



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

## **ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 11, 2008**

**Contact: Matt Szabo  
(213) 978-0741**

### **MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA, CHIEF BRATTON ANNOUNCE MAJOR MILESTONE IN POLICE HIRING CAMPAIGN**

*Police recruitment effort reaches halfway point of Mayor's pledge to add 1,000  
new cops by 2010*

LOS ANGELES – Delivering on his pledge to put 1,000 new cops on the streets of the City, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, LAPD Chief William Bratton and Councilmembers Jack Weiss and Bill Rosendahl marked a major milestone in the City's police hiring efforts today, announcing that more than 500 police officers have been added to the force since July 2005.

"Expanding the ranks of the Los Angeles Police Department is the central priority of my administration and it is the central purpose of local government," Mayor Villaraigosa said. "I will do everything in my power to protect the buildup of the LAPD. It is a promise we made to the residents of Los Angeles, and it is a promise I intend to keep."

Los Angeles is the most under-policed big City in America. When Mayor Villaraigosa took office, there were 9,181 police officers patrolling the streets of Los Angeles. In his first budget, the Mayor worked with the City Council to fund a 1,000-officer expansion of the LAPD. As a result of this effort and an aggressive police recruitment strategy, there are now more than 9,700 officers in the police department for the first time since 1998.

At the current pace, the LAPD will reach and surpass 9,852 officers in its ranks – the highest police deployment number in LA history – by the end of this year. In addition, the City is on-track to reach 10,000 officers by 2009.

- MORE -

Last year, the citywide crime rate decreased to its lowest level since 1956 – the earliest year for which data are available. The total number of homicides fell to a 38-year low, reaching a level unseen in the City since 1969, and gang murders dropped nearly 30 percent.

The police buildup is Mayor Villaraigosa’s top budgetary priority, and maintaining the progress of the hiring efforts will remain unchanged, even in tough economic times.

# # #