



## Remarks by Supervisor Don Knabe as Chairman of the Board

I am honored to have been selected by my colleagues to serve as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. First, even though she is now officially enjoying retirement, I would like to begin by thanking Supervisor Yvonne Burke for her service as Chair of the Board during 2008. Her many years of leadership and grace guided the County through very challenging times and all of us appreciate her work on behalf of the 10 million people that call our County home. Now looking towards the future, it is my privilege to welcome our new colleague, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. I am certain that his many talents and passion on the issues will be of great benefit to this Board and our County in the years ahead.

We have been through a lot over the last several years... the on-going healthcare crisis, the State budget crunch and labor negotiations. I know we have many more challenging days ahead of us, but I believe that if we continue to work together as a strong, cohesive group, we will get the job done. I look forward to working with every department as we chart the course for the County of Los Angeles over the next year.

In my opinion, charting that course is straightforward and uncomplicated. It does not require long speeches, rhetoric, or partisanship. As we establish the vision of this Board and this County for the year ahead, I want to remind everyone that the answers to some of life's most complicated questions are rooted in common sense solutions. I believe the same can be said for the challenges that face the County. We need to ask ourselves:

1. Are we being thrifty with County tax dollars?
2. Are we being helpful and courteous to the customers of County government?
3. Are we prepared to meet the needs of our citizens and seize new opportunities when they surface?
4. Are we brave enough to make the hard decisions even when they are not popular or politically advantageous?

I want to commit to you now as Chairman of the Board, the answers to those questions will be yes. I also pledge that there will not be a Democrat or Republican solution to the challenges facing the County in the year ahead. There will only be solutions that benefit our customers... the taxpayers and residents of the County of Los Angeles. There is no denying

*“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”*



that the current economic challenges facing our nation are also going to have a significant impact on the County of Los Angeles. With that in mind, I am not going to lay out a list of goals or projects that I intend to achieve this year.

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# EVENT CALENDAR

Supervisor Antonovich and the County of Los Angeles Presents:  
The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual

“Remembering Our Veterans: Past, Present and Future”  
Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Arcadia County Park  
405 S. Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia 91006, (626) 967-1441

**Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden**  
301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia 91007

For a list of seminars, workshops and classes, please visit  
[www.arboretum.org](http://www.arboretum.org) or call (626) 821-4623

**Los Angeles County Museum of Art**  
5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles 90036  
(323) 857-6000  
[www.lacma.org](http://www.lacma.org)

## Arts

Through March 1 - Vanity Fair Portraits: Photographs 1913-2008  
Through March 8 - The Arts and Crafts Movement: Masterworks  
from the Max Palevsky and Jodie Evans Collection  
Through March 15 - Five Centuries of Indonesian Textiles:  
Selections from the Mary Hunt Kahlenberg Collection  
Through March 29 - Francis Alÿs: Fabiola

**Center Theatre Group**  
[www.centertheatregroup.org](http://www.centertheatregroup.org)

**Ahmanson Theatre**  
Through March 1 - Minsky's  
March 11-29 - Frost/Nixon  
April 18-May 31 - Ain't Misbehavin'

**Mark Taper Forum**  
Through March 15 - Pippin  
April 2 to May 17 - Lydia

**Kirk Douglas Theatre**  
March 14-18 - DouglasPlus  
March 14 - Darwin  
March 18-21 - How Theatre Failed America  
March 22 - The Last Cargo Cult  
March 26-28 - The Projectionist

**Los Angeles Opera**  
(performances in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion)  
[www.losangelesopera.com](http://www.losangelesopera.com)

Feb 21-March 15 - Wagner's Das Rheingold

**Natural History Museum**  
900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles 90007  
For a list of events, please visit [www.nhm.org](http://www.nhm.org) or call  
(213) 763-DINO

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## Ringling in the New Year with New Laws

Below are the major changes to driving regulations and vehicle equipment.

**Texting While Driving** (SB 28, Simitian) This new law makes it an infraction to write, send, or read text-based communication on an electronic wireless communications device, such as a cell phone, while driving a motor vehicle. Previously this was only illegal for individuals under 18 years of age, but now has been expanded to all drivers.

**Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Zero Tolerance** (AB 1165, Maze) This new law prohibits a convicted DUI offender from operating a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol level (BAC) of .01 percent or greater while on probation for DUI. The law requires the driver to submit to a Preliminary Alcohol Screening (PAS) test, a portable breath test to determine the presence of alcohol. If the driver refuses, or if the driver submits and has a BAC of .01 or greater, a citation will be issued, the driver's license will be taken and driving privileges will be suspended. In addition, the vehicle will be impounded.

**Alcohol-Related Reckless Driving** (AB 2802, Houston) This new law requires the court to order a person convicted of alcohol-related reckless driving to participate in a licensed DUI program for at least nine months, if that person has a prior conviction for alcohol-related reckless driving or DUI within ten years. Additionally, the court is required to revoke

**NEW LAWS**  
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Articles and other submissions to the *County DIGEST* may be edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

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opportunities with the  
County of Los Angeles

## Supervisor Molina Honors Skid Row Demonstration Project

*Approximately 300 Adults, 700 Children Receiving Service and Housing*

Supervisor Gloria Molina formally honored members of the County’s Skid Row Demonstration Project Team at the December 9, 2008 Board of Supervisors meeting (*pictured*) for their success in helping get approximately 1,000 people off of downtown L.A.’s Skid Row streets.



“This project started out with a ‘zero tolerance’ policy for kids on Skid Row but has evolved into a mission to save families—and now we’ve established a model for how to do that,” said Supervisor Molina. “It’s a tough job but if you surround a family with supportive services and move forward in partnership with the family, you can do it. Our goal has been to create a mechanism to help these families without being overly intrusive in their lives. We need to empower them to help them create their own unique solution. That’s really important and while the leadership of this project is here with us for this presentation, I also want to be sure and thank the front-line folks that are out there every single day.”

Supervisor Molina officially initiated her effort in October 2005 when she directed the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Health Services (DHS), Department of Mental Health (DMH), and Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to visit all Skid Row shelters and missions each business day to ensure that eligible families immediately began receiving public benefits to which they were entitled.

In 2006, the County began contracting with the non-profit organization Beyond Shelter to directly administer the program and began working in conjunction with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) to supply program participants with housing vouchers. When the County created the Department of Public Health (DPH) in August 2006, it, too, began contributing to the project. Each Skid Row Demonstration Project Team includes a DPSS

homelessness case manager, along with staff from DCFS, DHS, DMH, DPH, HACLA, and Beyond Shelter.

Supervisor Molina’s program requires that families living in Skid Row be provided with intensive case management and connected with an array of services, ranging from food stamps and hotel vouchers to mental health services and substance abuse treatment. It also requires that every child encountered by the team be assessed for DCFS intervention and appropriately referred; that eligible families be enrolled in the CalWORKs programs; and that participants be provided with emergency, transitional, and permanent housing as soon as possible.

To date, HACLA has supplied 300 housing vouchers and the County has spent \$9.6 million on the Skid Row Demonstration Project. As a result, at least 1,000 individuals—including approximately 700 children and 300 adults—are now off the streets of Skid Row.

“When we first started this project, a lot of people accused us of criminalizing poverty but I hope they see now that our interest was in getting families on a more positive track,” Supervisor Molina said. “We had to overcome the fear felt by Skid Row residents and even our own County employees that all we’d be doing was separating children from their parents. But our interest was always in preserving families. Now we’ve earned their trust and a good reputation by building a positive track record. Through our program, kids are better off. They’re out of Skid Row’s unsafe environment. Their parents are connected to jobs, services, and housing. The family is our focus.”

