

## JOSÉ HUIZAR COUNCILMEMBER OF THE FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 9, 2007

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

## COUNCILMEMBER JOSE HUIZAR HONORED WITH THE "HEART OF THE FAMILY" AWARD FOR HIS SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY

Friends of Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA Recognize Councilmember Huizar's Long-Standing Commitment to Children

LOS ANGELES—Councilmember José Huizar was honored with the "Heart of the Family" Award on Tuesday at a reception at the Millennium Biltmore hosted by Friends of the Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA. The gala, which was attended by community leaders and advocates, honored Councilmember Huizar's long-standing commitment to and advocacy for children and families, starting with his service on the City of Los Angeles Board of Education to his current position as the Councilmember of the 14<sup>th</sup> District.

First Lady Corina Villaraigosa, last year's "Heart of the Family" recipient, Richelle Rios-Huizar, the Councilmember's wife, and School Board Member Mónica Garcia presented Huizar with the award. The Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA serves the residents of Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles. "The YMCA provides safe, nurturing, and healthy opportunities for both adults and children in this community, and in the process, has touched an innumerable amount of lives", said Huizar. "It's important for us to leverage our resources so that more young people have access to the programming, mentors/role models, and nurturing environment that are the norm in the YMCA."

In addition to his well-known efforts on behalf of education reform, Huizar has also been fighting for quality-of-life improvements in neighborhoods. He has advocated for increased physical activity and improved nutrition for children. In addition, he states, "I have been working hard to increase the availability of safe, clean green space and recreational facilities in Boyle Heights, and throughout the 14<sup>th</sup> District."

###