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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Councilmember Huizar Helps Secure Funding to Complete Eagle Rock Deaf Community Center

Council approves \$275,000 in CDBG funding for asbestos removal and demolition, which will allow GLAD to build new unit to increase services for the deaf and hard of hearing community

LOS ANGELES (May 8, 2009) – The Los Angeles City Council recently approved \$275,000 in funding proposed by Councilmember José Huizar, which will allow the Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness to demolish a building that has long stymied its efforts to rebuild and add much needed services.

GLAD, located in Eagle Rock, has not been able to move forward with its improvement project because one of its buildings has been off-limits due to asbestos contamination, which must be safely removed before the building can be demolished and the final phase of the center's rebuilding effort can be completed. The Community Development Block Grant fund will help cover the cost of the asbestos removal and the demolition of the Annex building.

"I know this money is really going to help GLAD do more of what it does best and that is offer quality care, assistance and vital services to the deaf and hard of hearing community," said Councilmember José Huizar. "GLAD is a real asset to our community and it is my privilege to assist them."

As part of the City's 2009-2010 Consolidated Action Plan, which allocates funding of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant funds, Councilmember Huizar submitted a grant application on behalf of GLAD to help assist in the completion of its vital service center.

Built in 1927 and purchased by GLAD in 1993, the four-story Laverna Avenue facility is a recognized historical landmark that houses a number of community functions and services for the deaf and hard of hearing community, including social services and health education, interpreter referral services, senior low-income housing, employment development and programs for at-risk youth.

(more)

Funding for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center

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Councilmember Huizar will present a check to GLAD officials and participants at the organization's annual fundraiser at the House of Blues in West Hollywood on Sunday, May 17, at 9 a.m.

"On behalf of the GLAD Board of Directors, staff, residents and consumers throughout the City of Los Angeles and beyond, I extend heartfelt thanks to Councilmember Huizar and his dedicated staff for working to secure the CDBG funds for the demolition of our Annex," said Dr. Patricia Hughes, Chief Executive Officer of GLAD. "As we are faced with challenging times, our outreach efforts are more important than ever and the final completion of the Deaf Community Center, proudly located in the heart of Eagle Rock, will shape the future of our programs and services."

The building that is slated to come down is non-historic and has been vacant since 1998 due to deterioration and damage beyond repair.

Fundraising efforts for the planned eco-friendly facility upgrade have already begun.

For more information on GLAD, please visit www.gladinc.org.

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