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COUNCILMEMBER, 14TH DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 5, 2008

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**Councilmember José Huizar Dedicated the First Handicap-Accessible
Playground in Boyle Heights**

The new universal access site at Hazard Park will benefit children and parents with disabilities

LOS ANGELES – Creating playground access for children and parents with disabilities, Councilmember José Huizar, along with representatives from the City’s Recreation and Parks department and Shane’s Inspiration, today dedicated a new universal, handicap-accessible playground at Hazard Park in Boyle Heights.

The universal access playground—the first in the 14th Council District—is equipped with ramp access and play panels at ground level. It also has a special surface that allows walkers and wheelchairs to ride over with ease. The design also will allow parents with disabilities, such as wounded veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, to be able to play with their able-bodied children.

“One of my priorities as a councilmember is to improve the quality-of-life opportunities for Los Angeles residents,” Huizar said. “That includes expanding park space and enhancing the park space we already have. But the special part about this universal access playground is that it provides a new opportunity to disabled children and parents who haven’t had that available to them until now.”

Shane’s Inspiration, which was founded in 1998 to give children with disabilities and children without the opportunity to play with and learn from each other, worked with the City’s Recreation and Parks Department to create the playground. Shane’s Inspiration was instrumental in helping pass a Universally Accessible Playground Initiative, which will result in 21 universal access playgrounds throughout the city.

“This playground is more than just a mass of swings and bars,” Huizar said. “It’s a learning tool. This is a place where all children—able-bodied and those with disabilities—will play together and learn the most vital lesson of all: that deep down we’re all the same. Kids will learn compassion, awareness and acceptance here.

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Councilmember Huizar Dedicates Hazard Park Universal Access Playground

Page 2 of 2

“I’m proud to have this new universal access playground in my district and I hope that with the help of Shane’s Inspiration, we can bring more to our great City.”

The new playground cost \$562,000 and was funded through Proposition 40.

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