



2013



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"It's not just providing services, but managing the money of Los Angeles County. Everybody works hard for their paycheck, and having to pay taxes is not what they appreciate. But they know that the County has to be there with all of its services."

Grand Park

Grand Park has turned out to be exactly what we dreamed it would be. A go-to location here in Downtown Los Angeles, a green space, that has an unbelievable amount of programming. From very passive programming: you can go there to read a book, take a walk; to wonderful programs. We celebrated New Year's here, we had Fourth of July, we did election coverage here—we've been doing all kinds of things.

Financial Success of Los Angeles County

Los Angeles County has been successful financially because there's been good leadership at the top. Collectively, my colleagues, all the Supervisors, have put in place a series of restraints, let's say, during the tough times, or even in the good times. So we've always set money aside, we treat our money like it's our own pocketbook, like it's our very own money, and use common sense. So that consequently, during the recession, we didn't have to lay anyone off. We did limit some programs, but for the most part we made it through, everybody continued working for us.

And now that the economy is getting stronger, we've been doing even better. We've gotten great rating from our bond agencies, we're in a good fiscal place, and it really is an important part of what we do. It's not just providing services, but managing the money of Los Angeles County. Everybody works hard for their paycheck, and having to pay taxes is not what they appreciate. But they know that the County has to be there and all of its services. So I'm proud of the leadership that we all provided to make sure that Los Angeles County is as fiscally strong as it ever will be.

Plastic Bag Ban

I was very proud that LA County kind of led the way in eliminating the plastic bags. It's an environmental nuisance, we see them flying around everywhere, so we needed to eliminate that. And plus we need to green our communities and green our cities. So now the city followed. I'm so glad, and now we have the statewide ban. So we're on our way. So hopefully it's going to be a big step in the direction of greening all of the state of California and certainly Los Angeles County. But we supplemented as well, by taking care of our parks and trying to find those environmental opportunities, like planting more trees, doing what we can in order to green our city. Besides the fact that we have all of these responsibilities in LA County, we really have to take advantage of the opportunities we have to make the future better for our children. And of course, greening all of LA County is a big part of what's going to make the future stronger for our children.

Final Thoughts

I hope that they will see me as someone who was a truly honest representative on their behalf. That I represented their interests here at the County Board of Supervisors, the city or the State legislature, in a way that if they had been sitting here themselves and looking at those issues, I was making the kinds of decisions that were supporting them and their interests. So I do hope that constituents remember me in that way, that's what I would be proudest of. I think Constituent Services was one of the most important things that I did. And I think all of us are very proud of the work we do on behalf of all of the people we represent.



2013



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"The County's doors are open to servicing, and 2013 was a tremendous year for the County of Los Angeles."

Accomplishments in 2013

Two-thousand and thirteen was a tremendous year for the County of Los Angeles, and I'm pleased that I had the opportunity to chair during that period of time. One of the flagship issues around which the Board itself rallied, was the issue of human sex trafficking: a moral challenge to the entirety of the County of Los Angeles. And the good news is that we stepped up and we are making a difference for these approximately 3,000 children, girls, in large measure, who deserve our attention and our care. We seek not to criminalize them or victimize them. We really have an obligation to rescue them, and we're on that mission.

Martin Luther King Jr Medical Campus

Significant steps were taken to ensure that the medical campus that we refer to as Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Campus, the work that's taking place there is simply phenomenal. It presents itself in a pristine manner, a representation of what's new, and what's next in health care delivery. And in just a few months we will be opening the new Outpatient Center. And following that, the Inpatient Tower will open. So you will see the rebirth of a campus that will focus on top-quality, first-rate, medical care for all who walk through those doors.







LA County Serving You

The County's doors are open to servicing the constituents from areas related to the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Safety and Protection, a huge effort that is going to benefit children who are in the Foster Care system, to the work that we are doing in building libraries throughout the 2nd District in particular. Because literacy matters, education is a fundament of democracy. To the extent that that is the case, we can all celebrate our learning together to what we can do to make LA County a better place in which to live.



