

HELLO MY NAME IS CANDIDO MAREZ. THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH YOU TODAY. FOR OVER 30 YEARS I HAVE OWNED AND OPERATED A SMALL LOCAL BUSINESS IN THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY.

SINCE 1973 I HAVE WORKED WITH NON PROFITS AND INDIVIDUALS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE 6TH DISTRICT AND THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES. CURRENTLY, I AM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE VAN NUYS COMMUNITY COURT, WHICH WORKS TO RESTORE JUSTICE AND PROVIDE REHABILITATION FOR THOSE WHO COMMIT MISDEMEANOR CRIMES.

I WAS A VOLUNTEER FOR THE LAPD FOR 15 YEARS SUPERVISING OVER 1600 COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKERS, WHERE WE WOULD GO OUT AND REMOVE GRAFFITI AND CLEAN THE STREETS OF OUR DISTRICT.

IN 2004 I WAS APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL TO THE SMALL LOCAL BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE BURGULAR ALARM TASK FORCE.

SINCE 1992 I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE CITIZENS UNIT FOR PARTICIPATION ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT WORKING TO MAKE SURE THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY RECEIVED ITS FAIR SHARE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE 6TH DISTRICT HAS NOT RECEIVED ITS FAIR SHARE.

FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS I HAVE HAD TO STAND BY AND WATCH THE 6TH DISTRICT DETERIORATE DUE TO A LACK OF LEADERSHIP .EVEN WITH ALL OF THE EFFORTS

OF COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS THE 6TH DISTRICT CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE. THIS MUST STOP. TODAY I AM ASKING YOU TO JOIN ME SO THAT WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN BEGIN TO RENEW, REBUILD AND REVITALIZE THE 6TH DISTRICT.

LET US RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES AND END THE GANG VIOLENCE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.

LET US RENEW OUR PRIDE AS THE HEART OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY.
LET US RENEW OUR HOPE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.

TODAY WE WILL BEGIN TO REBUILD THE HISTORY AND IMAGE OF VAN NUYS AND THE 6TH DISTRICT.

WE WILL ALSO REBUILD THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT WE ONCE HAD BETWEEN CITY HALL AND THE COMMUNITY. WE MUST AND WILL REVITALIZE OUR SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND MAKE SURE WE NEVER AGAIN LOSE OUR ENTERPRISE ZONE.

THE 6TH DISTRICT IS IN A CRUCIAL PERIOD. IF WE DO NOT COME TOGETHER TO WORK AS ONE, WE MAY MISS OUR LAST TRUE OPPORTUNITY TO TURN OUR DISTRICT AROUND.

ULTIMATELY EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US MUST TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY IN EMPOWERING OURSELVES TO BECOME PART OF THE SOLUTION - TO BE BETTER NEIGHBORS, TO BUILD STRONG AND SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS, BUT MOST OF ALL TO COME TOGETHER TO RESCUE OUR DISTRICT.

IT IS NOT ABOUT MONEY. IT'S ABOUT LEADERSHIP. IT'S ABOUT THE FUNDAMENTALS AND THE DELIVERY OF THOSE BASIC SERVICES. IT'S ABOUT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS, CLEAN STREETS, QUALITY EDUCATION AND GOOD JOBS. SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT TODAY AS THEY WERE WHEN WE WERE YOUNG.

IT'S TIME FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND AS YOUR NEXT COUNCILMAN, I WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE. WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN AND WILL MAKE THE 6TH DISTRICT A PLACE TO BE PROUD TO LIVE AND WORK IN. I ASK FOR YOUR VOTE.