



JOSÉ HUIZAR
COUNCILMEMBER OF THE FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, March 7, 2007

CONTACT:
Angelica Urquijo
(213) 473-5803, (213) 219-8374

COUNCILMEMBER JOSE HUIZAR SECURES COUNCIL APPROVAL TO PURCHASE THE CHICAGO PLAZA BUILDING FOR THE BOYLE HEIGHTS CONSTITUENT SERVICES CENTER

Constituent Services Center Will Anchor a Mini Civic Center in Boyle Heights

LOS ANGELES— Councilmember José Huizar received unanimous support from the Los Angeles City Council today to provide Boyle Heights and communities on the Eastside with a Constituent Services Center designed to bring City government closer to residents. The project, which is similar to the City's Neighborhood City Halls in Van Nuys and San Pedro, has been in the works for the past six years. "The Boyle Heights Constituent Services Center is a critical component of my ongoing efforts to improve our residents' quality of life," said Huizar. "The center will provide much-needed services to the Eastside while helping to build a strong sense of civic pride and engagement with local government."

The Chicago Plaza Building, located at 2130 East First Street, will anchor an emerging mini civic center in Boyle Heights, which will eventually include the new Hollenbeck Community Police Station, a modernized Benjamin Franklin Library, and the LANI Pocket Park. After renovation, the Boyle Heights Constituent Services Center will house municipal, community-based, and commercial tenants that will provide services requested by local residents. Tenants will include the Department of Aging, Department of Building and Safety, El Centro de Ayuda, Council District 14's Boyle Heights District Office, Housing Department, Roybal Youth & Family Center, SCE Federal Credit Union, Bureau of Street Services, and Department of Transportation. All of these services and amenities will be linked to the rest of the City through the Eastside Metro Goldline Extension, slated for completion in 2009.

The Chicago Plaza building will be purchased with funds from the Municipal Improvement Corporation of Los Angeles (MICLA), the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and AB 1290 funds, which are disbursed at Council District 14's discretion. Total project cost is an estimated \$18.4 million. The Boyle Heights Constituent Services Center is expected to open within the next three years.

###