



NEWS – OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

COUNCILMEMBER ALEX PADILLA

7TH DISTRICT

CITY HALL, 200 NORTH SPRING STREET, ROOM 465, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
PHONE (213) 847-7777 FAX (213) 847-0707 WWW.LACITY.ORG/COUNCIL/CD7

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CONTACT: David Gershwin

Ph. (213) 473-5774

PADILLA WINS UNANIMOUS COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PACOIMA TRAFFIC SIGNAL

Intersection at Van Nuys Blvd. and Kewen the site of multiple fatalities

LOS ANGELES – City Council President Alex Padilla won unanimous approval today for his motion directing the City's Department of Transportation to construct a traffic signal at the dangerous intersection of Van Nuys Blvd. and Kewen Ave. in Pacoima. The most recent fatal accident occurred on April 28, 2003 when Francisco Barragan was struck by a vehicle speeding through the crosswalk.

"Our thoughts and our prayers are with the Barragan family and all the other families who have been devastated by the tragic events that have occurred at this intersection over the years," said Padilla, a Pacoima resident.

"This community has suffered and waited long enough for safety issues to be addressed at this high-traffic intersection adjacent to the Pacoima Post Office. We don't have time for additional traffic studies – we must install a traffic signal in record time."

Testimony from the Barragan family and community activists was heard at today's council meeting, urging the Los Angeles Department of Transportation to install a traffic signal as quickly as possible.

Transportation officials indicated that they would begin planning construction of the traffic signal immediately, with funding from this year's budget. Council President Padilla has also pledged to provide funding for overtime costs associated with the project.

The 7th Council District serves the communities of Lake View Terrace, Mission Hills, North Hills, Pacoima, Panorama City, and Sylmar.

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