

Madame Council President ...
Councilmembers ... Mr. City Attorney and Mr. City Controller ...
General Managers and Chiefs ...
My mother and father, beloved wife and daughter ...
Honored guests ...
Angelenos ...
And of course, our Superbowl Champion L.A. Rams...

Good morning, and thank you.

And thank you, Kenia, for leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nearly nine years ago, on a sweltering June day, Kenia was there when I raised my hand, swore allegiance to our constitution and our city charter, and took the oath of office.

In fact, it was Kenia Castillo who administered the oath that day.

I know it wasn't an obvious choice. She wasn't a governor or a senator or a judge. She was just an 8th grader at Luther Burbank Middle School. But I asked Kenia, the daughter of a janitor, to swear me in because I wanted us to see our city's future through her eyes and her dreams.

I wanted to be clear about where my power came from and who my greatest responsibility was to — everyday Angelenos who work hard to do better and to build a stronger city.

Kenia is 22 today. She just finished her first year at Cal State Dominguez Hills. She's grown up just as our city has over the last decade, as well.

But one thing about her hasn't changed... she wants to make a difference. Kenia's goal after graduation is to represent service workers — janitors just like her mother — to lend her voice to those searching for the courage to speak up for themselves.

I'm so grateful, Kenia, that it was your voice I heard that day in 2013, the voice of an everyday Angeleno ... giving me the words I spoke to become your mayor.

In 2013, I told the people of L.A. that I would work every day to accomplish two things: first, to get your City Hall back to the basics by restoring and expanding our core city

services and second, to build a city of the future with greater economic opportunity and stronger infrastructure across *all* of our neighborhoods. I also knew that we had to grow our city's resilience for any emergencies we might face.

So the next day, day one, I went out to the Valley and got back to the basics and paved a street.

Today, a pothole gets filled almost six days faster than it did in 2014... and two-thirds of our streets are rated in good condition versus less than half back on my first day in office.

I said, after years of hearing no from ourselves and from others, that we would build more housing, lay down more Metro lines, get transit to the airport, replace our broken pipes and sagging power lines, invest in our aging port, increase our resiliency, raise our minimum wage to reduce poverty, expand access to college, and get your 311 and DWP calls answered... and answered fast.

Well, in just a couple of years, you'll be able to fly home into a beautiful and reborn airport at LAX, hop on transit right from the terminal, connect directly to the new Crenshaw/LAX Line. ... ride through revitalized corridors where housing is rising at three times the rate as when I started ... and through a city that led the movement to raise the minimum wage and quadrupled the number of youth jobs.

And it won't be long before that train will drop you off at the brand-new Lucas Museum, or at many of the 12,000 affordable and supportive housing units called home by people who once lived in tents. And six summers from now, you'll ride right to the Coliseum for the opening ceremonies of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

You see in L.A., we have never been a city with small ambitions. From our humble beginnings as a dusty pueblo built on the original Tongva land we now inhabit... to our emergence as the third largest urban economy in the world... We do big things in L.A.

I work alongside nearly 55,000 brilliant and committed Angelenos, public servants who might not be able to predict the next fire or flood, power outage or pandemic, but who are always ready to fix what's wrong in L.A. and respond to the threats we face.

To our thousand great purposes we added a grave one these past 763 days. No one saw a pandemic on the horizon, but the City of L.A. was prepared to meet it when it came. Our battle with COVID was both our darkest, and our finest, moment. But today, as we assess the state of our city, this epic battle has left us tired and bruised.

But we're also healing. This week hospitalizations are at their lowest point since last July. COVID isn't over, but its grip is loosening. We will see more surges ... confront new variants.

But as we do the hard work of helping the last of our neighbors get protected and get well... we do so not battle-weary, but battle-tested. Today a hurt city roars back to life, renewed, recovering, and remembering that in L.A., we don't run from our big challenges, we rise to them... just as this bridge rises above the river that gives our city its very name.

I love this bridge. I could name ten more big new job sites I would have loved to show off to Los Angeles. Museums, transit, housing, waterworks... But we came here, to the Sixth Street Viaduct, high above the river bank where our city got its start.

Ten years ago, this bridge was a bright idea to replace a ruin.

Two years ago, there was empty air where my feet stand today.

Today a ribbon of arches connects our city center to the Eastside, where my family's story started more than 100 years ago. This summer, when this new landmark opens to foot and bike and bus and car, it will be a symbol of a city on its way back.

