



# CD12

COUNCIL DISTRICT 12

# YEAR IN REVIEW

VOL. I

**JOHN LEE**  
LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBER • DISTRICT 12



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# JOHN LEE

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBER • DISTRICT 12



## COUNCIL DISTRICT 12

Dear Friends,

This past year came and went in the blink of an eye. When I was elected in March 2020, I had no idea that the first year of my first full-term as your City Councilmember would look the way it did. It has been a year of challenges and adversity; but also one of hope and healing.

When my term officially started in December 2020, we finally began to see a light at the end of the long pandemic tunnel with vaccines becoming available to our residents in the last quarter of 2020. Since then, we've launched a massive inoculation effort, which continues today, to protect Angelenos and help our society return to some degree of pre-pandemic normalcy.

As I look to year two, I am filled with optimism that though more difficult times may lie ahead, the kindness, generosity, and decency of humankind will prevail, and our communities will emerge from this difficult time stronger than ever. I will continue to focus my efforts on economic recovery and supporting our small businesses, community safety, protecting the environment, and making sure that we are delivering core city services efficiently and effectively to all of our residents.

Thank you for putting your trust in me. I look forward to continuing the good work of serving our community and making CD12 the best place to live, work, and play in Los Angeles.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John S. Lee".

**Councilmember John Lee**

# PRIORITIZING PUBLIC SAFETY

## Restoring LAPD and Keeping Our Neighborhoods Safe

Public safety has always been one of my top priorities because I believe safe neighborhoods are foundational to maintaining and enhancing our community's quality of life. I voted for a City budget that provides for 243 sworn LAPD officers above attrition and restores over 100 LAPD civilian positions. I also prioritized funding to all four LAPD Divisions that serve CD12 to ensure that they are able to provide additional patrols in crime hotspot areas. As someone who strongly opposes "Defunding the Police" and the 2020 LAPD cuts, I am continually working to restore our police department and help keep our communities safe.



## Combatting Street Racing

Throughout the pandemic we have seen a rise in illegal street racing. Street racing is not a victimless crime. Beyond punishment from fines to jail time, street racing can have many other negative effects such as noise, vandalism, litter at racing locations, excessive wear and tear on public streets, and even death. This year, I held several town halls in conjunction with law enforcement partners to discuss our continuing efforts to combat street racing.

Also this year, I introduced legislation to explore the feasibility of enacting an ordinance that would make it illegal to promote, aid, and abet the gathering of spectators at street races. Working with Senator Stern and other colleagues at the local and state level, I will keep fighting to bring an end to the nuisance of street racing in our communities.



One of many 'Coffee with a Cop' events where residents can meet and chat with the men and women of LAPD who serve our community.

## Supporting Community Policing

In CD12, the LAPD Devonshire Police Activity League Supporters (PALS) has helped to build bridges between law enforcement and members of the community. Since 1973, PALS has successfully reduced juvenile crime, prevented gang activity, and fostered positive relationships between police officers and at-risk youth. From partnering with my office to hold vaccine and health care clinics for local residents, to hosting community movie nights, I'm proud to support this outstanding community organization.



## No Place for Hate

LA is for everyone and in 2021, I co-authored legislation, adopted by the City Council, calling on the city to initiate a public messaging campaign against hate speech. This campaign - LA for ALL - is a citywide, multilingual, creative campaign to combat hate. But this campaign is not just about fighting hate of every kind -- it is also about uniting to fight for diversity, inclusion, justice, and respect; and to celebrate the rich diversity that makes Los Angeles a truly global city. The LA for ALL campaign includes 'The Art of Belonging', a creative effort led by the Department of Cultural Affairs, showcasing artwork by LA-based AAPI artists with hate crime and hate incident reporting information.



# SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## CD12 Small Business Relief Fund

Since launching in the spring of 2020, the CD12 Small Business Relief Fund, which is a partnership with the nonprofit The Change Reaction, has continued to help our local small businesses stay open in 2021. Through this program, businesses are eligible to receive zero-interest loans from \$5,000 to \$25,000. To date, this program has awarded over \$600,000 in loans to support over 40 local small businesses in CD12.



