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COUNCILWOMAN GREUEL BRINGS PUBLIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN TO NORTH VALLEY COMMUNITIES

Greuel, LAUSD, LAPD increase safety in Lake View Terrace, Sunland-Tujunga and Shadow Hills

LAKE VIEW TERRACE - Continuing her efforts to keep Los Angeles neighborhoods safe and clean, Councilwoman Wendy Greuel, hosted a public safety town hall meeting along with the LAPD and the LAUSD, Thursday evening, that connected community members to the resources available to help fight crime.

"I am ramping up my work to bring critical City resources to the historically underserved Foothills communities," said Councilwoman Greuel. "We know that neglected communities can become hotbeds of crime. We need to be proactive in keeping our communities safe."

Councilwoman Greuel brought the components of her successful "Public Safety through Neighborhood Empowerment" campaign to the North Valley communities of Lake View Terrace, Sunland-Tujunga and Shadow Hills at a town hall meeting which attracted over 200 local residents. Councilwoman Greuel re-opened a district office in these communities for the first time in decades when she was elected in 2002.

"I commend Los Angeles City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel for providing this important forum to discuss safety issues involving our schools and neighborhoods," said LAUSD Superintendent David L. Brewer III. "One of our five guiding principles is to ensure that our students have safe learning environments."

Citing the inextricable ties between vandalism and violent crime, Councilwoman Greuel outlined a series of initiatives to increase community engagement and delivery of City services in North Valley neighborhoods. LAUSD Superintendent David Brewer described the actions the LAUSD is taking to improve school safety for children and will outline opportunities for local parents to participate in improving safety. LAPD Deputy Chief Michel Moore outlined the tenets of the "Broken Windows" theory and laid out actions that the Foothills Division is taking to improve safety in the North Valley. Senior lead officers were on hand to train community members to form Neighborhood Watches.

Among her initiatives to expand neighborhood engagement, Councilwoman Greuel said she will work to increase the number of Neighborhood Watches and provide free Neighborhood Watch signs to all groups in Council District 2. She will continue promoting district-wide graffiti reporting days and expand her matching funds program to purchase digital cameras for graffiti-hot spots.

Councilwoman Greuel kicked-off her public safety campaign in early 2007, after LAPD announced that gang crime had increased in the San Fernando Valley by 40% over the previous year and graffiti-removal had increased 300% in Council District 2. Since that time, gang homicides fell in the Valley by 48% thanks largely to LAPD policing and community efforts like those championed by Councilwoman Greuel. Councilwoman Greuel has launched an adopt-a-wall program, increased the number of Council District 2 Neighborhood Watches by 50%

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The "Broken Windows" theory of crime fighting, which Chief Bratton has instituted throughout the LAPD, is predicated on the belief that stopping violent crime begins with keeping communities manicured and cracking down on smaller crimes like vandalism. Representatives from a variety of city departments, including Sanitation, Street Services and Transportation were available to inform community members on how to efficiently access city services such as graffiti removal, abandoned car removal and illegal dumping clean up.

The complete list of attending organizations follows:

Council District 2
LAPD Foothills Division
LAUSD Police
Pacioma Graffiti Busters
Sun Valley Graffiti Busters
Human Relations Commission
Department of Sanitation
Department of Transportation
Bureau of Street Lighting
Office of Community Beautification
Neighborhood Prosecutors
Neighborhood Councils
Homeowners Organizations

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