# RETIREES

*Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 40 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:*

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES:** Elizabeth V. Collins, Janell M. Jonice  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Edward F. Wachter  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY:** David Flint  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Ruth Johnson, Aida S. Mejia  
**SHERIFF:** Cynthia N. Belden

*Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:*

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES:** Lorraine Harper, Netta Manzo  
**FIRE:** Edward M. Gil, Ernie R. Golphenee  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Edward Adams, Consuelo D. Basilio, Dan Brisker, Michael L. Grant, Starlet D. Jackson, Theresa A. Maynes, Rosalinda Mireles, Gloria Wingfield  
**PROBATION:** Victor A. Montana, Andrea Wade  
**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Martha D. Oneil

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Patricia A. Smith, Dung H. Thai, Thu C. Tran, Irma J. Turner, Freda M. Wilkerson  
**PUBLIC WORKS:** James R. Hager  
**SHERIFF:** Dennis M. Chavez, Marcia K. Townsend  
**SUPERIOR COURT:** Harlean M. Carrol, Yvonne G. Lane, Ronald H. Rose

*Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 25 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:*

**ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Guy E. O'Brien  
**AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:** Juanita Stewart-Pinkney  
**COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES:** Thuy P. Le  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Phillip J. Miyazaki  
**FIRE:** Steven H. Herman, Franklin E. Jones, James O. Jordan IV  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Barbara Babatunde, Patana Boonmee, Brenda M. Range, Long K. To, Somporn Ungamrung  
**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Maria E. Weniger  
**PROBATION:** Louis A. Gutierrez  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Sharon Goldberg  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Brenda L. Frazier, Dephenia Wilder  
**SHERIFF:** Michelle C. Lovas, Emerencian I. Santos  
**SUPERIOR COURT:** Georgiana Dewall, Charles E. Keen

## Marina del Rey's Admiralty Park to be Renamed in Honor of Supervisor Burke

In honor of her retirement and decades of community service, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved renaming Admiralty Park in Marina del Rey as Yvonne B. Burke Park.

The name change, proposed by Supervisor Don Knabe, honors Supervisor Burke's 16 years of service representing the Second District. In his proposal, Supervisor Knabe also cited Supervisor Burke's many firsts, including becoming the first African-American elected to the Board, and devoting her entire professional life to public service, whether as an elected official, an attorney, or as an official of the U.S. Olympic Organizing Committee.

The motion is actually the second proposal to name Admiralty Park after Supervisor Burke. During her original appointment to the Board of Supervisors in 1979, representing the Fourth District, she was instrumental in advancing the development of a park running along Admiralty Way in Marina del Rey. With park construction completed just after she left office the first time, the Board of Supervisors approved naming it the "Yvonne Brathwaite Burke Park."

However, soon after, a recommendation was made to honor her service by renaming the Health Services' West District office to the "Yvonne Brathwaite Burke Health Center." Determining that this was a more fitting tribute to Supervisor Burke due to her interest and work in the health field, the Board of Supervisors adopted this subsequent recommendation and rescinded its earlier order, instead naming the Marina del Rey Park as "Admiralty Park."

"Supervisor Burke has a deep personal attachment and commitment to Marina del Rey dating back nearly 30 years," said Supervisor Knabe. "I am proud to honor my colleague and my friend by finally and permanently renaming this park with the name it should rightfully have."



## Mark Ridley-Thomas Joins Board of Supervisors as Second District Supervisor

On December 1, 2008 before a standing-room only crowd of over 700 supporters, family, close colleagues and an additional audience of 500 individuals seated in the outside courtyard, Mark Ridley-Thomas was sworn in as the first African-American male elected to the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, a high school graduate of Second District Manual Arts High School, is no stranger to the political arena or the landscape of the Supervisorial District he serves. He earned his baccalaureate degree in Social Relations (minor in Government) and master's degree in Religious Studies (concentration in Christian ethics) from Immaculate Heart College. He went on to receive his Ph.D. in Social Ethics and Policy Analysis from the University of Southern California (USC).

First elected to public office in 1991, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas has served collectively as an elected official for 17 years with distinction on the Los Angeles City Council for nearly 12 years; two terms in the California State Assembly; and most recently, prior to joining the County Board of Supervisors, as a California State Senator, serving the 26<sup>th</sup> District. His career prior to his tenure as an elected official was a brief five-year period as a dedicated high school teacher, followed by a decade of service as the Executive Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Los Angeles.