San Carlo Deli in Chatsworth is a family-operated Italian deli and was the very first loan recipient of the CD12 Small Business Relief Fund when the program was announced in May 2020. Pictured here are San Carlo Deli owner Pasquale Roberto, myself, and The Change Reaction founder, Greg Perlman.

## Reimagining the Valley's Industrial Core

The Chatsworth and Northridge communities, once home to the technological core of the aerospace industry, is a unique area that has the potential to lead the Valley as a high-tech corridor and future incubator of clean-tech and bio-tech businesses. I continue to work closely with our City departments to ensure that land use policies are enacted and enforced to preserve it as a re-envisioned hub of economic development and growth in the Valley.



## Assistance for Small Businesses

On June 3, 2021, I held a Business Resilience Webinar for our small business community to present information on the different resources available to help them prepare for the full reopening of California's economy on June 15. Guest speakers included Congressman Brad Sherman, Congressman Mike Garcia, Assemblymember Suzette Valladares, Supervisor Kathryn Barger, and other city and county leaders.



Economic & Workforce  
Development Department

Impact in West Valley

**\$460,000** Emergency Microloans

**\$102,863** Small Business Loans

**127** Services Provided

**31** Businesses Assisted

2021

## JEDI Zone Program



Devonshire Blvd East and West

Earlier this year, I introduced a motion to explore designating Devonshire Street, between Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Canoga Avenue, as a Jobs and Economic Development Incentive (JEDI) Zone. The JEDI zone program provides economic development incentives within specific regions of the City that aim to both promote and expand business in Los Angeles. Businesses located in these zones are eligible to obtain a variety of incentives, including case management of the City development permit process, permit fee reductions, business consulting and façade improvements, among others.

Joined with Valley colleagues for the Greater SFV Chamber's annual State of the Valley luncheon. Businesses are our job creators and as city leaders, it is our job to make it easier for them to operate. I will continue to fight to reduce excessive regulations and fees and push to make Los Angeles a more business-friendly city.



# COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE



## ||||| Dinner on Us

This year I launched a new partnership with Los Toros Mexican Restaurant and The Change Reaction called “Dinner on Us”. This program provides a free meal to Twelfth District families experiencing food insecurity as a result of COVID-19, and shows appreciation to individuals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve our communities throughout the pandemic. Los Toros was a recent recipient of a loan from our CD12 Small Business Relief Fund, which helped them to stay open. Thanks to the assistance he received, Los Toros owner Nick Montaña is continuing to pay it forward by giving back to the community. Since “Dinner on Us” launched in 2021, we have provided hundreds of meals to exhausted educators, essential workers, families struggling financially, and others simply deserving of a night out.



Following the immensely successful online concert and telethon in 2020, my office joined with Rock Cellar Productions and the Get Together Foundation and many other partners to put on the second All Together Now telethon to raise funds for the City’s coronavirus relief fund, hosted by actress and singer Carnie Wilson.

In August 2021, I was proud to announce a new partnership with the Mission City Community Network, a local nonprofit community clinic, to bring mobile basic mental and physical health care services to the Valley’s underserved populations. The partnership launched with a dental clinic for families served by LAPD Devonshire PALS, an organization that serves some of the lowest income working families in the Valley. Working with the Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission, the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission, and Volunteers of America, the partnership next plans to bring mobile health care services to the interim housing facilities in the Twelfth District.





## Project Elevate

In April 2021, I joined with the Change Reaction to launch Project Elevate - a new pilot program to assist aspiring college bound students whose families were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This program provides financial assistance in the form of grants and subsidies for college application and testing fees, which could run students hundreds or even thousands of dollars during a time when families have had to make tough decisions on spending to ensure their basic needs are met. The pilot program launched at Chatsworth Charter High School, providing a total of \$25,000 in assistance to 125 students.



### Hindsight 2020 | Time Capsule Burial

Hindsight is 2020 and in 2021, we buried our memories and mementos from community members across CD12 of a most novel year. The time capsule will be unearthed in 2031!



### UV Disinfection System for Providence Holy Cross

Visiting the amazing health heroes at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center and getting a demonstration, with former Councilmember and Holy Cross Board Member Greig Smith, of the new ultraviolet ovens for disinfecting small items which were purchased with a \$100,000 grant I helped secure for the hospital.