You see, this bridge was born from our ambition, but it was built by everyday Angelenos like you and me. Engineers like former Principal Civil Engineer Julie Allen who is here with us today and who was joined by a disproportionately high number of tradeswomen in building this living gift to the next Los Angeles, a literal bridge that spans the generations.

I will confess that this will not be my shortest State of the City address, but it will be my last. I want to talk to you about two of our most pressing needs in the short-term, reflected in the last budget I am submitting to the City Council and our city.

And then I want to talk about the two greatest challenges we face in the long-term, the work we have done to face them, and a call to continue that work under tomorrow's leaders.

First, simply put, we need to ensure that this is the safest and the cleanest city that it can be.

And second, we have to build a Los Angeles that is prosperous and protected by doubling down on our work to build more housing and address our climate emergency.

Our work is urgent and important.

Because even as I speak, some of you are reaching out to your city government.

You're calling to ask if the next book in that series your child loves has arrived at the library.

You're using our app to schedule a bulky item pickup to take away your old dresser, or you're emailing to see when there's a swimming class at your neighborhood pool.

You're calling 3-1-1, to clean up garbage where there shouldn't be garbage.

Or you're calling 9-1-1, because there's smoke where there shouldn't be smoke.

Thirty-nine city departments committed to you. The biggest has enough people to fill the Hollywood Bowl... the smallest, to fill out a string quartet. They all answer those calls and get to work every day to make you less upset or scared and more hopeful and empowered.

And those departments work together like never before. Because getting us back in sync was one of the most important parts of our back to basics agenda. We have a new culture at city hall — a culture of collaboration that we must expand and continue. We're going to need it for what's coming next.

In this city that is older than the U.S. Constitution, but reinvented every day, we work towards a thousand human purposes, but we exist for one magnificent need — to make a good life together.

We are living through a year of transition. From pandemic... to renewal. And from one administration to the next. This calendar year will close on a new mayor's first month in office.

After nearly 21 years of service at City Hall and almost 9 as your mayor, I get asked a lot these days by reporters, "What's your legacy?" I believe it's not my role to define that — nor something quite frankly that I waste much time thinking about. With the precious time I have left as your mayor, I'm more focused on your future, than on interpreting my past. The only legacy I want you to know about is that I deeply, deeply love this city, and

that I served for two decades to make it better ... to give you, and L.A., *everything* I have.

I have been inspired and sustained in this service by working side-by-side with you — city workers, neighborhood council members, student leaders, volunteers and activists and clergy and community organizations and block clubs and parents.

One of the greatest joys of being mayor has been witnessing you, my fellow Angelenos, put the joy in your heart and the strength in your body towards building a better city. Let us never take our power and our purpose to serve others for granted. As we see images of people fighting and dying to protect their democracy, let us remember how lucky we are. Let's focus not on launching recalls and picking fights with one another, but on figuring out how to build the coalitions and engage in the hard day-to-day work, the compromises and sacrifices that are key to doing big things.

This bridge where we are gathered wasn't built somewhere else and delivered for a fee. It didn't come out of arguments and division. It was built one beam, one pour, one bolt at a time by a unified team working together until something new and beautiful and powerful arose. We go nowhere without one another.

And I believe each generation and each administration passes this work forward to the next. I had the fortune to build on great work that began long before I took my place in it. Mayor Bradley, who knew the Olympics could make a profit to fund youth sports for generations and left us a template for the 2028 Games. Mayor Hahn, who kept our city whole when its separation was a foregone conclusion. Mayor Villaraigosa, who dreamed that our transit system could reach the sea. We leave behind us seeds in a garden, not presents under a tree.

It can be tough to remember that from inside a one-click culture where we expect same-day delivery of solutions to our challenges. These require resilience and determination, unity of purpose and, yes, patience.

My goal is to hand over a city budget next week that is stronger than ever, an infrastructure program unequaled in America, and a pathway to house our people and save our planet with the urgency that this moment demands.

So let's talk about how that budget confronts two of our great pressing needs.

Your city needs to be safe.

It needs to be beautiful.

It needs to deliver its services effectively.

The fact is, year one or year nine, we have no intention of letting up our commitment to that safe, beautiful, effective city.

