



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



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PHOTOS AVAILABLE

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## **GARCETTI, LABONGE UNVEIL YEREVAN SISTER CITY SIGN**

Council President Eric Garcetti and Councilmember Tom LaBonge joined Armenian-Americans from throughout the city at the official unveiling of the Yerevan-Los Angeles Sister City sign. The placement of the sign on the downtown landmark that identifies the direction and distance to each of Los Angeles' 26 Sister Cities caps a two-year journey that began when Garcetti visited the Armenian capital in the summer of 2005. Yerevan joins Beirut, Mexico City, Berlin, and a host of other cities around the world as an official sister city of Los Angeles, a program that promotes cultural, educational, and commercial exchanges between municipalities.

"Today we formalize the connection between two of the world's great Armenian cities," said Garcetti, referencing the fact that Los Angeles has the second largest population of Armenians outside of the Central Asian nation. "With the unveiling today, Yerevan officially became a Sister City on our signage downtown, but it has long been a sister city in our hearts."

"What a great occasion to see Yerevan added today to our Sister Cities of Los Angeles monument," said Councilmember Tom LaBonge, president of the local chapter. "We cannot undervalue the importance of recognizing this very important constituency that adds so much to the diversity of our great city."

"Today's celebration means a lot to me as an Armenian-American and to all Armenians living in Los Angeles," said Souzi Zerounian-Khanzadian, president of the Los Angeles-Yerevan Sister City Association. "We look forward to working with Council President Garcetti and the city to further connect Los Angeles and Yerevan through our upcoming events and programs."

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