## Lunches with Love

Our Lunches with Love program, founded in partnership with the Granada Hills Rotary and About My Father's Business, has served over 15,000 fresh meals to our unhoused neighbors since it launched in the summer of 2020. Today, the program is evolving into a partnership with Fish of West Valley food pantry. There are so many community partners that have contributed to the success of Lunches with Love.

### A Special Thanks to:

- Shepherd Church
- Chatsworth Kiwanis
- The Church at Rocky Peak
- Temple Ramat Zion
- Freedom Church
- Hope of the Valley
- Giving from the Heart Foundation

### Addressing Food Insecurity

CD12 distributed over \$50,000 in grocery gift cards to local residents struggling financially as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

Thanks to our partnership with Super King Markets and the Change Reaction.



Food giveaway to healthcare workers at West Hills Hospital and gourmet Korean lunchboxes for our COVID heroes and essential workers thanks to the Korean Food Global Association.



Pop up vaccine clinic at LAPD Devonshire PALS in partnership with the Center for Family Health & Education for CD12 residents.

# ADDRESSING THE HOMELESSNESS CRISIS

## Meeting the Homelessness Crisis with Courage and Compassion

If we want to reclaim our streets and sidewalks, we need to work to provide shelter for those in need, and in the Twelfth District we are doing exactly that. Over the last year, our district approved nearly 300 beds for unhoused residents, which include the Project Homekey site at the Travelodge in Chatsworth, a safe parking site at the Northridge Metrolink station parking lot, the Trebek Center interim housing facility scheduled to open in 2022, and a new permanent supportive housing project located at Eton Avenue and Devonshire Street. All of these locations will offer supportive services and case management to assist individuals to get back on their feet. I am proud of what we've accomplished on the housing front, but I will not stop calling on my colleagues and every level of government to address the underlying issues causing people to fall into homelessness in the first place.

## CD12/Change Reaction Angel Fund

Today, the average American family cannot afford a \$400 emergency expense, like a major vehicle repair or an unexpected medical bill. The Angel Fund stands in the gap and provides emergency financial assistance to help individuals overcome these financial difficulties. The CD12/Change Reaction Angel Fund, which launched in December 2019, is a program designed to address prevention and bring timely assistance to help hardworking families who find themselves on the brink of homelessness. In 2021, this program helped nearly two dozen local families stay housed.



## Ensuring Access to Public Spaces

This summer, the City Council passed an ordinance to reestablish regulations on where people can sit, lie, and sleep in public spaces. This is an issue that Councilmember Joe Buscaino and I forced Council discussion and action on when we invoked a rarely used procedural rule. While it isn't perfect, it is progress because the status quo of allowing people to live on our streets is unacceptable, inhumane, and dangerous for both the housed and unhoused. We have an obligation to address the accessibility of our public spaces, and to ensure the health and safety of all of our residents.

## Resumption of CARE+ Operations

In September 2021, CARE+ enhanced hygiene and street engagement services resumed following a vote by the City Council in July. CARE+ teams provide full comprehensive cleanings including the identification, documentation, and removal of line-of-sight health and/or safety hazards, the removal of trash, litter, and debris, and the power washing of public rights-of-way to ensure fully sanitized areas for public safety. CD12 has our own dedicated CARE+ team to conduct posted comprehensive cleanings of encampment sites two days a week and they work closely with outreach personnel to continue to offer services to unhoused neighbors.



