to areas that are chronically tagged, and allows them to quickly respond to incidents. Such technology has reduced the frequency of tagging at Lake Street Park, locations along the Vermont Corridor, and businesses along Hollywood Boulevard.

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