



JOSE HUIZAR  
COUNCILMEMBER, 14TH DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

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### COUNCILMEMBER JOSE HUIZAR TO ANNOUNCE CREATION OF SAFE SCHOOL ZONE IN SKID ROW

**LOS ANGELES (February 28, 2008)**—Councilmember José Huizar was joined by City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo to announce the creation of a Safe School Zone in the Skid Row and Central City East areas. A Safe School Zone is any area within 1,000 feet of a school and any area within 100 feet of a designated bus stop.

“Many people have the impression that children don’t live in Skid Row; even worse, many government officials believe that we shouldn’t be providing services to children in this area,” said Councilmember Huizar. “The reality is that more than 100 children attend school in Skid Row and all children deserve a safe learning environment regardless of where they live or their economic status.”

“We cannot expect our children to succeed in school if they are not safe. I hope that this new Safe School Zone will improve the learning environment for the students of Ninth Street Elementary School, in which 76 percent of students are homeless,” added Councilmember Huizar.

Under California Penal Code 626, any person who commits a crime near the school or within the Safe School Zone is subject to increased penalties. Crimes covered by this law can be anything from misdemeanors, such as loitering or trespassing, to felonies, such as weapons possession or assault with a deadly weapon.

“These signs and our Safe School Zones are crucial in our fight to protect our kids and improve quality of life in our neighborhoods - especially here in Skid Row,” said City Attorney Delgadillo. “The efforts of my office, Council Member Huizar, and our partners serve a strong notice to everyone in this community that we will not tolerate crime around our schools and the areas where our children travel.”

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"Children in tough neighborhoods are often those most at-risk and in need of our services and skid row is one of those neighborhoods; I applaud the ongoing efforts of City Attorney Delgadillo, City Councilmember Jose Huizar and the Central City East Association to make this a safer place for everyone." said Gisselle Acevedo, President & CEO of Para Los Niños, which operates a preschool on the corner of 6th and Gladys, and a charter elementary school at 7th and Alameda.

The creation of a Safe School Zone is part of Councilmember Huizar's ongoing efforts to provide a safer environment for those children who live and go to school in Skid Row.

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