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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Councilmember José Huizar and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa  
Dedicated the New El Sereno Constituent Center**

*The center will provide services to youth and adults, including after-school tutoring and recreation programs*

**LOS ANGELES (May 9, 2008)**—Councilmember José Huizar, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and State Senator Gloria Romero were joined today by El Sereno community and business leaders to dedicate the new El Sereno Constituent Center.

The new three-story facility encompasses more than 34,000 square feet and will house the Barrio Action Youth and Family Center as well as city departments, including Council District 14 offices, a Los Angeles Police Department community office, the L.A. 32 Neighborhood Council, a gym, a weight training room, a dance room, a library and computer room, and counseling offices.

“This is a very special day for the community of El Sereno,” said Councilmember Huizar. “El Sereno deserves to have a center that provides educational, recreational and family services that have been severely lacking. Thanks to Mayor Villaraigosa, Senator Romero and Barrio Action, we now have a brand new center that will bring city and other vital services closer to community.”

The El Sereno Constituent Center cost \$7.4 million and was funded through Proposition K, Community Development Grant funds, Capital Improvements Expenditure Program funds, and Municipal Improvement Service Center funds.

“Today we are reaping the benefits of the seeds of perseverance and dedication that were sowed over nine years ago,” said Mayor Villaraigosa. “By serving as a conduit for community programs and city services this new facility will provide the resources needed to enrich the lives of hundreds of youth and their families in El Sereno.”

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## **El Sereno Constituent Center Dedicated**

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In addition to city services, the center will also house Barrio Action, a community based organization that was established three decades ago to empower young people to succeed academically and socially.

Barrio Action serves 1,200 youth and their families annually through funding from the City of Los Angeles. Its programs offered at the El Sereno Constituent Center, and at local elementary, middle and high schools, include Alternative Education-Independent Study Program (AEISP) for high school drop-outs; domestic violence prevention education; after-school tutoring; job development and career assistance for youth and Spanish-speaking residents; individual and family case management; English as a Second Language (ESL) classes; parenting-skills training; anger management; and recreational activities.

“Barrio Action provides many services that are important to both youth and adults in the area,” said Councilmember Huizar. “Its commitment to improving the lives of El Sereno residents is unmatched, and having its programs and services housed in this facility will ensure that residents will continue to receive the assistance that they need.”

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