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## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Councilmember Huizar Lobbying for Funds, Jobs on L.A. ACCESS D. C. Trip**

**LOS ANGELES (March 10, 2009)** – Councilmember José Huizar is in Washington D.C. today as part of the ACCESS DC lobbying trip, an annual effort by City business and political leaders to ensure that Los Angeles gets its fair share of federal expenditures.

This year's L.A. Chamber of Commerce trip is particularly important with the Obama administration looking at further measures to help Americans facing foreclosure and Congress divvying out much-needed stimulus funds.

Tuesday morning, Councilmember Huizar listened to President Barack Obama to the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Legislative Conference.

"I'm here lobbying on behalf of the residents of Los Angeles during this critical and challenging economic period," said Councilmember Huizar. "As difficult as this crisis is, I'm encouraged that we have a President who recognizes that we have to rebuild this country from the ground up. And for Los Angeles that means putting Angelenos who need jobs back to work while doing all we can to protect the workers we have now, particularly those in critical fields, such as education, transportation and public safety."

With thousands of teachers across the Southland facing layoffs, including approximately 6,500 at LAUSD alone, Councilmember Huizar is taking part in several meetings aimed at keeping teachers employed, while avoiding losses in recent student achievement gains.

Councilmember Huizar also plans to advocate for the "shovel ready" stimulus projects submitted by the City Council last week, as well as others that are proposed for a Phase 2 Cycle, including projects connected to his Bringing Back Broadway Initiative, a public-private effort to bring the streetcar back to Downtown, while revitalizing the Historic Broadway Corridor.

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Finally, Councilmember Huizar plans to echo the recent comments by Police Chief Bratton encouraging the federal government to provide additional funding for law enforcement agencies, and that the LAPD should use a portion of any new funding to hire civilians to support our sworn personnel.

Thanks to the recently enacted trash fee increase, LAPD has the resources to increase the number of sworn officers, recently marking a milestone. However, the civilian positions they need to provide administrative support are largely vacant and at risk of being cut because of the City's tight budget.

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