The Second District seat held for the last 16 years by now retired Yvonne B. Burke, is the most diverse District with a population of over 2.5 million residents. Its cities include Carson, Compton, Culver City, Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lynwood and portions of the City of Los Angeles and unincorporated areas of South and Southwest Los Angeles County.

The oath of office was administered by San Francisco City and County District Attorney, Kamala D. Harris. With no delay following the oath of office, all present were up on their feet offering a



standing round of applause to Supervisor Ridley-Thomas before his official address.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas brings a new theme of “Change in the Second District.” He began his address by giving thanks to the many volunteers, campaign members, elected officials, and community religious leaders who offered a great deal of support throughout his Supervisorial campaign. He addressed his immediate priorities that include healthcare, employment, and public safety. In addition, he reinforced his goal to reopen Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital for the residents of the Second District.

Sharing the words of famed Princeton University professor and civil rights leader Cornel West (Author of *Hope On a Tightrope: Words & Wisdom*), Supervisor Ridley-Thomas spoke of the scholar's call for civic engagement with an emphasis on leadership. Quoting West, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas stated to the crowd that “Leadership is fundamental and there is no significant social movement without visionary and analytical leadership by people of courage and integrity.”

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas concluded his address by encouraging citizens of Second District communities to join him as he transforms the District by expanding the boundaries of participatory democracy. His last words were those of empowerment, “This is a period for great change – we are the Second Supervisorial District and together we are the keys to change.”

To learn more about newly elected Second District Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and to subscribe to the Second District Empowerment Express, visit [www.ridley-thomas.lacounty.gov](http://www.ridley-thomas.lacounty.gov).

# ENRICHING LIVES...

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Access Awards Luncheon

On October 20, 2008, in recognition of October as “Disability Awareness Month,” the Board of Supervisors and the Commission on Disabilities hosted their 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Access Awards Luncheon. This event is held annually to honor individuals, corporations, and public entities that have made outstanding contributions and/or have demonstrated



leadership, commitment, inspiration, facilitation or promotion of accessibility and equality for people with disabilities.

The awards luncheon was held at the Kyoto Hotel and Garden in downtown Los Angeles. Entertainment was provided by the fabulous a cappella trio *Outta Sight*, three sight impaired young men with melodious voices.

Former Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke was celebrated at this event as a woman who broke barriers for women and African-Americans in government with the “Lady of Firsts” exhibit. Additionally, the amazing artwork of Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Center patients was featured.

Among the 200 plus attendees present at this event were the Honorable Joseph Esquivel, current Councilman and former Mayor of the City of Lakewood, the Honorable Supervisors Yvonne B. Burke (2nd District) and Michael D. Antonovich (5th District), as well as a myriad of individuals and advocates of the disability community.

The Commission was honored to recognize and present awards to the following outstanding individuals:

Billy Barty Award - Lou Ferrigno, Actor & Body Builder/ Reserve Deputy, *Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*  
Nadia Powers Leadership Award - Chip Hazen, ADA Compliance Officer, *Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)*

Pearl Ella Johnson Award - Alan H. Woo, Director of Planning and Program Development, *Community Action Partnership of Orange County*

Chairperson's Award - MOMS Pharmacy

Jane Small Advocacy Award - HALSA, Inc. (HIV & AIDS Legal Services Alliance, Inc.)

1st District - Salvation Army-Harbor Light Center

2nd District - Sandy Varga, Disability Rights Advocate

2nd District Leadership Award - Michael Agyin, Disability Rights Advocate

3rd District - Braille Institute

4th District - Chuck Martrucci, Community Services Coordinator, *City of Lakewood*

5th District - Lou Bozigian, Co-Owner, *Coldwell Banker/Bozigian Realty*

With proceeds generated from this gala event, the Commission is able to sponsor the Bill Tainter Scholarship Program for students with disabilities, and support the Commission's outreach to the disabled community. Since the inception of this program in 2003, the Commission on Disabilities has awarded a total of \$60,000 in scholarships to 30 graduating high school seniors with disabilities in pursuit of a higher education. These scholarships serve as a launching point to assist students with disabilities to achieve independence and self-sufficiency. On August 5, 2008, the Commission awarded \$2,000 scholarships to five students, each representing a Supervisorial District: Troy Hines (1st District), Binna Kim (2nd District), Jessica Quintana (3rd District), Ramiro Valderrama (4th District), and Eric Azus (5th District).