First, a cleaner city is on its way. Last year, our Clean LA Jobs program hired 100 young people through the Office of Community Beautification — folks re-entering society from incarceration and formerly unhoused Angelenos.

This year, we're planning to hire not just 100, but nearly 800 new sanitation workers. These will be our neighbors, hired to care for our neighborhoods, so that a 3rd grader walking to school doesn't have to see a city filled with trash or an off-ramp cluttered with litter.

You will see the results they deliver in our neighborhoods. Right now, it takes us seven days to respond to illegal dumping clean up requests. We're going to bring that down to three. Thank you to Councilmember O'Farrell for partnering with us to get this done.

And in every council district, CARE+ teams will provide badly needed services at encampments, promote public health and hygiene and facilitate the move towards housing.

Second: this budget will bring about a safer city. I know public safety is top of mind for many of us. Los Angeles is safer today than it was in years past, and far safer than it was a generation ago. But every act of violence casts a long shadow. From every conversation I have with the families of victims, from every time someone's home or car is broken into, I know it violates our peace of mind ... forces us to retreat. Our response requires urgency and resources.

Crime spiked across America during the pandemic. Police officers felt demoralized. Communities felt let down, disconnected and disrespected by public safety strategies. Mental health crises spiked. And too many people armed themselves with too many guns.

We went to work. In 2021, LAPD and our gun buy-back program got over 9,000 guns off the street and doubled the number of seized ghost guns — 19 of those untraceable guns were linked to homicides in our city in the last year, guns that City Attorney Feuer has targeted with lawsuits. Today, homicides are down 7% from last year, even as

these numbers rise in other cities. Altogether, since 2013, we've taken nearly 68,000 dangerous weapons off our streets.

On Monday, I joined President Biden at the White House where we stood with Mia Tretta, who lost her best friend Dominic Blackwell in the 2019 school shooting at Saugus High School in Santa Clarita. Flying home I met Dominic's parents, a reminder of what our entire world loses when a life is lost. That is why this work matters.

Since I've been mayor, I've continued to improve our department and its work and expand our public safety partnerships. We've added more than 700,000 more patrol hours a year to our city since 2013, but ended pretextual stops.

We have lifted up our heroes in the LAPD, equipped them with bodycams, trained them on de-escalation and how to better recognize bias, upgraded their cars and technology, and expanded the Community Safety Partnership, a national model for engaging communities and building trust.

When crime went up six years ago, we helped support the department in their work, but we also widened the circle beyond policing. We expanded Domestic Abuse Response Teams to serve domestic violence victims in every division in our city. We grew GRYD, our Gang Reduction and Youth Development program, to cover 50% more territory with skilled and brave interventionists who keep the peace.

When we saw an alarming rise in smash-and-grab and follow-home robberies, we let our detectives go to work, and once again we saw results. Since the end of last year, smash-and-grabs have fallen 56% and we've made crucial arrests to disrupt follow-home robbery rings.

While police are making these critical arrests, and COVID's threat becomes more manageable, we need our judicial system to both protect... and reform. We need our courts to open, our jails to transform.

Much more takes place on our streets... long before people ever come into contact with our justice system. The alternatives to policing and incarceration that we know we so badly need have taken off in L.A.

In partnership with L.A. County, we launched one of the nation's most ambitious mental health response programs, which sends vans out into our communities 24/7 through 911 to provide critically needed psychiatric care. Since the start of the year, we've deployed our two therapeutic vans 278 times from fire stations Downtown and on the

Westside — and over 90% of the people that we reached — rather than being transported to a hospital and released with no help, they were treated on-scene or transported to mental health care. Instead of taking firefighters and police officers off of the streets to try and address mental health patients, we are giving people suffering the help that they need.

Our budget funds these two vans and will add three more to South L.A. and the Valley, together giving us the capacity to respond to 9,000 calls by year's end to the trauma we see on our streets. Thank you to Councilmember Rodriguez for helping make this a reality.

CIRCLE, our Crisis and Incident Response through Community-Led Engagement program, meets people where they are with proactive, sustained outreach. CIRCLE diverts non-emergency 9-1-1 calls related to homelessness to mental health care experts and crisis workers who have lived on the streets themselves. Since launching in November, our teams have provided over 160 new housing referrals. This year alone, our unarmed CIRCLE teams have responded to more than 1,200 situations in Hollywood and Venice ... In the coming fiscal year, we'll more than double the number of CIRCLE teams and expand their reach across our city.

