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SEPTEMBER 2022

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MAYOR LILI BOSSE

OPTIMIST, ACTIVIST & STUDENT OF LIFE

— PLUS —

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PHOTO BY PHILIP MACIAS

GILDED LILI

BEVERLY HILLS MAYOR LILI BOSSE - A SELF-PROCLAIMED "OPTIMIST, ACTIVIST AND STUDENT-OF-LIFE" - SHARES HER PRIORITIES, VISION AND OUTLOOK IN HER THIRD TERM



PHOTOGRAPHY BY PHILIP MACIAS | WRITTEN BY KAVITA DASWANI | CREATIVE DIRECTION BY JESSICA VARONE



When Lili Bosse was elected as the mayor of the City of Beverly Hills in April 2022 for the third time, it was something of a full circle moment for her.

After all, as the daughter of Holocaust survivors, she has intuitively learned how to be sympathetic and compassionate. She has long been drawn to the concept of service. She understands the crucial importance of mental health. She is a supporter of women, and their endeavors.

And being elected the city's Mayor, she says, allowed her to sit at the confluence of all those interests.

There were also, however, the nuts-and-bolts issues that she had to deal with from day one.

"When I was installed in April, I focused on quite a few issues, number one: safety," she said. One initiative months in the making, includes the Real Time Watch Center, a new hub to coordinate the city's many surveillance tools, allowing for consistent monitoring of over 2000 cameras watching over the city. The goal is to reduce the amount of time it takes officers to respond to calls, facilitate early intervention in criminal activity, and improve evidence and information gathering. "I'm very excited that it is now fully operational in our city. I think that it really provides a model for what makes Beverly Hills so unique."

Working in tandem with that is the BHPD Alert, where residents are given accurate and real-time information about what is happening in the community. Additionally, emergency service call response times have been reduced.

These are just two of the many goals that the Mayor set for herself when she was elected, alongside her other innovations such as 'Business with Bosse', where local businesses are encouraged to meet with one another at showcases. She also started 'Live with Lili', where the city's residents can share ideas in a town hall-like setting. She launched the Mayor's Mental Wellness Series where handpicked speakers can talk on the subject to anyone who would like to listen. And she continues to pioneer roles for women in office - her 30x30 initiative intends to ensure that at least 30 percent of law enforcement personnel in our city will be women by 2030. Her championing of women continues through her association with Visionary Women, a non-profit organization she co-founded with best friend, philanthropist and author Angella Nazarian.

"I've always been somebody who's a girl's girl," she said. "I really love connection and I hold my friendships sacred. I view them as a sisterhood and I think women are very inspiring, intuitive, and innovative. And I really felt when I co-founded Visionary

Women with Angella Nazarian that we really wanted to be surrounded by other women who we could learn from, who were like-minded, who really wanted to make a difference in the lives of women and girls.”

In some regards Bosse attributes her ability to relate authentically to people to growing up as a child of Holocaust survivors. Mental wellness, she says, should be atop everyone’s agenda, especially in this post-COVID era.

“The last few years have been extraordinarily challenging. I always say that 2020, at least for me, felt like a 10-year year on so many levels: dealing with a global health pandemic, a political divide and the fact that we had to be apart from one another for so long. I do feel the residue of all of that has stayed with many of us and there’s still a feeling of anxiety. I grew up with a very resilient fiber of my being, with the message to never give up. But I also, during 2020, felt like I needed guidance to help me make sense of a lot of the challenges that we were facing.”

She brought in the likes of Dr. Edith Edger, a 94-year old Holocaust survivor and long-time psychologist, to speak to hundreds of Beverly Hills residents about the importance of resilience. Renowned doctor Deepak Chopra has also come to speak, and will return in September.

The mayor says she lives by certain mottos. “I am all about Yes. I start with Yes, and then figure out the ‘how’ after. I love to love. I must admit, I am one big open heart but I can be a tough cookie when the time requires it.”

When she’s not working, she enjoys sharing and connecting through her social media platforms, walking around the city and prioritizing family time. “I love spending time with my amazing hubby Jon, our sons who are always often my best teachers, and stealing time with dear girlfriends to share open-hearted, deep, thoughtful, soulful conversations. All of this makes me feel so alive and grateful. I love, love, love to listen to music and dance – and I often keep dancing even if the music has stopped,” shared Lili. She’s not the type of city official to sit behind a desk in a cloistered office, instead choosing to be out and about, engaging with her community, often dressed in bright bold colors or her signature orange and white jeans.

“What I value most is being an accessible Mayor. In my previous term I led a ‘Walk with the Mayor’ every Monday where hundreds of people showed up to connect and create a sense of community together, and in my current term with ‘Live with Lili,’ we host a monthly informal town hall-like gathering. It is important to be open-hearted, open-minded and to really hear what others share. There is a big difference between listening

and hearing. I truly open my heart and hear what others say.”

She sees herself as a mentor as much as a Mayor, and hopes that other young people will follow in her footsteps and consider a life of community and civil service. Even if they don’t, however, she likes to impart the same life advice to anyone who asks. “It all starts from the inside out. Once we truly accept all of ourselves, even the parts that we wish were different, the more we can truly live a happier, fuller life. Have the courage to trust your instinct and take chances no matter how out of the box the ideas are. In fact, it’s more fun that way!”

"I can't help but feel a sense of light, optimism and hope for some really great possibilities ahead."

As for the future, she holds a vision for continued health, love, curiosity and openness to a lifetime of unlimited possibilities. “My number one hope 10 years from now is for health and love for everybody around me. We’ve learned to never take health for granted the last few years. In my life right now, I don’t have a lot of free time, so I see myself having more time to explore and open myself up to all the possibilities, because there’s so much beauty out there. I always want to learn. I always want to grow. I am always curious. So, I don’t put myself in a box. Everything that I am now is because I’ve been open to possibilities.” She continues to share, “I’d like to continue to learn and stretch myself, and hopefully continue to make a difference, to be involved in Visionary Women and other elements of organizations that can really make a difference beyond just ourselves.” But in the end it comes down to the small, daily moments that truly make life beautiful. “I just want to feel a sense of gratitude every day. I live my life now every day in gratitude. I wake up every morning feeling grateful and I go to bed every night, counting my blessings. So I would say 10 years from now I intend to always find something beautiful every day. And even though there might be some challenging days, because there always are, never forget that there is something really beautiful right in front of us, and right inside us. I am just open in a very positive way. When you ask me that question, I can’t help but feel a sense of light, optimism and hope for some really great possibilities ahead.” ■

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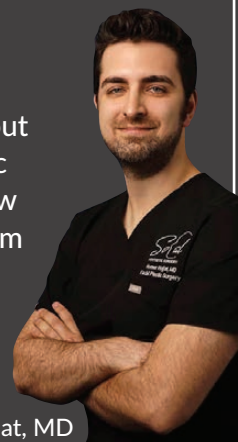


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