



## 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.