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## LACC ALUMNUS AND FORMER LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN TOM LABONGE DIES AT 67

(January 11, 2021) – Los Angeles City College (LACC) alumnus Tom LaBonge, a Los Angeles City Councilman, died on January 7, 2021. LaBonge was 67.

LaBonge grew up in Silver Lake and attended John Marshall High School, LACC (class of 1973) and Cal State Los Angeles. While at LACC he was a member of the football team that played on Snyder Field. He was a proud Angelino, attending school in LA and later serving in public office.

LaBonge represented the Los Angeles City Council's Fourth District from 2001-2015, overseeing an area including Koreatown, Mid-Wilshire, Miracle Mile, Fairfax District and much of Hollywood, Silver Lake, Los Feliz and Griffith Park. Additionally, he served on several committees including Arts, Parks, Health and Aging committee, the Transportation Committee, the Ad Hoc River Committee, and the Trade, Commerce, & Tourism Committee. Before serving as a councilman, LaBonge was the Director of Community Relations for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. While in office, his accomplishments included the expansion of Griffith Park by 500 acres; the restoration and expansion of Griffith Observatory; and establishing the Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Hollywood.

In 2015, the City designated the intersection of Tracy and St. George streets surrounding John Marshall High School in Los Feliz as Tom LaBonge Square. He helped lead the efforts to save the school's Gothic main building which was slated for demolition after the Sylmar earthquake. He later worked with the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education and Los Angeles County to fund and build the school's Mike Haynes Stadium & Hugh Boyd Field, which are used for football games and track meets.

“The LACC community is greatly saddened by the loss of Tom LaBonge, “ said Dr. Mary Gallagher, President, Los Angeles City College. “He loved the city of Los Angeles and was a great cheerleader for our college and our community,”

LaBonge is survived by his wife Brigid LaBonge, daughter Mary-Cate LaBonge and son Charles LaBonge, both of Los Angeles; as well as brothers Brian LaBonge of Glendale, Dennis LaBonge of Newport Beach, Robert LaBonge of Malibu, Timothy LaBonge of Desert Hot Springs and Mark LaBonge of Los Angeles.

#### About Los Angeles City College

Established in 1929, Los Angeles City College is one of the oldest of the California Community Colleges. Located in the heart of Hollywood, LACC provides a dynamic innovative learning environment offering more than 100 vocational and professional programs including degrees, transfer programs and certificates to more than 18,000 students. In the past decade, a total of 6,651 students have transferred to four-year colleges and universities, including 4,040 students attending Cal State universities and 1,086 students transferring to UC campuses. Los Angeles City College is home to one of the most vibrant and diverse campuses in the country. The campus provides a wide range of professional and vocational programs at a fraction of the cost of state and private colleges. LACC provides students and adult learners vital pathways to more advanced education and enhanced employment.