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RON SMITH

Lancaster City Council

Speech at the Antelope Valley Winery December 6th, 2005

I would like to thank everyone for coming here tonight.

It is an honor that I have your support, and it is a big responsibility that you are entrusting me with—making our city a better place for our families' future.

In 1987 my wife Jamie and I chose to live in the AV and make Lancaster our hometown.

Family really is the driving force in everything that I do.

I'm proud of our city and the contributions our citizens have made. Many of us have the same desire: to enhance the quality of life in our city and create a nice place to live and raise our families.

To obtain this we need a vision for the future—A vision formed from the collective ideas of this diverse community.

I know that our city will some day be one of the most desirable places to live in Los Angeles County.

We need to bring about a love and pride for this community in our citizens. They must feel that Lancaster is not just where they live, but Lancaster is there home.

Those that cause us fear and bring down our quality of life need to be put on notice—Not in my hometown. We will eradicate them from our city; Street by street; park by park; neighborhood by neighborhood.

We will make it miserable for them to do business in our city. As it has been shown in other cities, going after the small things reduces crime, because those that are doing the

big crimes are also doing the small ones.

In the higher crime areas of the city we cannot tolerate any infraction; if there is a car without a license plate: impound it; if someone is drinking a beer in the park: cite them; if someone is aggressively panhandling at our stores: arrest them. Let them take their business elsewhere.

And when I say elsewhere, I mean out of the Antelope Valley.

Whenever my family is driving back on the 14, as soon as we make it over the hill and see the lights of this valley, my kids say, "we're home."

My children here tonight were born at AV Hospital; I teach at AV College; I read the AV Press every morning, and we are here tonight at the AV Winery.

There are many issues that need to be dealt with valley wide. Crime is just one of them. I see a future for this valley where we are working as one force. What is good for our valley is also good for our city.

Thank you all for coming tonight.