And our suicide prevention work in partnership with Didi Hirsch diverted over 1,400 calls last year to experts who saved lives.

As we widen the circle of justice we don't just become safer. Our public safety efforts become more just.

And our goals are clear: bring down violence and crime. Build more trust. And break the cycle of violence and incarceration by co-owning and co-authoring our public safety mission.

We've made that kind of progress because, from day one, we elevated equity in all the core functions of this city.

We have responded to calls and crises alike with an eye on the debts of history that we had to pay down... and on the future city that we dream of building up. That was the guiding light of the historic justice budget that this city council and I passed last year.

Here in this city, we have launched historic anti-poverty programs, made community college free, invested in key industries and cut our business tax and our bureaucracy to be more business-friendly. This approach is rooted in a definition of justice that goes

beyond the courthouse, that dismantles the systems that depress student achievement and maintain our addiction to poverty. And as we do that work, we have boosted community college attendance from our public schools and created opportunities for young people in our tech and entertainment industries.

But for all of these gains, we have to talk about the long-term obstacle that blocks our path to full economic opportunity and well-being.

It's a thief that steals our paychecks, adds hours to our commutes, chokes our air and chases away prosperity.

It's been decades in the making, and let's be clear — it is our failure — it's L.A.'s failure, it's California's failure.

Simply put: We have not built enough housing for the people of L.A.

Dreams made become dreams deferred become dreams departed when businesses and families pull up stakes for twice the square footage at half the price... and those who can't relocate live with less and less opportunity.

For nearly nine years, I have focused intensely on this and we have made progress to change this equation.

From 2013 to 2018, get this, we tripled the number of housing units built each year in L.A. Not an increase of 10 or 20 percent ... 300 percent. We increased our annual production of permanent supportive housing units, proven to get and keep people out of homelessness by 600%. 600%!

This didn't happen automatically or just emerge from our economy. We achieved this through hard work, important reforms, and by embracing powerful tools.

Our Transit-Oriented Communities zoning has added new units and record numbers of affordable housing along our bus and rail lines. When Metro finishes building lines, we will use the land left over from construction staging to develop affordable housing next to our stations. Metro's affordable housing goals are the strongest in the nation, so that we push people to transit opportunities instead of chasing them away from the neighborhoods where they live today.

We fell in love in L.A. with Accessory Dwelling Units. ADUs gently add homes to our backyards while preserving community character. We just saw the completion of our

10,000th ADU — it went up behind a blue ranch house on Victory Boulevard in North Hollywood. We changed state environmental laws and streamlined city approvals. Now affordable developments go to the front of the line, are protected from frivolous lawsuits, and get approved, on average, 120 days quicker.

After decades of talk, we created the Affordable Housing Linkage Fee, a permanent source of funding for affordable housing construction so we don't have to go hat in hand to Sacramento and D.C. every year. It has already funded affordable housing to the tune of nearly \$60 million dollars and is projected to generate \$100 million dollars over the next three years.

We passed the largest initiative to build housing for homeless Americans, Prop HHH. Don't believe everything you might hear about HHH.

HHH units are coming in cheaper, faster, and more plentifully than we promised voters. We already have 1,200 HHH units occupied, and we'll open 39 more projects with over 2,000 new units of permanent supportive housing by year's end. And HHH will help us get to nearly 12,000 units of new housing to keep people from becoming or being unhoused.

I'm proud of these accomplishments. None of them were easy. But I'm going to say this straight — if we don't keep it up, if we don't double down on our housing momentum, the California Dream will be an old chapter in a history book.

But if we get it right? We've got the people, the weather, the creativity, the investments in infrastructure to see our brightest chapter yet written in the years ahead.

We will all need to sacrifice, but we will all gain. Bureaucrats will have to tear out even more old rules out of the book and work with even more speed and more generosity. Neighborhood gatekeepers will have to say goodbye to an outdated zoning vision that has helped extinguish our city's dreams. Developers will have to share in the profits to make sure that the working poor and the forgotten middle have options. And our state government will have to make the abuse of environmental laws a thing of the past and fund even more housing affordability.

Today, I will tell you how L.A. can get this done and what we are doing in our budget to take this momentum to the next level.

It starts with honest numbers and bold goals.