## Trebek Center Unveiling

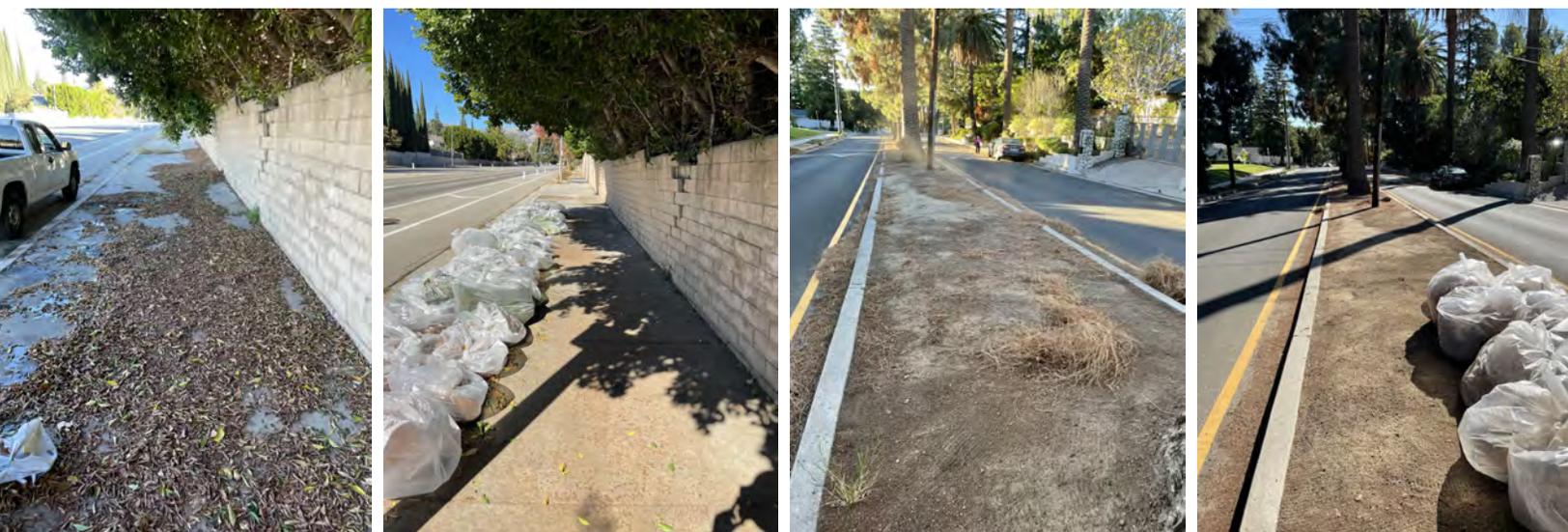
In March 2021, I joined members of late 'Jeopardy' host Alex Trebek's family, and representatives of Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission to announce that the new interim housing facility, formerly occupied by Skateland, would be renamed the Trebek Center, in honor of the late game show host who donated \$500,000, which will be used to help convert the property to provide beds and services for our communities unhoused residents.



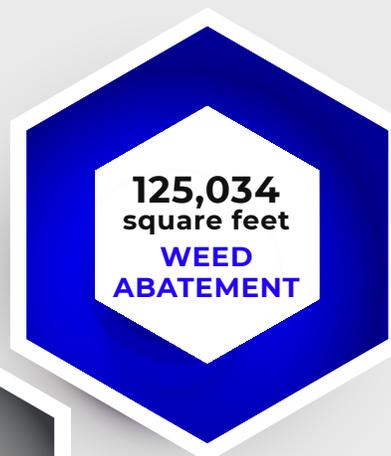
# PUTTING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS FIRST

## Neighborhood Beautification

Simple activities such as weed abatement and litter removal can have a huge impact on our neighborhoods. In 2021, I continued to provide funding for the West Valley Alliance (WVA) and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) for community cleanup activities throughout CD12. From cleaning alleys, removing illegally dumped items, removing hundreds of thousands of pounds of litter and weeds, these organizations and their efforts contribute to our daily enjoyment of our community. In addition, our CD12 Rapid Response Team is out in the community to proactively address and quickly respond to reports of illegally dumped items.



## 2021 BY THE NUMBERS





My office helped to secure a grant from The Home Depot Foundation for Volunteers Cleaning Communities, which was used to purchase cleaning supplies and equipment as they continue their cleanup efforts across our community.

## Creating Connection Through Community Cleanups

Throughout this past year, my office has been inviting local residents and organizations to work with us on beautification efforts. Whether partnering with local neighborhood councils, or supporting grassroots cleanup activities, collaboration and cooperation have been the key to not only expand our capacity to do more for our neighborhoods, but bring neighbors together. In 2021, we partnered, organized, sponsored, or supported dozens of community cleanup events across CD12.

