



My Solution for Our City

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First of all, since I run a relatively small business in the city (40 employees), and have never sat on a City board or commission, I don't see the following as real "solutions", but rather suggestions of things to look into and possible ways of looking at them. I was born in L.A. and have spent my entire life here with the exception of 2 years of my college education. I graduated from UCLA, Loyola Law School and then the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

Traffic: I support Mayor Villaraigosa's efforts (if he's still trying to do it) to resurrect the Red Line along Exposition Boulevard. Much of the right-of-way seems to still be intact. The Westsiders will whine, but it'll be great once it's in. Everyone on the West Side talks about how L.A. used to be so great with the Red Car. Now it's time to "Walk the Talk". Believe me; they'll be proud of it once it's in.

I was never a fan of the subway because of the cost. I voted for surface rail way back when it was put to the voters. However, the Mayor seems to believe that it can work to have a subway under Wilshire Boulevard all the way to the beach. That would be great if it's really feasible. The beach is a major asset of the city and more people should be able to access it without having to drive there (the coast highway is always jammed on a summer weekend).

Public Safety: Los Angeles is the most under-policed large city in the nation based upon the ratio of officers to residents. I believe Chief Bratton is doing a great job, but he needs more officers. I think those are coming, but maybe not enough. I once proposed to Mayor Hahn and then Mayor Riordan a program to "Adopt a Cop", where businesses could pay the salary of a police officer on an annual basis (at that time, it

was \$100,000 per officer per year, all in). I still think it might be a good idea.

Housing: The city needs to grow "up" not "out". Traffic is too much of an issue to continue having workers live in the outskirts and drive more than 20 minutes to work each day. It affects the quality of their lives too much. We need to find away to allow the private sector to build housing that is appropriate for the median wage earner to live in and still be close to work. I once tried to build an apartment building in Koreatown, but the low income requirement at the time made it economically unfeasible. I assume there are programs in place that can make it work, but it's hard for a smaller developer to figure it out. People are moving to this city in ever-increasing numbers. We can't (and don't want to) stop it, but it has to be managed and planned for.

Education: I'm really no expert on this because my kids are in private school. From what I read, the biggest stresses on the system seem to be English literacy and support at home. Because of the size of the city and pace of immigration, we'll always have people who don't speak English in the system. I assume there's a separate "track" for them, but maybe their entire school day should be spent learning the language, instead of trying to teach them Math or Science in a language they can't understand. Once they're proficient in English, teach them the rest of the subjects. It seems as though there is a substantial number of kids whose home lives are unstable, which means that they don't have the support for getting to school on time, getting their homework done and other things that will help them succeed at school and later in life. To the extent that we can offer counseling to those households on how do accomplish these few important tasks, it may help the parents manage the kids' educations.