The Commission extends a special “thanks” to its Corporate Sponsors: Washington Mutual (WaMu), The Resnick Family Foundation, Inc., American Honda Motors Co., Inc., MTA, Mr. Lou Bozigian, Coldwell Banker, Bozigian Realty, and everyone that contributed to the success of the event. The Commission looks forward to many rewarding future luncheons, and the continued support of the disabled community.



Left to Right: Phil Luna, Mike Leum, Janet Blasius, and Arthur Kassell, (LASD), Actor/Body Builder Lou Ferrigno (Billy Barty Award), and Carla Ferrigno.



Left to Right: Janet A. Neal, 1st Vice President of Commission on Disabilities; the Honorable Joseph Esquivel, Councilman and former Mayor of the City of Lakewood; Chuck Martrucci (4th District Award), Rick Velasquez, Deputy (Supervisor Don Knabe), and Glenda Wina, Director of Special Projects, County Office of Protocol.



From left to right: Former Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Michael Agyin (2nd District Leadership Award), and Sandy Varga (2nd District Award)

Lou Bozigian (5th District Award) and Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich.

# County of Los Angeles Strategic Plan



"Enriching Lives"

## County Vision

Our **purpose** is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient and high quality public services that promote the self-sufficiency, well-being and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Our **philosophy** of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our **shared values**:

- **A can-do attitude** - we approach each challenge believing that, together, a solution can be achieved.
- **Accountability** - we accept responsibility for the decisions we make and the actions we take.
- **Compassion** - we treat those we serve and each other in a kind and caring manner.
- **Commitment** - we always go the extra mile to achieve our mission.
- **Integrity** - we act consistent with our values.
- **Professionalism** - we perform to a high standard of excellence.
- **Respect for diversity** - we value the uniqueness of every individual and their perspective.
- **Responsiveness** - we take the action needed in a timely manner.

Our **position** as the premier organization for those working in the public interest is established by:

- A capability to undertake programs that have public value;
- An aspiration to be recognized through our achievements as the model for civic innovation; and a pledge to always work to earn the public trust.

## County Mission

*To enrich lives through effective and caring service*

## Strategic Plan Goals

- |                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Service Excellence           | 5. Children and Families' Well-Being |
| 2. Workforce Excellence         | 6. Community Services                |
| 3. Organizational Effectiveness | 7. Health and Mental Health          |
| 4. Fiscal Responsibility        | 8. Public Safety                     |

Gloria Molina  
Supervisor  
First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor  
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor  
Third District

Don Knabe  
Supervisor  
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor  
Fifth District

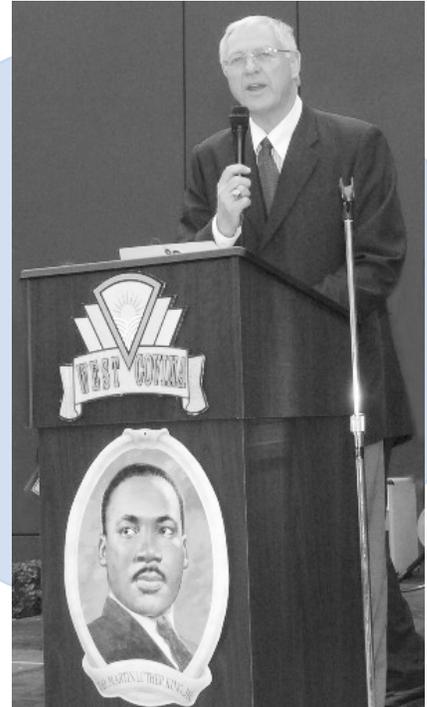
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## Supervisor Antonovich Commemorates “Black History Month”

As we commemorate Black History Month, we pay homage to the countless contributions African-Americans have made to our County and our nation — in government, business, the arts, education and religion.

