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COUNCILMEMBER, 14TH DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Councilmember Huizar Creates Improvements to "Red Flag" Warning System

Los Angeles (Feb. 11, 2008) - Councilmember José Huizar received unanimous City Council support last week for an ordinance that allows Mt. Washington residents affected by "Red Flag" warnings to park in City-owned lots at the Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center, the Sycamore Grove Bandshell, and Ramona Hall.

"During last year's brush fires, a number of residents parked in a hillside area assuming it was not a red flag warning day, only to be ticketed and fined. That's not fair. It was important for me to work with residents to modify the current system to lower inconveniences while maintaining safety," said Councilmember José Huizar.

"Last year's wildfires and the devastation they caused remind us of the importance of the 'Red Flag' program was created – to save lives and property in case of a hillside fire."

A "Red Flag" day is declared by the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) when weather conditions for a fast-moving brush fire heighten risk to residents and their property. While recognizing "Red Flag" days is an important safety measure for hillside communities, Councilmember Huizar recognized the need to provide Mt. Washington residents with parking alternatives.

In addition, Councilmember Huizar and Councilmember Reyes have provided funding to the LAFD in order to establish a weather station in Mt. Washington that will provide neighborhood-specific climate information.

"Not every area is the same. Our City is comprised of several different micro-climates. Recently, in the Mt. Washington area there were days that seemed cool and calm, while elsewhere in the City it was hot and windy enough to warrant a 'red flag' day condition."

For more information on "Red Flag" warnings and parking restrictions, please visit www.lafd.org/redflag

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