Every eight years, our state government makes local governments set housing goals. It's called the Regional Housing Needs Assessment process. In 2018, the State changed the formula, tripling the goal for Southern California from what it was before.

Some of our neighboring cities pushed back, but we stood firm, embraced what our future demands — more housing and less sprawl, traffic, and pollution — and won the day with bold new housing goals shared throughout our region.

Over the last eight years, RHNA challenged us to hit 82,000 new homes. We roared past that with 150,000, by far the biggest city in California to hit our goal.

I'm proud to stand here today and announce that the next RHNA goal, and the housing element that will be implemented in our General Plan, commits us to build not 150,000, but nearly 457,000 new units by the year 2029.

And I challenge the next mayor to hit that goal — and even blow past it.

It won't be easy, but nothing worth doing ever was. Let me tell you what the stakes are, in the words of a fellow dad I spoke to when our daughters were at camp together. The man grew up in the Valley, like me...

He said, "My grandfather bought his house in the San Fernando Valley for \$5,000 dollars. My parents bought the house I grew up in for \$50,000 dollars, and I bought mine for \$500,000 dollars. It was a stretch, but we made it work.

"But if my daughter has to spend \$5 million dollars to own a home here ... then our California Dream is dead."

That's the story for all of us. Every time you save a dollar, prices rise by two or three.

And of course that's not the worst of it. For too many, that dimming California Dream is already a nightmare.

It's embodied in the story of **Katlynn Hill**, a woman who called the Mayor's Help Desk in my office last November. I set up a Help Desk on day one of being mayor and it's been virtual throughout the pandemic. She'd spent five years trying to navigate our housing system, never knowing where her family would sleep from one day to the next. She was staying with different relatives. Asking for help and not getting it.

Tanaz Golshan on my homelessness team took her call, and things started to open up. Katlynn, and her two beautiful children, her 5-year-old boy and 2-year-old girl, moved first into A Bridge Home, Casa Azul near MacArthur Park, that Councilmember Cedillo got built.

We worked successfully to get her an Emergency Housing Voucher. Voucher in hand, Tanaz took her to an apartment we located in the Valley, and her son went right inside, took off his shoes, made himself comfortable, and this little kid, with deep relief and wisdom said, “This is our new home.”

I’m so proud of Katlynn and her children, but we’ve got to open more doors, we’ve got to commit to saying yes. Without a landlord saying yes, Katlynn might still be unhoused.

But through our LeaseUp program, landlords are saying yes. They’re holding open apartments for our unhoused neighbors — in a system that comes with serious incentives. But we have over 3,300 Emergency Housing Vouchers right now for people waiting for an apartment. So, property owners, property managers, if you saw someone go to sleep in a tent last night, be a part of bringing them inside this morning and go to leaseupla.org and give a family like Katlynn’s a chance at hope and a home.

How will we build the L.A. that we dream of? Together. With all of our tools.

Let’s make Transit Oriented Communities permanent and build hundreds of thousands of homes. Let’s expand our Adaptive Reuse laws, now that so many of our beautiful commercial buildings are empty as a result of the pandemic and get tens of thousands more homes.

And let’s erase the rules that concentrate housing, transit, jobs and shopping far away from one another! Let’s build beautiful Boulevards of Opportunity, that let you walk downstairs to dinner, and down the block to shop for your family, and onto transit to go off to work the next morning.

Let’s lean into SB9, the state law that lets you put four homes on a single-family lot. Los Angeles is the cradle of American residential innovation, from our beloved bungalow courtyards to our superstar case study homes.

With ADUs — which people used to fear — we got our best local architects and engineers to create forward-looking designs that you can get over-the-counter approval for today and start building tomorrow.

Today I'm announcing that we're doing the same thing for SB9 development. We're calling it the Low-Rise Design Lab. It's starting up with a half-million-dollar budget in the Planning Department, and we're going to carve a new California vernacular from creativity, quadplexes, and L.A. light.

I'm also proud to announce that we have doubled and redoubled our homelessness budget, and we're going to meet and match this year what we invested last year: Over \$1 billion dollars. I challenge those who come after us to do everything they can to keep pushing that number higher until homelessness is a distant memory.

We built ten tiny home villages in just over one year starting in Councilmember Krekorian's district, including the biggest in the country thanks to Councilmember DeLeon. We opened 20 new A Bridge Home shelters in 24 months, blowing past our goal of 15 in the midst of a pandemic, reaching 27 across L.A. And with leaders like Councilmember Lee, we are doing more outreach in every part of the city.

