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GARCETTI DELIVERS STATE OF HOLLYWOOD ADDRESS
Calls on Hollywood community to support new summer program for at-risk youth

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles Council President Eric Garcetti today delivered his annual State of Hollywood address to a sell-out crowd. At the event organized by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, Garcetti said that Hollywood is strong with new jobs, entertainment opportunities, green and open space, and housing.

“I see ahead of us a Hollywood that is first and foremost a great neighborhood,” said Garcetti. “A great neighborhood is a place that is a world-class tourist, entertainment and shopping destination. A great neighborhood is a place where kids can be safe, play in community parks, and succeed in great schools. A great neighborhood helps support businesses and rewards hard-working families of all income levels and backgrounds, expanding opportunity and fostering a culture of giving back to our community.”

Garcetti also urged the Hollywood community to help him bring to Hollywood a new program designed to give at-risk youth positive things to do during the summer months. He created and launched At the Park After Dark in Glassell Park in 2007 after a 16 year-old girl was shot at dusk just two blocks from the Glassell Recreation Center. The program kept the recreation center open until 11 p.m. and gave participants the opportunity to play organized sports, complete art projects, and learn how to DJ. He asked the audience of business and community leaders to support his efforts to expand At the Park After Dark to Lemon Grove Park and the Hollywood Recreation Center.

“This summer, I want to bring At the Park After Dark to Hollywood, and I need you to help me because the threat to our young people is all too real,” said Garcetti.

This was the first State of Hollywood speech that was not attended by Honorary Mayor of Hollywood Johnny Grant, who passed away earlier this month. Garcetti paid tribute to Grant, saying “there is a great absence in this room today, but there is an even greater presence on the streets of a neighborhood that Johnny Grant helped renew. In a town built on dreams, Johnny dreamed some of our biggest... He had an immovable faith in Hollywood and understood that dreams only come true through hard work. Johnny hung on until his faith and hard work changed the face of our town.”

A copy of Garcetti’s speech is available at www.ericgarcetti.com.

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