Let us also honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and remember what he preached and what he died for. Through his leadership, he fought for individuals to be judged for the content of their character not the color of their skin. He used the pulpit, as a minister of the Christian faith, to preach what the Gospel teaches us to respect and love one another.

We honor Dr. King’s dream by strengthening our families and providing children with hope and opportunity. In the County of Los Angeles, there are over 600 foster children available for adoption. To provide a loving, supportive home for a child in need, please call (888) 811-1121. As Dr. King said, “the time is always right to do what is right.”



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### NEW LAWS

*continued from page 2*

the person’s probation for the failure to enroll in, participate in, or complete a licensed DUI program.

**Global Positioning Systems (GPS)** (SB 1567, Oropeza) This new law allows a portable GPS device to be mounted in a 7-inch square in the lower corner of the windshield on the passenger side of the vehicle, or in a 5-inch square in the lower corner of the windshield on the driver’s side. These are the only two locations on a *windshield* where a GPS device can be mounted. The GPS device can only be used for navigational purposes while the motor vehicle is being operated, and it is required to be mounted outside of an airbag deployment zone.

**Motorcycles** (AB 2272, Fuentes) This new law changes the definition of a motorcycle by deleting the weight limitation and deleting the separate definition for electrically powered motorcycles. The law will now allow fully enclosed, three-wheeled vehicles to have access to high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes regardless of occupancy.

**Clean Air Stickers: Misuse and Penalties** (SB 1720, Lowenthal) This new law makes it an infraction for anyone who forges, counterfeits, falsifies, passes, or attempts to pass, acquire, possess, sell, or offer for sale a genuine or counterfeit “Clean Air Sticker.”

**911 Telephone System Abuse** (AB 1976, Benoit) This new law increases the penalties for any person who knowingly uses, or allows the use of, the 911 telephone system for any reason other than an emergency. Those who misuse, or allow the misuse of, the 911 telephone system are guilty of an infraction, and subject to either a written warning or a fine.

**Special License Plates** (AB 190, Bass) This new law, *when approved by local authorities*, allows veterans whose vehicles display plates honoring Pearl Harbor Survivors, Legion of Valor recipients, former American Prisoners of War, Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, or Purple Heart recipients to park their vehicles that weigh not more than 6,000 pounds gross weight, without charge, in any metered parking space.

**Spilling Cargo Loads** (AB 2714, Keene) This new law eases restrictions on cargo loads of straw or hay to allow individual pieces that do not pose a threat to life or property, to escape from bales of straw or hay that are being transported by a vehicle upon a highway, so long as those bales are loaded and secured according to federal regulations.

**Assault on Highway Workers** (SB 1509, Lowenthal) This new law provides an increased penalty for assault and battery crimes committed against Caltrans highway workers who are engaged in the performance of their duties.

**Employee  
Wellness  
Fairs**



Wellness Fairs are sponsored by the Joint Labor Management Advisory Committee on Productivity Enhancement. In 2008, a record breaking seven Fairs were held throughout the County. A total of 3,430 employees attended the Wellness Fairs — a huge increase over the 2,100 attending the four 2007 Fairs. Wellness Fairs can help save lives! At the 2008 Wellness Fairs, an alarming number of employees were identified as having elevated blood pressure levels and/or high glucose levels. Over 600 employees were identified with immediate health concerns compared to only 162 in 2007! At the Fair, if an employee receives screening results indicating an abnormal read, the employee is advised to immediately contact their physician.

Employee Wellness Fairs are the perfect place to check on your health by receiving free health screenings and wellness information. County and Union sponsored medical and dental carriers provide valuable health screenings such as blood pressure and glucose (blood sugar) checks, Body Mass Index (BMI), Dermascan, vision and oral health. Also, the Employee Assistance Program, the Office of Women’s Health, and the Joint Labor Management Committee on Office Ergonomics offer a variety of wellness tips and information. These screenings not only create awareness of your health but can help discover health problems and risks in people who may not know they have them.