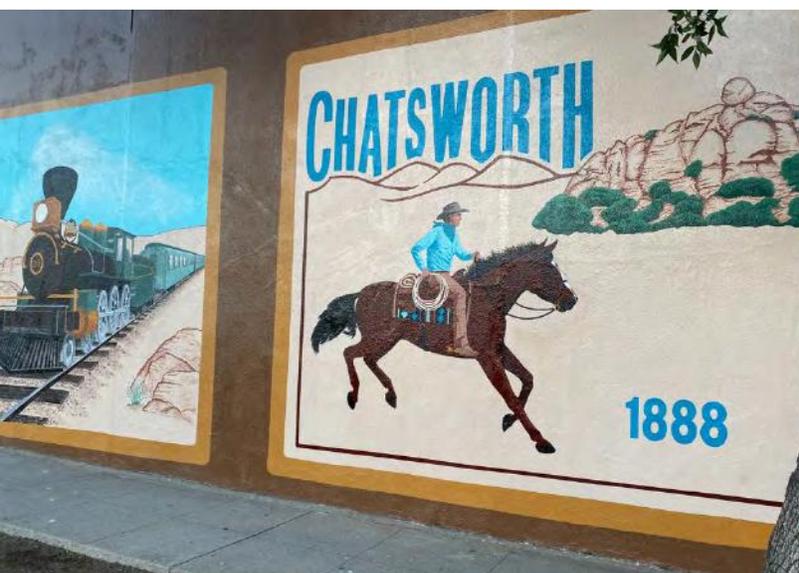


Volunteers Cleaning Communities (VCC) and Clean Up Granada Hills co-hosted a cleanup at Balboa and Devonshire and along the 118 freeway near Balboa to help beautify our community.



## Protecting Equestrian Communities

Protecting our equestrian communities is a priority. This year, I introduced two motions aimed at developing policies that preserve equestrian communities and trails in the City. The first motion asks City departments involved in the development services process to establish checks to prevent conflicts between equestrian trail easements and other underlying utility/infrastructure easements to ensure that public trails remain accessible to equestrians without physical impediments. The second motion seeks to enhance our existing equestrian trail network as a means to preserve equestrian culture by establishing equestrian trail standards in the City, so that there is consistency in their development.



A mural celebrating the history of Chatsworth was dedicated to the public on Saturday, August 28, 2021. The mural is located on Jordan Avenue and was designed and painted by artists Cindy Medlin and Carole Raschella, members of the Chatsworth Fine Arts Council.



**3,536**  
Trees  
Trimmed

**66**  
Trees  
Planted

**529**  
Stumps  
Removed

**342**  
Dead Trees  
Removed

**1.06**  
Per Day  
Emergency  
Tree Service  
Completed

## 2021 Tree Service Requests Completed



The entire CD12 team was on hand for a citywide cleanup event during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

# Protecting Our Environment



Working with the Department of Rec and Parks, we installed new play equipment at the Holleigh Bernson Memorial Park in Porter Ranch and Castle Peak Park in West Hills this year.

## Protecting and Expanding Open Space

One of the hallmarks of CD12 is the beautiful open spaces and access to nature we enjoy in our corner of the San Fernando Valley. I'm pleased to share a few accomplishments regarding parks in the District. This past year, we met important milestones in our efforts to open a new 50 acre park in Porter Ranch, which I hope will be open to the public by the end of 2022. Working together with the Department of Rec and Parks, we also established a new park (Fallbrook Park) in West Hills and replaced the playground equipment at Castle Peak Park and Holleigh Bernson Memorial Park in Porter Ranch. Throughout the pandemic, outdoor spaces have become somewhat of a sanctuary in our communities; they've served as a place for connection during a time when many are feeling lonely and isolated. I will continue to work to protect and expand the open spaces in CD12 for the enjoyment of all residents.

## LA's First Indoor Pod Farm in Northridge

In October 2021, I joined representatives from Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and LAPD Devonshire PALS today to unveil a 40-foot, almost 8-ton shipping container that will house an indoor pod farm - the first ever in the City of Los Angeles! This indoor farm pilot project is part of research to advance indoor food production as a solution to reduce energy and water use as well as carbon emissions. Funded by CD12 and LADWP, this transformed shipping container will not only make possible growing fresh produce year-round to local residents, but also provide our youth the opportunity to learn about innovative and environmentally sustainable solutions to address food production challenges.



## Prop O Update

Progress continues in Northridge on the proposed Aliso Creek-Limekiln Creek Restoration Project. Prop O funds will be used to improve the water quality of urban runoff to Aliso Creek and Limekiln Creek, which ultimately feed into the LA River. In addition to improving water quality and replenishing groundwater supply, this almost 12 acre project will restore vegetation and habitat for local wildlife.



