

Dear Eric Garcetti,

There has been lots of ways I am influencing neighbors in my community. One way is to always keep an eye out for someone in need. When I'm at the grocery store, I like to see if there's someone near me needing a cart when I'm done using it. Or if I'm in the checkout line, and I see that the person behind me has less items, I like to let them go before me.

I walk my dog every day and one of the kindest things you can do is also the simplest. You just greet people walking past you! I've noticed that it lightens peoples' faces with a sincere "good morning". I think some adults might appreciate it more, because increasingly growing into each generation, the stereotypes for teens have a wider range. Simple gestures show impact on how we are now turning against the stereotypes in an easy, professional manner.

Now those were just little examples, something good about being more affectionate to others you don't know personally is the feeling of knowing you've been or have helped somebody. I've been a cadet at my local fire department for a while now, and a few things that our city heroes have spoken to me about is always helping. To always walk around my community with integrity and pride, not just while in uniform but outside of our work life.

Being an influence on the younger generation of kids is important to me. As technology is rapidly increasing, our minds are getting put to less use. But being connected within our neighborhood unites and brings voices together. This is one of the reasons why I like teaching my younger siblings about getting involved and speaking up for yourself. Even if it's a club or a sports team. One of my sisters recently was having a little trouble with big chapter books she was reading, so what did she do? She joined a book club. She was a little embarrassed at first because she didn't want to look "dumb" in front of her peers for having trouble comprehending a few words. But she came to my attention and wanted to talk about her dilemma and with help, we solved it together. She's no longer embarrassed to say she was having trouble, and now her friends want to join the club too. Team work and confidence is also key for leaders learn to cope with. I've noticed that elementary students look up to high schoolers a lot more than I initially thought. By me teaching my siblings right from wrong and how to take on difficult tasks and pass it on, I can see my family becoming leaders in my community as well. They are the future, as I am the present.

As a Be Strong State Representative, I know that it is a big responsibility. Now as you being Mayor of Los Angeles, an important community leader, please take some of these ideas in mind. Since self-confidence and esteem is challenging for children and even adults, putting out inspiring quotes on billboards, is what I know will help brighten someone's day. Driving on the street and looking up and seeing encouragement instead of degradation is what we really need. Maybe even having more commercials and newspapers with messages in them. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Jazelle Falcon

Be Strong State Representative for California