

When I first ran for City Council six years ago, I did so because I love this city and its people, and wanted to dramatically improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. We've made great strides together. But there is still much more to be done.

I've always said, you can't fix a problem if you don't know what it is, and you can't know what it is, if you don't walk the district, talk to residents, listen to people and see for yourself what's going. Well, I've done that. A lot. As a matter of fact, it's the favorite part of my job. From Toluca Lake to the Miracle Mile, from Los Feliz to Windsor Square, I've been privileged to talk to, listen to and learn from, literally thousands of our neighbors and they want the same thing -- safe streets, better schools, clean and green neighborhoods, and less traffic congestion.

So let's talk about traffic. You know it. I know it. Sure, we need master planning, and we need to continue doing the big things. We've launched the Orange Line in the Valley, and I'm leading the effort to expand the Red Line to Santa Monica. We're synchronizing traffic lights, putting an end to road construction during Rush Hour.

But it's also going to take doing a lot of the little things to make it easier to get around town -- like putting in a smart crosswalk for schoolchildren at Third St. & Manhattan Place, new traffic signals at Highland & Lexington, Riverside & the 5 freeway, Melrose & Bronson and Chandler & Vineland. I look forward to working with all of you to keep traffic flowing.

When it comes to public safety, our efforts have been second to none in protecting our community. We've added firefighters and paramedics to each fire station to improve our emergency response efforts. We are also adding more police officers, and expanding our crossing guard programs to make sure our kids are safe on their way to and from school. L.A. is blessed with the finest first-responders in the nation, and I look forward to continue working with them, to

provide all the resources they need to keep our community safe, healthy, and strong.

Now, you simply can't talk about the 4th District of Los Angeles without mentioning our recent successful reopening of the Griffith Observatory after its historic 93 million dollar restoration and expansion. This 20th Century architectural icon is truly one of the great public science facilities in America, if not the world. And I am so proud of every one who was involved with launching it into the 21st Century, so that millions of future Angelenos can stare in wonder through this incredible window to the universe.

I'm also very proud of our NoHo Commons Community Redevelopment project near the Red Line Metro Station in North Hollywood. This state-of-art mixed-use project includes a thoughtful blend of new housing, retail and commercial space, and is an example of the type of smart growth and planning that will be so key to preserving and enhancing our quality of life over the coming decades.

Truth is, there are so many exciting things happening in our district and fascinating places to visit. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to serve you as your City Councilmember, and I would be deeply honored to have your support once again. Thank you.