We can write a budget that grapples with our existential problems because our economy is growing, and our economy is growing because for the last nine years we didn't kick the can down the road when it came to our infrastructure. Our airport was a nightmare, our streets were crumbling, our bridges were unsafe and our transit lines ... well, they weren't being built. We took on the largest infrastructure ambitions of our lifetime, billions of dollars, and look at the results.

We are in the midst of a massive \$15 billion dollar Capital Improvement Program at our world-class airport together with Councilmember Bonin — and we accelerated that work during the pandemic. We've invested almost \$2.5 billion dollars at the economic engine of our port with Councilmember Buscaino, and its workers saved the holidays and shattered cargo records doing it.

Today we create jobs more quickly than the other four largest metro regions in the country. We've had a 21% economic boom since April 2020. We boosted black and brown incomes by 44 and 43% respectively when the nation has seen them rise by just 26 and 34%.

We've expanded our film tax credit, promoted aerospace, and cut taxes on small businesses. We're producing great-paying, recession-proof, middle class careers.

Those good careers change lives, like that of **Freddie Rios**, who's here today. Freddie: thanks for joining us. I met Freddie a few weeks ago and heard his story. He moved to L.A. last year with his pregnant wife and young son, and they really struggled. His

criminal record stood in the way of work and their low credit score put stable housing out of reach. They ended up in a shelter. PATH, People Assisting the Homeless, got them on their feet, and a progressive contractor, Hensel Phelps, took our local hire provision seriously and gave Freddie a job. Today he's earning a good wage as a construction worker at LAX — I met him when we cut the ribbon on a beautiful terminal he helped to build. For the first time in his life, Freddie has a bank account and a credit card. Freddie, his wife, and their sons — 7 and 5-months-old — are on a good and stable path forward.

You see, Freddie is what's at stake when we talk about our economy. Families like his, their lives and futures.

We are working to end this nation's addiction to poverty in L.A. by investing in our families and our people: We got nearly \$1.1 billion dollars in rental and utility assistance out to tens of thousands of households, keeping them from falling into homelessness in the pandemic. This year, we made Metro free for all K-12 and community college students. And we're investing nearly \$40 million dollars alongside Councilmember Price, among others, in the largest guaranteed basic income program in America, which we call BIG LEAP.

In L.A., we don't just do one big thing at a time, we do many big things, and we do them together.

My final note today isn't just for our city. It's about our planet and the work ahead to save it.

One of the things I love, and I know you love, about living in Los Angeles is what's all around us: Our weather ... the way we can commune with nature in the middle of a dense city.

Long before I stepped foot in City Hall, I connected to the natural world through my connection to this city.

Whether walking along the Los Angeles River with my father and my sister as a youth, where I dreamt of its potential...

Or interning for Tree People in high school, learning how to plant the seedlings of a healthier city.

Or growing up next to two freeways, where I saw family members and neighbors end up getting cancer, and understood how environmentalism and justice have to connect.

In City Hall, I've witnessed and helped lead a breathtaking change in how we think about our environment.

After a century-long war with Owens Valley, we have made peace, returning more water to the valley while sourcing more water locally.

In New Mexico, we opened the largest wind farm in American history.

We are building the cheapest solar energy and storage project in the country in the Mojave desert and we're expanding solar power to communities in South L.A., where it once seemed out of reach.

In less than two decades, we have made L.A. America's solar capital and boosted our carbon-free power to 62%.

We took a utility that — on my first day in City Hall — was mostly burning coal, whose pipes were bursting and power poles falling, which kept customers on hold on my first day as mayor for 40 minutes and had no independent oversight... and we turned it around.

Today, we answer calls in under two minutes. And on Monday, we announced the hiring of the DWP's first inspector general, who will ensure our money is spent responsibly and who will safeguard against any abuse of the public trust.

To the next mayor and the future councils, we will pass on the work of City Hall, of environmentalists, of everyday Angelenos who've written the most powerful Green New Deal in America.

After years of organizing, and thanks to this council, including Councilmembers Wesson and Koretz, we are ending oil drilling in our backyards. Can we take a moment to breathe that in? Long before the first director shouted "action," L.A. was actually an oil town. That's not the close of a chapter, that's the beginning of a new book.

