



**NEWS – OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT**  
**COUNCILMEMBER ALEX PADILLA**  
**7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 4, 2002

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**PADILLA WINS UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO CREATE YOUTH HANDBOOK TO  
HIGHLIGHT CITY PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**  
*Effort to Counter Rise in Gang Violence – Funding Also Given to Tattoo Removal Program*

**LOS ANGELES** – City Council President Alex Padilla has won unanimous City Council approval for the Commission on Children, Youth & Families to create an interdepartmental task force to help create a comprehensive youth handbook.

“The City’s youth programs are an essential component of our efforts to mitigate the devastation caused by gang violence,” said Padilla. “By providing positive opportunities for young people – especially at-risk youth – we are helping to prevent gangs from claiming the lives of future generations.”

Council President Padilla has also directed the City of Los Angeles to provide \$10,000 in additional funding for Mission Hills’ Providence Holy Cross Hospital’s gang tattoo removal program.

Holy Cross’ gang tattoo removal program, created in 1998, assists former gang members who wish to steer their lives away from a career path of crime and violence. This program removes gang tattoos free of charge to the former gang member, and then enables them to be better able to not only get a job – but to keep a job.

“Holy Cross’ gang tattoo removal program allows former gang members to close the chapter on the past and to look towards a brighter future – one that emphasizes gainful employment instead of unhealthy, gang-related activity,” said Council President Padilla. “We’re not just removing tattoos – we’re improving people’s lives.”

*The 7<sup>th</sup> Council District serves the communities of Arleta, Lake View Terrace, Mission Hills,  
North Hills, North Hollywood, Pacoima, Panorama City, Sun Valley, Sylmar, and Van Nuys.*

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