Have you checked your health status lately? Don’t delay; it’s best to know now rather than later.

**Supervisor Yaroslavsky Joins  
“Run for Her 5k” to Fight Ovarian Cancer**



*Left to right:* Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky; Dr. Beth Karlan, Director, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Women’s Cancer Research Institute; Sparky, the L.A. Sparks WNBA mascot; and Dr. Karlan’s husband, Dr. Scott Karlan, Director of Physician Education at the Saul and Joyce Brandman Breast Center at Cedars-Sinai. All were on hand to participate in the RUN FOR HER 5k Run & Friendship Walk at Pan Pacific Park to raise funds for Cedars-Sinai’s ovarian cancer research project and heighten public awareness of the disease. Each year, gynecologic and breast cancers claim an estimated 70,000 women’s lives, and 250,000 women are diagnosed with breast or reproductive system cancers, including 22,000 who are diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

**Van Nuys Courthouse Opens Child-Friendly Waiting Room**

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky strings beads with a youngster (pictured) at the new Van Nuys Courthouse waiting room, which offers a reassuring and child-friendly environment for youngsters whose parents or guardians are involved in various types of court-



related business such as attending hearings, filing court papers, or seeking advice from the Self-Help Legal Access Center. The waiting room frees up parents to deal with their legal issues, secure in the knowledge that their children are safe, entertained and well supervised. The waiting room also spares the children from tedious, complicated and sometimes heated court proceedings. Supervisor Yaroslavsky’s office contributed roughly 80% of the project’s capital budget costs in partnership with the Valley Community Legal Foundation of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association, which contributed the balance.

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## A Show of Civic Pride in Pacoima

On Saturday, December 6, 2008, the Pacoima Parade celebrated its 41<sup>st</sup> year with an event drawing an estimated 5,000 in attendance. The parade was sponsored by the Pacoima Chamber of Commerce, led by President Jorge Quezada.

Pictured with Supervisor Yaroslavsky, from left to right are: Ed Johnson; Ismael Maldonado; Leroy Geter; and Elizabeth Floyd, all members of the Pacoima Neighborhood Council.



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## Supervisor Antonovich Honors the Los Angeles Kings for Promoting Permanency and Positive Outcomes for Children in the Foster Care System

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich honored the Los Angeles Kings and one of hockey's great players, Luc Robitaille, for their hard work and dedication towards promoting positive outcomes for children in foster care.

The Kings partnered with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to find permanent and loving families for foster youth through their support of the Freddie Mac Foundation's Wednesday's Child Program on Fox 11 News, the Heart Gallery Los Angeles, and DCFS's adoption matching events and awareness campaigns.

There are over 8,000 children living in foster homes or group homes in the County of Los Angeles— who, for one reason or another, have no parents and no homes. Nearly 600 are waiting to be adopted. These children are waiting for families to give them the love and support they need. Most are between the ages of 5 and 15.

“Families who adopt show the generous side of our nation,” said Supervisor Antonovich. “Every child deserves a permanent home, and when parents adopt a child to love as their own, lives are forever changed.”

“To stop the proliferation of gangs and violence, our children need to grow up in stable, loving homes. Our



*From left to right: Trish Ploehn, Director, DCFS; Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Luc Robitaille, Jennifer Weinstein, Danielle Prado, James Cefaly*

children are our future leaders and they are also our future criminals — we can make a difference,” added Supervisor Antonovich.

“Thank you very much. For many years, the Los Angeles Kings has been a proud sponsor of the Freddie Mac Foundation's Wednesday's Child Program, and we support the endeavors of the Department of Children and Family Services in the collective quest to find permanent and loving homes for hundreds of the County's foster children,” said Luc Robitaille.

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## Supervisor Antonovich Honors Mike Scioscia and the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim for Capturing the 2008 American League West Division Championship

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich honored one of baseball's great Manager's, Mike Scioscia, on guiding the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim to the 2008 American League West Division Championship with an official presentation before the Board of Supervisors.



