

Hahn: How one decision unraveled a career

By Mary Frances Gurton
Special to Sentinel-Voice

LOS ANGELES (NNPA) - For Mayor Jim Hahn, the bitter, lopsided defeat he suffered in seeking a second term had its genesis on Feb. 5, 2002, barely more than seven months into his first year in office.

On that brisk Tuesday morning, Hahn took a bold step that would irreversibly change his political fortune and Los Angeles city politics.

Hahn announced his decision—that he would not sup-

Judges

(Continued from Page 3)

port the appointment of Police Chief Bernard Parks for a second five-year term. Three years, three months and 12 days later, Hahn was voted out of office—ousted by the man he had defeated in 2001, aided in large part by the police chief he didn't want.

Today, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa is head of Los Angeles; Parks sits at his right and on the City Council, to which he was elected two years ago.

In losing, Hahn became the first Los Angeles incumbent mayor to lose a reelection campaign since Tom Bradley defeated Sam Yorty in 1973, becoming the city's first Black mayor.

Hahn did telephone Villaraigosa shortly after midnight Wednesday to concede the election, something he had hesitated to do Tuesday night, even as Villaraigosa's widening lead appeared insurmountable.

Hahn stood on a stage surrounded by family and friends at the Element nightclub in Hollywood, enthusiastically thanking supporters, saying, "It's going to be a long night. We know we've had a great campaign. We know we did what we needed to do."

His sister, Los Angeles City Councilwoman Janice Hahn, who was more realistic, said earlier: "Every Hahn knows that politics is not for the thin-skinned or faint-of-heart. Jim has nothing to be ashamed of." She noted several major issues, which combined with the mayor's

introverted personality and lack of a natural glad-handing style necessary in politics may have lost him a second term.

The councilwoman recalled her brother's successful fight against the San Fernando Valley's secession campaign in 2002. Then there were the allegations of corruption in the form of a pay-to-play scandal. "In Jim's 25 years in public service for Los Angeles there never has been a hint of scandal," she said. "Jim's a Boy Scout.

It has hurt me, and especially my mother, to hear the accusations continually leveled at him throughout the campaign."

Inevitably, the big issue was Bernard Parks and the impact that had in turning blacks against Hahn.

The defeated mayor left his election night party stating through an aide that he would make a public appearance Wednesday.

Mary Frances Gurton writes regularly for the Wave Newspapers in California.

There's a better way to get money from your home: a Home Equity Line of Credit from U.S. Bank.



Getting equity from your home doesn't have to drive you crazy.

A 5.50% APR EquiLine from U.S. Bank is the easiest way to start any project. And it's all backed by our Five Star Service Guarantee. No matter what your financial situation, we have the loan option for you.

Your problem raising money is all washed up!

5.50%
*APR
PRIME -.50%

Go online at usbank.com, visit a local branch, or call 1-888-444-BANK (2265) ext. 4100 for any other questions.

usbank
Five Star Service Guaranteed

*The 5.50% variable APR is available with any new or existing U.S. Bank checking account and loan to value (LTV) of 80% or less. Higher rates apply for higher loans to value. The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) will vary at Prime Rate as published in the Wall Street Journal. As of May 4, 2005 the variable APR for lines of credit is 5.50% to 8.50% and will not exceed 25% APR. An annual fee of up to \$90 may apply after the first year. Offer is subject to normal credit approval. Property insurance is required. Interest on amounts exceeding 100% of the available equity is not tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of interest. Rates subject to change. Some restrictions may apply. Home equity loans and lines of credit are offered through U.S. Bank National Association ND. Member FDIC.