



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

## **ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA**

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### **GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY ENDS RESERVATIONS-ONLY SYSTEM, OPENS DIRECT PUBLIC ACCESS TO MARK ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

*650,000 people visited newly renovated Observatory in first year;  
Beginning Saturday, visitors can drive up to the building without reservations*

LOS ANGELES — Marking the one-year anniversary of the Griffith Observatory's re-opening, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and the City Recreation and Parks Department today announced that reservations will no longer be needed to visit the Observatory beginning Saturday, November 3.

"I can think of no better way to celebrate the Griffith Observatory's one-year anniversary than by ensuring that all Angelenos have a chance to enjoy this cosmic treasure on their own, at any time," Mayor Villaraigosa said. "In the city of dreams, now every Angeleno has a chance to see the stars."

"It's been a great first year since the Observatory re-opened, and I welcome everyone back to see the stars and the city," said City Councilmember Tom Labonge. "Parking is limited so walk, bike and hike to up to the Observatory."

Timed reservations had been required to visit the Observatory since it re-opened on November 2, 2006, after a four-year, \$93 million renovation that expanded the exhibition and public space by 40,000 square feet.

Beginning Saturday, the reservations-based shuttle service to the Observatory will end, with limited weekend public transit starting again on November 24.

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“The reservation and shuttle system accomplished exactly what it was designed to do, which was to ensure a high-quality visitor experience while minimizing any disruptions to neighborhood residents around Griffith Park, especially after we reopened,” Department of Recreation and Parks General Manager Jon Kirk Mukri said. “We believe the time is right for the transition back to direct public access.”

Observatory traffic staff and Griffith Park rangers will be on hand over the weekend to help keep traffic moving through the park and to prevent traffic delays if the Observatory’s parking lot and adjacent roads reach capacity.

City officials have asked Angelenos visiting the Observatory to carpool, hike, bicycle or take a bus or taxi to decrease the number of vehicles coming in and out of Griffith Park.

Since the November 2006 opening, more than 650,000 visitors have come to the Observatory, spending an average of four hours each in its expanded galleries, exhibits, renovated theatre, planetarium and café.

For more information on the Observatory, please visit [www.GriffithObservatory.org](http://www.GriffithObservatory.org) or [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org).

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