Aliso Creek - Limekiln Creek  
Confluence Restoration

## Closing Aliso Canyon

The City Council unanimously approved my resolution to demand the Governor and State regulatory agencies to accelerate a closure plan for the Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Facility. Following the worst natural gas leak in U.S. history at this location in 2015, many residents still live in fear after experiencing negative health impacts due to the release of methane and other substances into the air. We deserve answers and I will continue to work with my colleagues at all levels of government to demand them because our community's health and lives are at stake.

## Improvements at Oakridge Estate

Working together with local community leaders, my office worked with the Department of Recreation and Parks to submit a proposal for Prop K funding for improvements to The Oakridge Estate, which would provide for new landscaping, walking paths, irrigation, and site amenities and improvements including new LED park lighting and shade structure over existing picnic areas and playground. This year, the proposal was approved by the Valley Regional Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee and is now moving forward to the Local Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee for community input.

## Upgrading Chatsworth Park North

This year, funding was approved to complete a project that will bring much needed outdoor field improvements at Chatsworth Park North. Construction is anticipated to begin soon and once completed, we can expect to see new bleachers, a drinking fountain, and improved signage. This project also includes a new irrigation system, turf, and a new asphalt path for ADA access to the bleachers.



Joined LA Sanitation, Coca-Cola, and Steve List with the Sylmar Agriculture Learning Center for a successful Free Rain Barrel giveaway in CD12. Using rain barrels for rainwater harvesting is an excellent, environmentally friendly way of conserving water and saving on utility costs while practicing sustainability at home!

# Delivering Core City Services

## Reopening the West Valley Animal Shelter

Earlier this spring, following months of speculation around a proposed plan to convert the West Valley Animal Shelter into a Community Resource Center, and months of advocating with community members to maintain this facility as a City-operated animal shelter, I was pleased to share the good news that the facility will be maintained as a traditional animal shelter to serve the residents and animals of the San Fernando Valley. Without the West Valley Animal Shelter, the entire San Fernando Valley would only be left with one shelter to serve an area that is roughly half the geographic size of the entire city. The shelter reopened to the public on March 15, 2021.



This year, we welcomed the newest member of the CD12 team - Dodger! Our furry, four-legged teammate comes to us from the West Valley Animal Shelter and was recently adopted by a member of the staff.



Bureau of Street Services completing a resurfacing project along Valley Circle Boulevard from Vanowen to Victory in West Hills - one of many street improvements completed in CD12 during the past year.

