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ONE-ON-ONE WITH THE MAYOR

Lili Bosse Lays Out Her Initiatives as Mayor

By Danielle Berjikian

What is it like being mayor a third time?

It is a big honor but it is a different time because the world is different and I feel that we are different. I think being mayor now in 2022 requires different leadership [and] different initiatives than in the past.

Tell us what you want to accomplish over your mayoral term.

I really value that our City is a healthy city. That's something that has been very important to me in all my years of leadership. That is healthy people, a healthy economy, and a healthy government. To feel healthy as a person one has to feel safe. My lead initiative is to restore everyone's feeling of personal safety again. I've been working with the Chief and [the] police department and I have rolled out a few initiatives.

BHPD Alert is a text program that will go out to residents whenever there is any incident in the City. The information

will go out directly to those who sign up. In the past what I've seen these last few years, is there have been chats and people using their own social media to share what they feel is happening in the City. Which is often not accurate. I really wanted the community to know in real-time from BHPD what's happening.

I am excited to announce the Real Time Watch Center. We have over 2,000 cameras in our City. This center will allow for live monitoring of the cameras. The cameras we have had in our City have been fantastic. We have been able to use them to solve crimes. Having the live monitoring of the cameras in my mind will be a proactive way to hopefully curb crime. The Chief will be rolling out a phased-in approach at our Council meeting.

Also, LIVE 911 is a wonderful program that will cut down on response time. Which we already have among the best in the world, under three minutes. This will cut down even further. If somebody calls 911 the police cars will get that information so they can get to the location even quicker.

The City will be signing up for 30 by 30, which will encourage having more

women in the police department as well. We are actively recruiting for more police officers. We have just put five more police officers on the streets this week [and] we have 16 in the recruitment process. We are a City that funds our police, supports our police, and will always give any necessary revenue that they need.

I am also very passionate about the recall of District Attorney George Gascon. I came up very early on having him be recalled. He was elected in Nov. and in March I had asked for a vote of no confidence. And then in Jan. for him to be recalled. My feeling is even with all the security in place that we have, if there is no consequence to crime we are living in chaos. There has to be a consequence to crime. That is something that is really at the top of my list, is really having people feel personal safety in their homes and on the streets.

I also feel that these last two years have taken a toll on us. I feel that living through a global health pandemic, having to be apart from another, the political divide, and the increase in crime in Beverly Hills and Los Angeles County has taken a toll on our mental well being. So, I have partnered with mental health experts Dr. Deepak Chopra as well as Dr. Edith Eger who is a holocaust survivor and a psychologist who has written a book called The Choice. Both of which focus on resilience and moving forward. I continue to stand up to anti-Semitism and hate of any kind. I will always speak out against that and do whatever we can to ensure that there is no hate in our community.

I support our business community. I have brought Business with Bosse. Which is a new twist to supporting businesses where I will be back out in the business community showcasing all of our new businesses in our City and some of our favorites where I will bring our community to that business. Business owners will be there and it will be a great opportunity for the community to be together as well. I will also be doing our 60-second shout out at every council meeting where I will be highlighting businesses as well and presenting them with a proclamation.

Lastly, what is really important to me



Lili Bosse and Captain Elisabeth Albanese

is healthy government. Just more ways for the community to know what is happening behind City Hall. I want to allow for a monthly town hall meeting called LIVE with Lili. Which will enable the community once a month to come and share their thoughts, ideas, concerns, and look for solutions together. I have also added 'Coming to City Council.' Our City Council meetings are generally on Tuesday, and on Friday the agendas come out. But very few people know what is on the agenda. They just know there is a Council meeting. What I have added now is 'Coming to City Council.' Everybody will know on Friday what the items are that we will be discussing. It will give them the opportunity to see if any of the issues that will be coming to the Council are something they want to tune into. Also, during the meeting, I will have live on the screen the telephone number that they can call in [and] the email address that they can write in. Generally in the past, the telephone number was mentioned in the beginning and never again during the meeting. So, I want during the entire Council meeting that whenever they tune in they see the phone number that they can call in and see the email so they can write to us so they always feel that they have an opportunity to let us know what's on their mind throughout the entire Council meeting.

I definitely have a lot of initiatives to get done this year but I am very confident that I will and that we will as a community. These issues in terms of safety, mental wellness, in terms of connecting with each other and with ourselves, are necessary after these last two years.

How would you evaluate how the City Staff performed during COVID?

I think our City staff was stellar. They kept everything going. They were still there to communicate with any resident who needed [anything]. Whether it was their trash that needed to be picked up, whether it was a safety issue, anything with their utilities, nothing stopped. Our City ran very smoothly during COVID. I think everybody worked so hard. Our City staff worked hard, our commissioners worked hard. Even though we weren't able to be physically together,

City Hall really ran incredibly well. I am very proud. I view the city staff as city staff family. Because I view our City as a community and that our staff is an extension of that family.

How is this Council different from other Councils you have served with?

I think this Council for the last two years has worked harder.

I feel these last two years have felt like 10 years. We as a Council were a representation of what we as a community, we as a nation, we as a world were experiencing. Having a global health pandemic that had no guidebook, we had no idea to the extent of what that would look like. Having political division, people feeling a sense of isolation and not being able to be with their families, losing people that we love to COVID. I think it was very devastating to our community [and] to our world. And I think this Council that I've worked with over the last two years has experienced something that no prior councils have ever had to deal with. We have never had to deal with this type of global health pandemic. I am really grateful to my colleagues for their dedication.

The LVMH project was sent back by the Planning Commission. When do you anticipate that getting to the City Council and what are your thoughts on it?

I haven't heard the date of when it goes to the Planning Commission. I think that would be information you could get from [Director of Community Development] Ryan [Gohlich]. What I can tell you is that it will go through the Planning Commission process and when it is through that process, it will come to the City Council. What I do know is that the City has a rule that no big projects are ever addressed during the summer months. That project or any big project wouldn't come to the Council during the summer months; it would happen after Labor day. That is not specifically to LVMH, that's specific to any large land use project. We have always had a policy that we really want the most amount of public participation and we don't do that during summer months.

Have you decided if you will seek a fourth term in 2024?

I will not.

Watch Bosse on Beverly Hills View at <https://vimeo.com/697543081>. The broadcast dates are as follows: Monday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 19 at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 20 at 3:30 p.m., Thursday, April 21 at 9:30 p.m., and Friday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m.