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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

Councilmembers Celebrate 40th Anniversary of Los Angeles-Mexico City Sister City Relationship

LOS ANGELES - (December 11, 2009) – Councilmembers José Huizar and Tom LaBonge celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Sister Cities relationship Friday between Los Angeles and Mexico City in a ceremony at El Pueblo De Los Angeles Historic Park.

The Councilmembers were joined by Juan Marcos Gutierrez, Consul General of Mexico, and Octavio Pescador, Mexico City Sister City President and Chair. In honor of the anniversary the officials re-dedicated a sign commemorating the long and lasting relationship between the two cities, which share a common bond of culture in two of the world's major metropolitan areas.

“Throughout our history as Sister Cities, we have celebrated the things we share in common – art, language and culture – and during that time Los Angeles has learned as much from Mexico City as Mexico City has learned from us,” said Councilmember José Huizar. “We are in essence, *familia*, and this re-dedication tells me that those familial ties will continue for years to come.”

“So much flows between the cities of Los Angeles and Mexico City – both culturally and commercially – that it’s important to celebrate the very human connections between us,” said Councilmember Tom LaBonge, who is also President of Los Angeles Sister Cities, Inc. “I look forward to another 40 – or 400 years – of close ties between our cities.”

(more)

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“By commemorating four decades of sisterhood between Los Angeles and Mexico City, we honor centuries of shared history among our peoples,” said Octavio Pescador, Mexico City Sister City President and Chair. “A steward of a great cultural legacy, the Los Angeles-Mexico D.F. Sister Cities Committee is proud to support the talent and entrepreneurship of all Angelenos working to create a better world on both sides of the border.”

The Sister Cities program was created by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956 to promote trade, cultural exchange and understanding. Sister Cities of Los Angeles began in 1959 with Nagoya, Japan and has since grown to include 25 cities on six continents.

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