## Safer Streets 2021

**10,320** miles of street sweeping

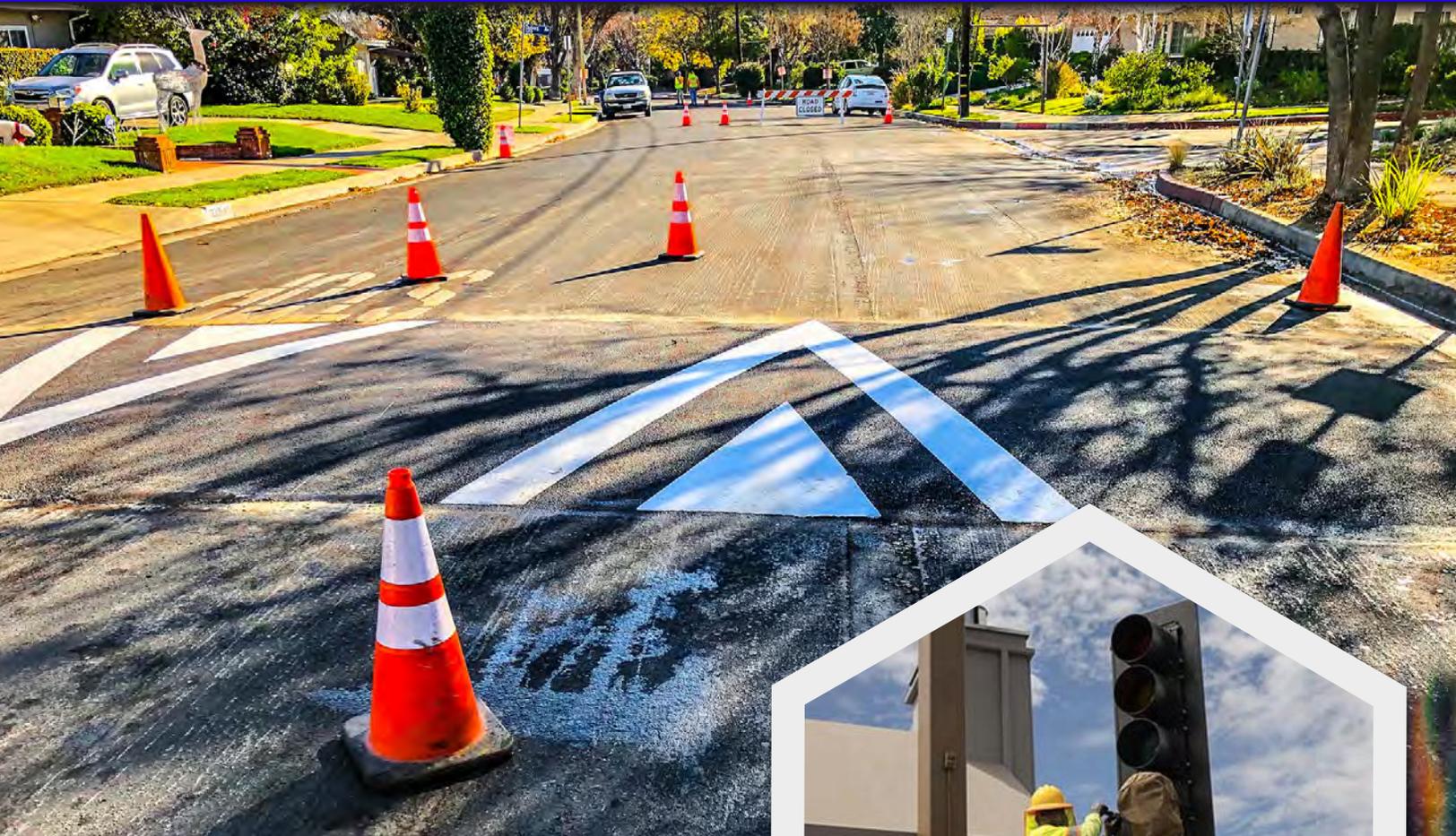
**7,706** cubic yards of debris removed

**80,367** sq ft of potholes repaired

**53** lane miles of resurfaced streets

**126** miles of streets slurried

Figures from FY 20-21



**In 2021, my office worked with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to complete 500 service requests across CD12 including traffic, signal, and safety signage and improvements**



## **Signal Improvement in Porter Ranch**

Working closely with LADOT and the Aldea Homeowners Association, my office was able to complete a long-standing traffic safety improvement for the Porter Ranch community with the approval of an additional traffic signal head fixture facing eastbound traffic on Rinaldi at Avenida Aldea.

# INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH

## LEEI2 High School Leadership Program

Following a year of virtual meetings and workshops, the LEEI2 Excellence in Public Service high school leadership program kicked off with a group of outstanding students from across the district who are part of the 2021-22 cohort. This unique program provides selected youth with the opportunity to learn how local government functions, how to effectively participate in the political and civic engagement process, formulate public policies, and expand their leadership capacity. Through the LEEI2 program, youth are cultivated to be the next generation of young leaders in our community and I have no doubt that each of our participants will go on to make a positive impact in our communities and our society.



2021-22 LEEI2 cohort learn a little Valley History during their visit to the Oakridge Estate.

## Celebrating the Year of the Ox

2021 was the Year of the Ox and to celebrate, my office distributed 1,500 Lunar New Year goodie bags to CD12 students at LAUSD Grab-n-Go locations across the district. These bags contained popular Asian snacks and information about how Lunar New Year is celebrated by cultures across the globe.





An evening chat with the scouts of Troop 104, shining examples of our community's outstanding youth.