Through our EV carshare program, we're expanding access to electric mobility in our lowest income neighborhoods, while our city buses will run all electric by 2028. And this month we joined the Port of Long Beach to launch our Clean Truck Fund so that the

economic juggernaut of the San Pedro Bay Port complex will run on zero emissions in the years ahead.

And today I am proud to announce that our budget will also include a brand new, two-phase \$21 million dollar Climate Equity Fund.

This would not have come together without the passion and persistence of our Council President Nury Martinez. The Climate Equity Fund will center our mitigation and resilience efforts in the low-income neighborhoods that bear a disproportionate amount of environmental harm.

Through the fund, we'll hire and train underrepresented and displaced workers to retrofit community-serving buildings for energy efficiency.

We'll monitor the air at oil drilling sites in these communities until they're gone, and make our data public.

We'll distribute air purifiers directly to our people in the neighborhoods that take on the most pollution from the movement of goods and proximity of freeways.

And throughout the low-income communities that have the highest heat indexes, we'll provide new insulation and cool roofs for that senior on a fixed income who's been suffering through the summer without air conditioning.

We're not alone. Across the globe, cities like Bogota, London, and Seoul are joining us to lead the march to sustainable existence while nations are playing catch-up.

Last November I had the honor to represent this city and to stand before the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow and speak to the world leaders on behalf of 1,049 cities. It was one of the most significant and definitely one of the most moving experiences of my life.

The cities of the world earned their place on that stage. Collectively, we will reduce global carbon emissions equivalent to between the 4th and 5th highest emitting countries in the world. And we are remaking the basic building blocks of communal life. Water, power, buildings.

Here in L.A., we use 54% less imported water. And thanks to our ambitious Hyperion 2035 and Operation Next plans, our wastewater plants will soon be able to treat billions

of new gallons of water for drinking and irrigation, and add to our local supply the equivalent of two L.A. Aqueducts.

Our year-over-year emissions cuts have gone, get this, from 10% to 24% to 36% reductions, and our historic LA100 plan shows the way to 100% clean power by 2035. So here's my challenge for the next mayor: Just as we've done, accelerate. Get there sooner. Want a head start? Los Angeles will be entirely coal free by the end of 2025.

We can, and we will, shrink the carbon impact of our built environment in leaps and bounds as we mandate that our municipal buildings are carbon-free and work with stakeholders so that all buildings are carbon-free soon thanks to Councilmember Raman's leadership.

Those are among the 445 initiatives of L.A.'s Green New Deal. They're going to get us to carbon neutrality by 2050. What's more, they'll prevent 1,650 premature deaths, save \$16 billion dollars, and, by the way, create 400,000 green jobs.

Follow our plan and L.A. will create a zero carbon energy grid, zero carbon buildings, zero carbon transportation, zero waste, and zero wasted water.

And when we reach those goals of zero, we will walk lighter on this land.

And we will walk together down those roads where we too often left our fellow Angelenos in the shadows. Because climate justice is our guiding arrow.

There's a woman who served on my Youth Council for Climate Action named Tianna. **Tianna Shaw-Wakeman**. She came here to Los Angeles from Nashville to go to USC. At the time, she wasn't an activist, she didn't know a whole lot about climate change. But then she learned about the Jefferson oil field, not too far from campus, and its impact on the communities of color nearby...

It changed her life.

So, Tianna co-founded DivestSC, the student group that helped get USC to commit to divesting from fossil fuels. She graduated this past spring... USC's first black valedictorian... and I asked her if she'd be willing to serve on our City's Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission. There, and in her job at Black Women for Wellness, she helps raise up the voices of underserved communities.

If a more environmentally just L.A. is coming, then know that Tianna and her fellow activists will be the ones to get us there.

Our climate justice commitment goes beyond righting the wrongs of the past. It's about creating a future of justice and opportunity. Our Just Transition Task Force, which we are leading in partnership with the County, brings together the labor movement, environmental justice advocates, our frontline communities, tribal nations, industry, and workforce experts to ensure that oil workers in our communities prosper in the L.A. of the future.

But we can also address climate change where people live right now. It's as simple as planting a tree as Councilmember Harris-Dawson and I did last weekend at Mount Carmel Recreation Center in South L.A. It was the kind of day in Los Angeles that reminds me I still have the best job in the world. A woman was sharing four kinds of locally made hot sauce, someone was playing the ukulele, the women who lead the Boards for LADWP, Public Works and Recreation and Parks were there, and we put 200 trees in the ground. I wish you all could have been there.