Under Scioscia's leadership, the Angels have captured a record breaking four American League Western Division Championships (2004, 2005, 2007, 2008), as well as leading the Angels to their first World Series Championship in 2002. In addition, the Angels posted over 100 wins in a single season for the first time in franchise history.

The year 2008 marked the ninth season for Scioscia as Manager of the Angels. He owns an 803-655 win/loss record for a .551 winning percentage with the halos. Presently the longest tenured manager in the American League, he is the 16<sup>th</sup> Manager in Angels History and has led the Angels to five straight winning seasons (2004-2008). "Michael, we want to give you, as Manager of the Year, this plaque from the County of Los Angeles, and wish you many, many more successful seasons," added Supervisor Antonovich.

Supervisor Antonovich also honored the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim for inviting the County's boys and girls to attend their annual children's holiday celebration at Angel's stadium.

### KNABE REMARKS

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As it is, we face a myriad of tough decisions to ensure our County will continue to be the excellent service provider it has been in years past. The one critical goal I do want to address today is in the area of healthcare. As a Board, we must continue to work with the Department of Health Services to solve its predicted budget deficit in the coming years. I have said it before and I will say it again, we need to re-prioritize and find creative solutions to healthcare to make the system work and work efficiently. And a critical part of ensuring our healthcare system is working efficiently is ensuring that we get Martin Luther King Hospital back on its feet and open for business, serving the critically underserved residents of South Los Angeles.

As we begin a new year, our County leaders will now be working with a new Legislature, a new Congress, and a new White House. But regardless of the party affiliation of our new leaders – our attitude of working together must transcend party lines.

As Chairman of this Board of Supervisors, I assure you I will be working hand-in-hand with elected officials from every level of government, no matter what political party they may be affiliated with, to find solutions to our challenges. It is from this effort that we can forge an environment where the County of Los Angeles can continue to flourish. An attitude of openness and cooperation must exist across our entire County workforce – from management, to the individual departments, to the thousands of employees represented by our Union partners. Cooperation thrives in a climate of open, honest dialogue. Political rhetoric for the sake of private goals pollutes the atmosphere and blocks out progress. Our competition is not with each other, or the next county, or the other party. Instead, the competition is to ensure the success and the future of the County of Los Angeles. Albert Einstein once said that, "We cannot solve the problems we face, using the same thinking that created them." My friends, we have a lot of work to do. Let's begin now.

# Share It

## Department of Consumer Affairs Announces New Law That Makes Credit Freezes Cheaper, Easier for Californians

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in California. The Federal Trade Commission reports there were 1.5 million identity theft victims in California last year. A new California law will help consumers reduce their risk of becoming a victim of identity theft.

One way to reduce your risk is to place a credit freeze on your credit report. A freeze is a notice placed on your credit report that prohibits credit reporting agencies from releasing information in your report to businesses. Most businesses will not open new credit in your name without this information. You can temporarily lift, or permanently remove the freeze if you decide you no longer want it.

Assembly Bill 372, effective January 1, 2009 makes **credit freezes easier**. The old law required that you send a certified letter to the credit reporting agency in order to place a freeze on your credit report. This new law allows you to request a freeze by regular mail. The old law gave credit reporting agencies 5 days from the date they received your request to place the freeze. The new law requires credit reporting agencies to place the freeze within three days.

The new law also makes **credit freezes cheaper**. The old law allowed credit reporting agencies to charge up to \$12 to place, temporarily lift, or permanently remove a freeze. If you are 65-years-old or older, this new law reduces the amount the credit reporting agencies can charge to \$5. If you are under 65, they can charge \$10. A freeze is free if you are an ID theft victim. Be sure to attach a copy of your police report to your letter.

You can send your request to:

**Equifax Security Freeze** P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348

**Experian Security Freeze** P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013

**TransUnion Fraud Assistance Dept.** P.O. Box 6790 Fullerton, CA 92834

Visit the Department of Consumer Affairs Web site at <http://dca.lacounty.gov> for more information on credit freezes, including a sample letter you can send the credit reporting agencies, and what to include with your request. You may also call the Department's Identity Theft Unit at (800) 593-8222.



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