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"It's been a tumultuous four or five years and we've finally turned the corner, and we can see ourselves growing again and expanding services to the residents, the citizens who depend on us for so much."

Major Achievements in 2013

Well the County's a big place—the biggest County in America, with 10 million people, and a budget of \$25 billion dollars. We're doing a lot. When you go to the extended County family, the Metropolitan Transit Authority, we're doing even more.

It's been an eventful year. The last year, we opened a light rail line from Downtown to Culver City, and the end of next year we will open that same extension of that line to Santa Monica; the first mass transit line to be built to the Westside of Los Angeles County in more than a half a century. We've tentatively approved a local coastal plan for the Santa Monica Mountains overlooking Malibu and the Pacific Ocean, protecting the ridgelines and the rivers, and oak woodlands that make that area so special. And of course, the County family itself, the County organization, has had a good year. We navigated through the recession quite well, and we've always lived within our means. We were able to navigate the vicissitudes of the recession without having to lay off a single person, without having to furlough anybody. It's been a tumultuous four or five years, and we've finally turned the corner and we can see ourselves growing again and expanding services to the residents, the citizens who depend on us for so much.

San Fernando Valley Family Service Center

We broke ground on what will be a template on the way we serve people who depend on us for human services in the San Fernando Valley. The San Fernando Valley Family Service Center, which will have on one campus the Probation Department, the Children's Services Department, the Welfare Department, the Health Department with its comprehensive health care clinic, pharmacy, mental health offices, and clinic. It's all going to be on one campus, so the people don't have to go from one end of the San Fernando Valley to another part of the San Fernando Valley to get services for their kids or for themselves; it'll all be available on one campus. We broke ground on that just a few months ago. It will be ready for occupancy in the early part of 2015. Hopefully it will be a template that will replicated in other parts of Los Angeles County to serve other communities. Because we worked a long time, we worked 10 years to plan this thing and finally have it underway.

Final Thoughts

I've always felt blessed by having a constituency that first of all, elected me to the Los Angeles City Council when I was 26 years old. I'm not sure I would have voted for a 26-year-old at that time, but my constituents did, and they had the faith that somebody with my energy, and ambition, and some smarts, would be able to make a difference. And they've given me the license to push the envelope on some issues that most politicians wouldn't touch with a 10-foot pole.

I'm proud of many of the things that I've done, many of the buildings that were built, and the cultural institutions that we've built here in LA County and that we've improved. But what I'm most proud of, as far as I'm personally concerned, is that I was the go-to person on issues that nobody else wanted to touch. Whether it was in the city, when the Police Department was harassing people who were on the margins of society, whether it was standing up for fiscal responsibility, or whether it was pushing the Measure B, three cent per square foot property tax to keep our trauma centers and emergency rooms open in LA County. Nobody wanted to touch those things with a 10-foot pole, because the risk of failure was too high. I've always enjoyed taking policy risks that have big payoffs for the people we represent. I thank my constituents for giving me the opportunity to serve for what will be, when I leave, 39-and-a-half years.



2013



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"We've weathered the economic storm... We've made some good decisions; we've been able to stay together as a team."

Major Accomplishments in 2013

Well, I think the normal things that you do in the District are always very important. Whether it's a Community Center, Senior Center, those kinds of things always improve the quality of life of the people you represent.

Bigger, 30,000 foot kinds of issues, always, number one: safe surrender. We've had now 115 saving of lives through the Safe Surrender Program. But I think the one thing over the last year, in 2013, is the issue—an ugly issue—not a fun thing to talk about, but child sex trafficking. And trying to raise the level of attention, which was brought to me just a few years ago, and something that I felt was in third-world countries, but right here in our own backyard, throughout our counties, the neighboring counties, throughout our state, and our nation.

I was able to testify in front of the Foreign Affairs Committee on this issue, to raise it to a national level. So those are the kinds of things, and, once again, Los Angeles County being on the forefront of raising those kinds of issues to a national attention; but more important, becoming a model. You know, that it — while it may not be fun — it's not the kinds of thing you want to go out hold a press conference on, the point being is you're improving the quality of life, you are saving lives.