We know that in L.A., temperatures go up where incomes go down. Trees are our most elegant tool to combat that ... but not our only one. We're painting cool roofs and with Councilmember Blumenfield's leadership, we're leading the world in cool pavements, over 60 miles in and counting.

It's easy to look at all we have to lose and all we need to do to protect our climate and feel your hope deflate.

But the years tell us things the days cannot see and I have witnessed things changing. And changing for the better. On the day twenty years ago that I first took elected office in Los Angeles, humanity was looking at a 7.6 degree Fahrenheit rise by the end of this century. In the two decades since, our work and the work of scientists, activists, governments, and ordinary people has brought that down by almost two degrees. Every single thing we do matters.

On that day, twenty years and ten months ago to be precise, I drove downtown in the only EV on the street and parked under City Hall East. I found my way out of the biggest parking garage I'd ever been in and worked, for my first two weeks, in City Hall East. You see, that was where our City Council had been meeting for more than seven years after the Northridge earthquake.

Because our City Hall — guided skyward by the ambitions and ideals of our city mothers and fathers — our City Hall was badly damaged in that quake. People knew it wasn't inhabitable. Some thought we should pull it down and start again from scratch.

But our better angels and our brilliant engineers carried the day.

We kept that building and we lifted it up. We placed seismic footings that could withstand the most dangerous earthquakes. And most importantly, we protected what we loved from the past while building something bold and stronger for the future.

Sometimes like on this bridge, we do start from scratch and build something brand new that the world's never seen.

And sometimes we carry what's come before along the throughline of history while we write our replacement.

I believe that leaders are elected not to be popular, but to make the oftentimes unpopular decisions that history demands. To protect the city before an earthquake hits. To pay down the debts of history and invest in the future no matter how high the volume is on the crisis at hand.

I wish I could invite all of L.A. to join me on this bridge today. But I'm joined by four guests, who I've already introduced and whose stories hold powerful dreams for our city.

Katlynn, with her children, who dream of a Los Angeles where everyone has a place to call home...

Tianna, my climate advisor, who dreams of a healthy, beautiful and just city that belongs to all...

Freddie, who dreams of owning a home one day and taking vacations with his family, traveling through the airport he's helping to build ...

Kenia, who started me off down this road, who dreams of an L.A. where we can all make a difference.

I'm so grateful for all the leaders, elected... and rising up on their own... who will guide Los Angeles into tomorrow. The police officer who graduated on Friday and told me it

was the best day of his life. The student I saw yesterday who picked up her first tennis racket in Lincoln Park and had nothing but excitement in her eyes. The new business owner I met with who once was unhoused on Skid Row and is now making purses in the creative capital of the world.

These are the dreams we hold. This is the leadership we need.

And to the next mayor, who will steward a magnificent city alongside these young people and new families, I'll be rooting for you.

Get to energy independence. Recycle 100% of our water. Finish those 15 transit lines.

Complete those 12,000 supportive housing units and do 12,000 more in half the time.

Throw the best Olympic Games this world has ever seen and leave behind a legacy of opportunity.

Keep bringing crime and poverty down and graduation rates and numbers of homes up.

Just don't forget to balance that budget, to build that reserve and to watch your bond rating, Answer those calls promptly, push your general managers to do more and hire the sorts of leaders who push our city to reach beyond its grasp.

Twenty years and nine and a half months ago, I stood on a different bridge, the one that spans Main Street instead of this one that spans the L.A. River.

We cut a ribbon and walked into the most beautiful chamber I'd ever seen. Our Council Chamber, that great temple of democracy that embodies our city's dreams. Its ceilings and paintings had been restored and its fixtures were polished and gleaming. I'd only been there once or twice as a kid and I had this pinch me feeling ... and you know what... it's something I've never really gotten over.

I'm never surprised by this city's greatness but I'm still always in awe of the things we make and do here in L.A.

This time next year I won't be your Mayor. I'll be one more Angeleno. And with the exception of Dad, there's no title I cherish more.

Los Angeles, I can't wait to see what's next ... to see what you dream into reality with your creativity and your heart and to experience all the ways that our extraordinary city will bridge our future.

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