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COUNCILMEMBER OF THE FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

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COUNCILMEMBER JOSE HUIZAR CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE GANG PREVENTION FUNDING

Ramona Gardens, Imperial Courts, & Baldwin Village Can't Afford to Wait For Federal Funds

City Hall—City Councilmember José Huizar today called today for an immediate infusion of gang prevention in three gang-impacted communities in Ramona Gardens, Imperial Courts, & Baldwin Village.

Huizar introduced a Council Motion calling for a \$100,000 investment from available City funds to immediately begin implementing the Gang Reduction Strategy released by Mayor Villaraigosa last week for these three areas. Councilmember Hahn—who like Huizar is a member of the City's Ad Hoc Committee on Gang Violence and Youth Development-- seconded the motion.

The Mayor's plan offers a comprehensive gang reduction strategy, but relies on unsecured state and federal grants to begin work in three of the eight high-priority "Gang Reduction Zones," selected because they have the highest rates of gang-related crime in the City.

Calling the Mayor's plan a "critical step in ending gang violence," Huizar said, "Ramona Gardens, Imperial Courts, and Baldwin Village can't afford to wait for federal funds in hopes that the money comes through in a timely fashion. These communities have already waited too long."

Huizar represents Ramona Gardens, the City's oldest public housing development. The community has been long-neglected and is mired in gang violence. There have been two shootings at LAPD patrol cars in Ramona Gardens in the last sixteen months.

"I feel an urgency to roll up our sleeves right away, and this funding will allow us to do that," Huizar said. "When the federal dollars come through, we'll be ready to use them strategically," he said.

Councilmember Janice Hahn, who represents the Imperial Courts public housing development, said....

\$100,000 in City funds would be allocated from the Unappropriated Balance in the budget this fiscal year. It would allow these communities to conduct a comprehensive needs and resources assessment to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive infrastructure of gang prevention, intervention, suppression, and reentry programs.

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