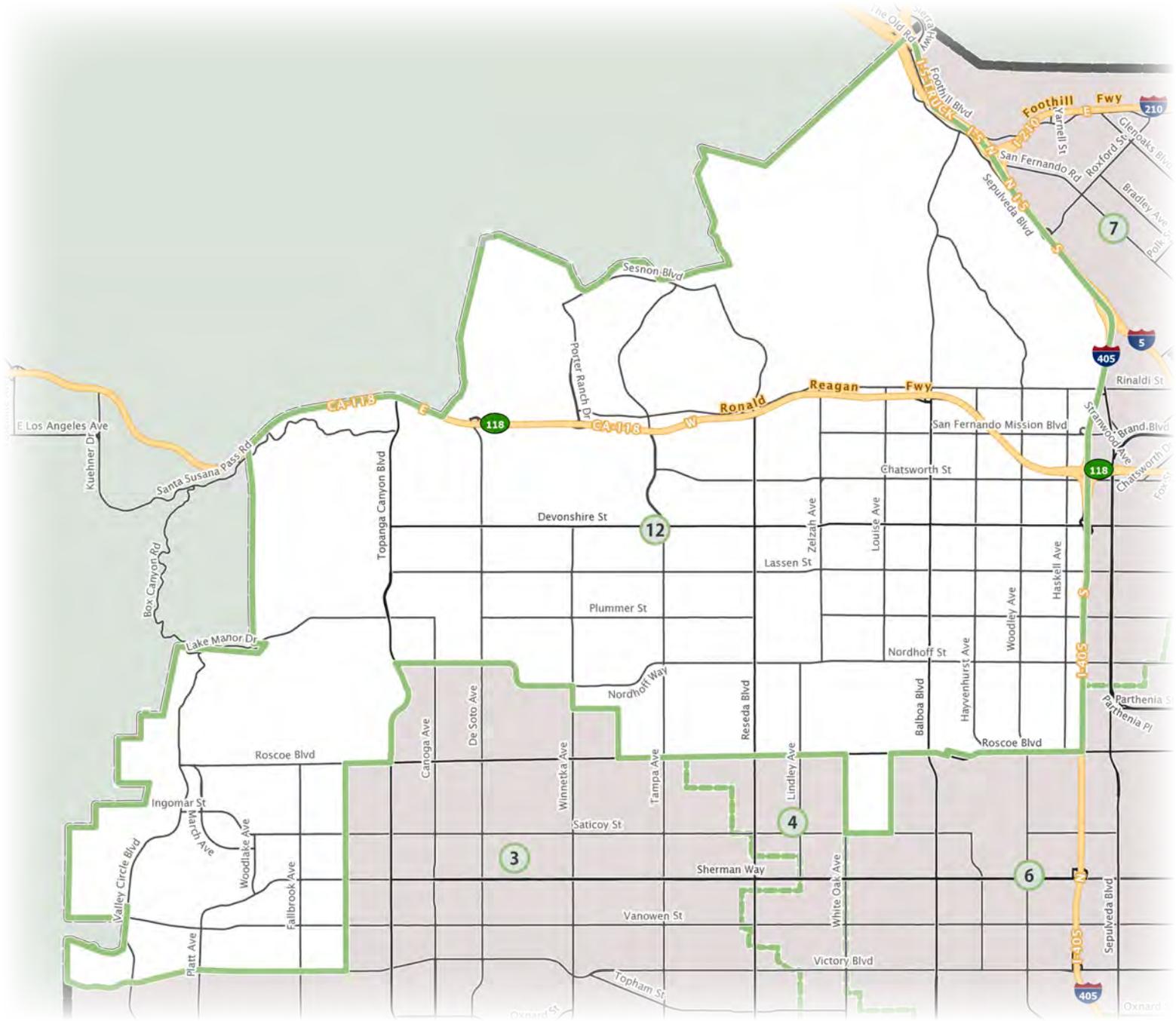
Congratulations to Richard Cordero with Troop 22 on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout by completing this incredible prayer and meditation garden for our community on the property of the Riverstone Chapel of Chatsworth. Come by to enjoy this beautiful garden and its sustainable design features!



LAPD Senior Lead Officers Zamora and Parker and I joined children at the Chatsworth Branch Library for a special Halloween storytime.

# PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF

CHATSWORTH • GRANADA HILLS • NORTH HILLS WEST • NORTHRIDGE  
PORTER RANCH • SHERWOOD FOREST • WEST HILLS





# JOHN LEE

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBER • DISTRICT 12



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