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BIOGRAPHY

ROBERT CHARLES FARRELL was elected Councilman of the Eighth District of the City of Los Angeles in a special election June, 1974 to succeed Councilman Billy G. Mills. The voters of the Eighth District gave Farrell an overwhelming vote of confidence when they re-elected him for the succeeding four-year term in the April, 1975 election.

Immediately after taking office in June of 1974, Farrell was appointed to succeed former Councilman Mills on all of Mills' Committees. Farrell served as Chairman of the Personnel Committee and the Special Committee on Equal Opportunities, and was named a member of the Planning Committee; State, County and Federal Affairs Committee; Rules Committee; and Board of Referred Powers. After the end of the unexpired term, when the new Committee assignments were made for the following full-term, Farrell was appointed Chairman of Public Health, Welfare and Environment Committee, and member of Traffic and Off-Street Parking and Revenue and Taxation Committees. Farrell retained Chairmanship of the Special Committee on Equal Opportunities, a committee designed to assure minorities representation in and through government.

Farrell was born in 1937 in Natchez, Mississippi. After his family moved to California, he attended Los Angeles High School, graduating in 1954. He enlisted in the U. S. Navy, and in 1956 won an appointment as a Naval ROTC Midshipman. Upon being discharged, he enrolled in UCLA where he earned a B.A. degree in Near Eastern Studies in 1961. He returned to UCLA the following year to pursue a masters degree in journalism.

Farrell began his career in journalism as a reporter for the California Eagle. He served as a reporter for the Los Angeles Sentinel and correspondent for Jet magazine, and in 1966 he published the Star Review newspaper in Watts. He also helped research and prepare a special UCLA report on hard core unemployment problems in south Los Angeles.

While a journalism student, Farrell became concerned about the plight of the people in the community and decided that one way to try to solve community problems was through politics. He began to learn the practical side of the political structure as a journalist covering government for newspapers and later worked in a number of election campaigns. His first major involvement was in the Johnson-Humphrey Presidential campaign of 1964. In 1970 he served as statewide black communities coordinator in John Tunney's

successful U.S. Senate race, working with the media and organizing church and community groups. In 1971 he was chosen to act as a deputy minority communities director on the national staff of Senator George McGovern, who was seeking the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. In 1969 and 1973, Farrell served as black communities coordinator for Mayor Tom Bradley's campaigns to become chief executive of the City of Los Angeles.

Although active in numerous campaigns during the period from 1963 to 1971, Farrell's basic commitment was to work with communities within the 8th District as deputy to then Councilman Billy G. Mills. In that capacity, he acted as a personal representative of the councilman before various citizens groups and governmental bodies. Farrell's desire to meet the needs of the community kept him busy reviewing state and federal material looking for programs that would be beneficial to the community. He coordinated the district's anti-blight and cleanup campaigns, organized block clubs and neighborhood improvement groups. He operated the 8th District field office at 8514 South Broadway, getting a first-hand feel of what it's like to be a councilman handling constituent complaints and helping resolve neighborhood problems.

Farrell is an appointee of Senator John Tunney to the California Democratic Party's State Central Committee; he's a member of the Chairman's Circle Committee of the California Democratic Party, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Urban League, Sigma Delta Chi (National professional journalism society), the Radio and Television News Association of Southern California, UCLA Alumni Association, and he's an accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America. He is also a member of the Black Peace Officers Association, and Mayor Bradley's appointee to represent the City Council on the Los Angeles City Manpower Advisory Board (LACMAB) whose function is to provide insight and opinion concerning manpower planning and operational processes. Farrell has also been appointed by Council President Gibson to serve as a Council representative on the Independent Cities of Los Angeles County Association.

Farrell is a member of the Love of God Baptist Church, and the father of an eight-year old daughter, Mia Ann.

NEWS RELEASE

LOS ANGELES CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Calvin S. Hamilton, Director

COUNCILMAN FARRELL TO HOST PUBLIC
MEETING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED
SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PLAN

Contact: Daniel Green
Dept. of City Planning
485-3744

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 25, 1979

or
Jacqueline Hickman
Eighth Council Dist. Office
485-5757

Councilman Robert C. Farrell, Eighth Council District, and the Los Angeles City Planning Department will discuss the Proposed Southeast Los Angeles District Plan at a public meeting on August 4, 1979 at 11:00 A.M., in the Multi-Purpose Room of Locke High School. The public is invited to attend to learn about the plan and to ask questions about plans for the area bounded by the Harbor, Santa Monica and proposed Century Freeways and by Central Avenue and Alameda Street. The Plan recommends future residential densities, proposes shopping and industrial areas and points out needed public facilities, such as parks.

Councilman Farrell, who was instrumental in gaining City Council Support in adopting the neighboring South Central Plan in April, is again strongly supportive of the Southeast District Plan and is anxious to see it adopted. The Eighth Council District includes that portion of the Southeast District which is located between 81st Street, Central Avenue, 118th Street and Figueroa Street. Copies of the Proposed Southeast Plan are available from the Department of City Planning and will be distributed to all who attend the meeting on August 4th. The address of Locke High School is 325 East 111th Street, Los Angeles.

