

7th District News COUNCILMEMBER ALEX PADILLA City Hall, 200 North Main Street, Room 312, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 7, 1999 **CONTACT:** David Gershwin Ph. (213) 473-5774

COUNCILMEMBER PADILLA SEEKS STATE FUNDING FOR NEW CROSSWALKS, SIDEWALKS NEAR SCHOOLS

LOS ANGELES B Councilmember Alex Padilla introduced a motion today that directs City departments to work together to apply for grant funds from the State of California=s ASafe Routes to School@ construction program. The proposed inter-departmental task force would be chaired by the City=s Department of Transportation.

AThe City has a great opportunity to receive its fair share of these much-needed infrastructure dollars to create a safer environment for our children and their families, @ said Councilmember Padilla. AConstructing new crosswalks and sidewalks will ensure that children can walk to school -- and in their surrounding communities -- safely. By effectively utilizing these State resources, the City will deliver a higher level of basic services to areas that need it most.@

The ASafe Routes to School@ program, administered by the State Department of Transportation and the California Highway Patrol, will provide \$20 million in grants to local municipalities for projects that reduce the speed of vehicular traffic near schools.

The 7th Council District serves the communities of Arleta, Mission Hills, North Hills, North Hollywood, Pacoima, Panorama City, Sun Valley, Sylmar, and Van Nuys.

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