Credit Rating Increases

Well, I think, first of all, what it means is that as an organization we have partnerships and we're willing to work together. The five members of the Board, the Management Team, our Labor Unions have all been partners. The most significant part of the credit increases right now have been over the last several years. Everyone knows what's happened to the economy, the tanking of the economy, cities being broke, counties having problems. We've weathered that storm through a partnership with our Labor brothers and sisters, as well as Management, and our Board has worked together to solve those problems. And so here we are, twice, in the last 15 months, credit rating increases. So what does that mean? One, it means we've made some good decisions. It means we've been able to stay together as a team. But more importantly, it allows us to do even more, to upgrade our facilities, infrastructure improvements, at a much cheaper cost to the taxpayer.

The Future of the Board Supervisors

Well to me personally, I think the impact of what's going to transpire over the next 24-36 months no one in this County understands. We're losing two of our colleagues this year, Supervisor Yaroslavsky and Supervisor Molina. Two years from now, Supervisor Antonovich and I will be gone. And that means Mark Ridley-Thomas will be the surviving member, and he's only gonna have one more term left. And I think the impact of continuity history, of being able to fall back on things that happened years ago, and, you know, not to sound like a historian, but I mean, that that has a positive impact in government. I don't believe in term limits, I think terms limits are the worst thing, but we're dealing with it now in the state of California. There's no vision for the future. And we've been able to deal with the future of Los Angeles County. Our pension programs, all of our programming, it's been very positive. And you've done that because you have a sense of history, and again, we don't have to deal with the partisan issues. So I'm gonna miss 'em.



2013



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“Public safety remains a top priority. If you don’t have safe streets, safe communities, then you have an exodus of people. In order to create jobs, we want to have an environment where people want to invest.”

Parks and Trails in Los Angeles County

Well, I've been very fortunate and blessed and we've been able to expand the trails. I believe we have one of the largest trail systems in the United States, and we continue to expand upon those. I have an equestrian ride twice a year, which we have up to 150 riders, equestrians riding with us. And those who are watching, we encourage you to join our equestrian ride. And we ride at the various trails within the County of Los Angeles. When we do that we're able to maintain them, and also to create the support to expand those trails. And we've had a vast network, we want to continue on that, and just enhance the quality of life. If you're not an equestrian, you can use the trails to hike, to walk, and it's a good family experience and helps you to keep in shape.

Public Safety

Public safety remains a top priority. If you don't have safe streets, safe communities, then you have an exodus of people. In order to create jobs, we want to have an environment where people want to invest. And they will only invest if it's a safe community. So we're very proud that the Sheriff's Department, who is the local police for 44 of our cities—we are their police department, we are their mayor for the unincorporated areas—along with the unincorporated communities, provide a good quality public service, public safety to our citizens. So it's important we maintain a high priority of supporting law enforcement.

The Successes of the Board

Our Board of Supervisors, the five of us, have been able to work together. And one of the very serious defect of term limits is now we're going to be losing members from our Board. If we could get rid of term limits, we would maintain the ability and stability that our agency has, unlike other municipalities. As a result, we've been able to handle a \$28 billion dollar budget, we've been able to maintain a surplus, we've been able to maintain labor peace, and as a result, the services that we provide, those that receive those services, are better off because we have a County Board that's been able to cut costs. I mean, the Productivity Commission that I initiated has saved over \$4 billion dollars since 1981. And the Economy Efficiency Commission, and a motion with Supervisor Molina and myself, we've been able to reform civil service. And as a result, we've also been able to consolidate a lot of the various agencies, saving hundreds of millions of dollars. So this approach that we've had is now going to be jeopardized because of term limits. And I'm fearful that we may repeat what happened across the way at LA City, or some of the others that have deficits, and a very unstable future—unlike the County of Los Angeles. We're very stable, we have a good future, because of the foundation we've been able to impose with the five of us working together.