For further information call: Daniel Green
Department of City Planning
485-3744

Or: Jacqueline Hickman
Eighth Council District Office
485-5757

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Eighth district

Robert Farrell

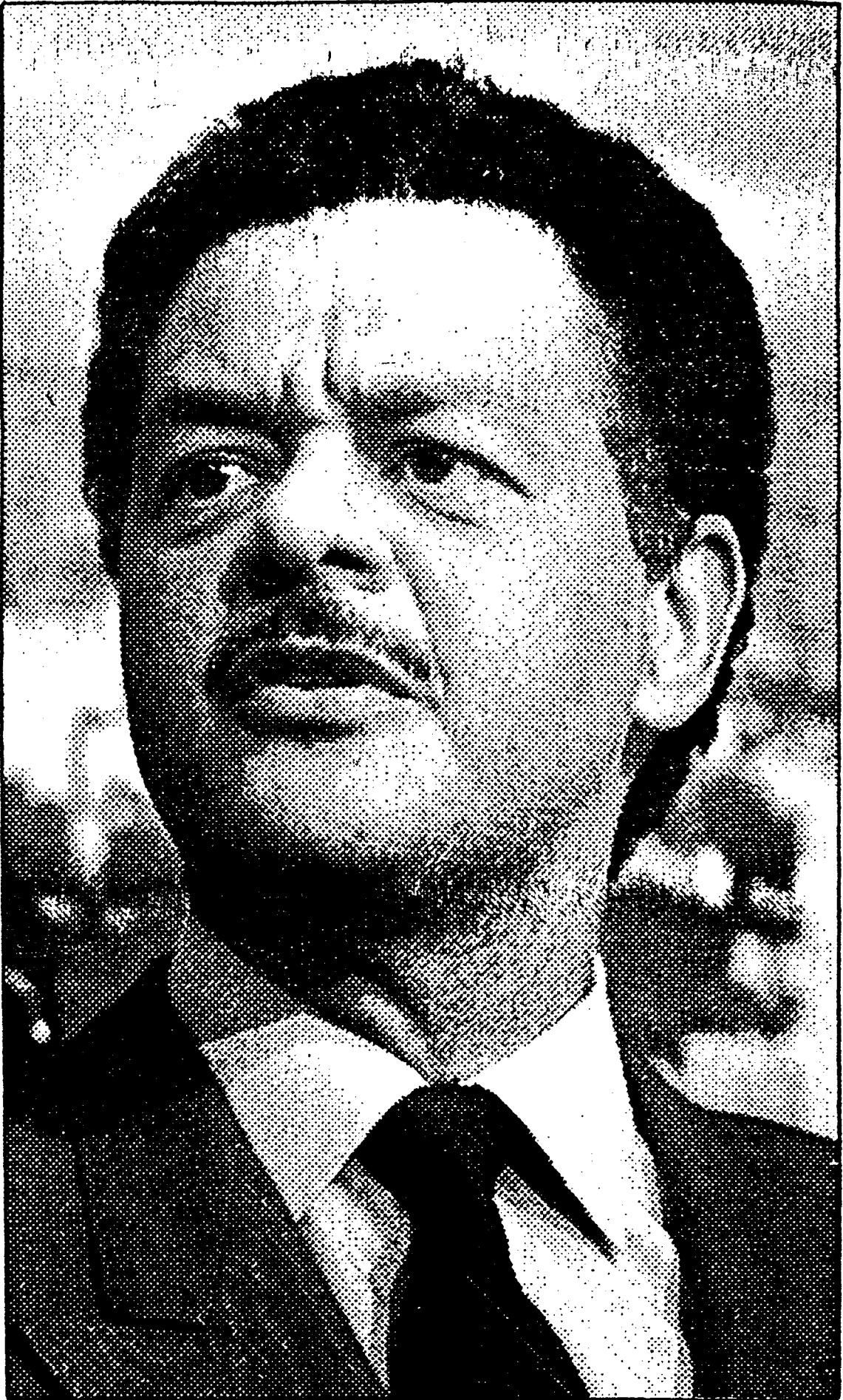
Member of City Council 1974 - June 30, 1991

Robert Farrell was born in Natchez, Mississippi on October 1, 1936. His family moved to New Orleans and Newark, New Jersey before finally settling in Los Angeles. Farrell graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1954. A Navy scholarship made it possible for him to attend UCLA, acquiring his B.A. in Near Eastern Studies there.

While working as a newspaper reporter for the California Eagle and the Los Angeles Sentinel, Farrell's interest in actively supporting civil rights movements and organized labor drew him closer to politics. He participated in a number of political campaigns at different governmental levels before running for City Council. The Eighth District seat came open in a 1974 special election as veteran Billy Mills went on to become a Superior Court Judge.

That his background and qualifications made him the natural choice for the position was confirmed by the public in his overwhelming election victory in 1974. Farrell was seen as a pragmatist, a man with the ability to compromise for a purpose, a facilitator who was able to match the right person with the right program.

His seventeen years as Eighth District councilman were not without some turbulence. He fought back recall movements in 1978 and 1988 and rolled with the punches as he was blamed for many of the district's problems, particularly crime and gang activity. Still, Farrell was known as a strong political technician and he forged a generally liberal voting record. He was supported consistently by Mayor Tom Bradley and many influential clergymen of his district. In 1991 Farrell announced that he would not seek reelection so that he could spend more time with his family.



Robert Farrell

