

HNBA
HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
HNBA

The National Voice of the Hispanic Legal Community

Jimmie V. Reyna, Esq.
National President

May 23, 2007

The Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa
Mayor of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Villaraigosa:

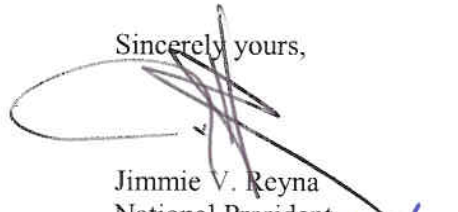
On behalf of the Hispanic National Bar Association (the "HNBA"), we write to express our concerns regarding the mistreatment of participants and journalists attending the peaceful rally on May 1, 2007 at MacArthur Park and to support your efforts to have a complete and thorough investigation to ensure that any and all responsible officers are held accountable for their misconduct.

The HNBA plays a prominent, national role in advocating on behalf of the Latino community. In this regard, the HNBA reviews issues concerning the violation of rights and any practices that undermine those rights. As a result, the HNBA is deeply concerned about the disturbing news videos that were broadcast worldwide documenting the abuses at MacArthur Park on such an historic occasion.

Marches and demonstrations around political issues are crucial for our nation and for that reason are protected under the first amendment. The blatant use of excessive force at MacArthur Park will undoubtedly have a lasting chilling effect unless the City takes a strong stand against any and all misconduct.

We were encouraged by your initial response declaring that a thorough investigation must be conducted and by the recent disciplinary actions. The HNBA will monitor the City's efforts to ensure that officers are held accountable and that effective policies and training programs are implemented to prevent similar incidents of police misconduct in the future. As LA's first Latino Mayor in more than 100 years, you are in a unique position to facilitate a response to this incident that would help rebuild trust toward the LAPD among LA's Latino communities. As you know, trust is essential given the nature of the relationship between police officers and the communities that they serve. The HNBA stands ready to work with you on these issues of common concern.

Sincerely yours,



Jimmie V. Reyna
National President



Sean A. Andrade
Regional President, So. California

cc: HNBA Board of Governors
Antonio Arocho, HNBA Executive Director