



JOSE HUIZAR
COUNCILMEMBER, 14TH DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wendy Carrillo
Wendy.Carrillo@lacity.org 213-473-7014 Office

Jessica Wethington McLean
Jessica.WethingtonMcLean@lacity.org 323-841-5138 Cell

Councilmember José Huizar & Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa Dedicate Ezat Delijani Square in Downtown Los Angeles

Intersection of 7th and Broadway becomes 1st city square dedicated in honor of an Iranian-American

LOS ANGELES (June 25, 2009) – Councilmember José Huizar and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa were joined today by numerous local and state elected officials, members of the Iranian-American community, downtown leaders and stakeholders to dedicate the intersection of 7th & Broadway as Ezat Delijani Square. This historic dedication marks a first for the city of Los Angeles, as never before has a city square been named after an Iranian-American.

"Mr. Delijani is a pillar of the community and has contributed a great deal to our City, despite tremendous challenges - from the fashion district to the jewelry district to stewardship of historic Broadway theatres to prevent their demolition, to an amazing legacy as a leader and philanthropist in the Jewish and Iranian-American communities," Huizar said. "I am proud that we are dedicating 7th & Broadway as Ezat Delijani Square today, so that future generations can see his name and learn about a man who helped make our city what it is today."

Mr. Delijani immigrated to the United States during the Iranian revolution and worked from the ground up to build a legacy for himself and his family. He became a pioneer in the fashion and textile industry, and has been highly recognized for his philanthropic ideals and community leadership. Amongst his various recognitions, Mr. Delijani was honored with the "Heart of the City" award earlier this year by the Central City Association in Los Angeles and the "Tree of Life" award in 2004 from the Jewish National Fund.

-MORE-

"Today is a special day for me, my family, and all Iranians. I am grateful for the opportunities I've been given in this great country and I feel blessed that I've been able to share in my civic responsibilities," said Ezat Delijani. "Thanks to Councilmember José Huizar's leadership on the Bringing Back Broadway Initiative with support of Mayor Villaraigosa, Councilmembers and Broadway property owners, I am certain that Broadway will be revitalized and brought back to its original glory."

In the early 1980's, Mayor Tom Bradley first asked Delijani to purchase the boarded-up and tagged Los Angeles Theatre. Delijani fell in love with the intricate beauty of the historic building. Today, the Delijani family owns and cares for four historic Broadway theatres - the Los Angeles, Palace, State and Tower Theatres, and have protected these wonderful gems of architectural, cultural and entertainment history from demolition and degradation.

"With this dedication, we ensure that Ezatollah's spirit and contributions will be remembered in the City of Angels for years to come," said Mayor Villaraigosa. "His leadership and philanthropy remain etched in the pages of history and now his name takes its rightful place among the monuments and landmarks he worked so hard to preserve."

In May 2009, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved Councilmember José Huizar's motion to name the intersection at 7th Broadway as Ezat Delijani Square in honor of his leadership, philanthropy, historic preservation efforts and dedication to community improvement in Los Angeles.

#