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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Councilmember José Huizar Marks the 227th Birthday of Los Angeles

Huizar hails the diversity, enterprising spirit and determination of City's original settlers at annual walk honoring forefathers' first steps into Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (Sept. 1, 2008) – Los Angeles City Councilmember José Huizar joined city officials from Los Angeles and San Gabriel Monday morning at a historic walk and celebration marking the birth of Los Angeles 227 years ago.

The annual walk of “Los Pobladores” recounted the steps of the original 44 settlers who on Sept. 4, 1781 completed the last leg of their journey from *Nueva España* (Mexico) by traveling from the San Gabriel Mission to the Los Angeles River where Los Angeles was founded. Monday’s celebration recreated that nine-mile walk and culminated in a ceremony with food and music at the plaza at El Pueblo Historical Monument in Downtown Los Angeles.

Huizar, whose 14th District includes the historic El Pueblo, rich in history and home to Olvera Street and the Pico House, emphasized that the grit and determination that flowed through the veins of Los Angeles’ indigenous people who inhabited the area for centuries, as well as its Spanish founders, is still alive today.

“From day one Los Angeles was a diverse city made up of people from different backgrounds and experiences,” Huizar said, noting the original settlers were people of Native American, African and European descent. “But it has been our similarities and not our differences that have set us apart and turned Los Angeles into one of the premiere cities of the world. Today we honor our bond with the City of San Gabriel and those first settlers 227 years ago who remind us that Los Angeles is home to people with a shared sense of adventure, enterprising spirit and a fearless determination to turn dreams into reality.

“Happy birthday, Los Angeles! Feliz cumpleaños!” Huizar added.

The city was originally named *El Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles sobre el Río del Porciuncula*. The 44 settlers traveled more than 1,000 miles across the desert from Sinaloa and Sonora, Mexico and originally established the area as a farming community. Today Los Angeles is the second most populated city in the nation with about 3.8 million residents.

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