



**7<sup>th</sup> District News**

## **COUNCILMEMBER ALEX PADILLA**

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### **PADILLA CALLS ON CITY TO BRIDGE THE “DIGITAL DIVIDE”**

*Instructs City To Apply for State, Federal Grants to Build Technology Centers*

**LOS ANGELES** – Councilmember Alex Padilla introduced a motion today instructing the City’s Library and Recreation and Parks Departments to begin researching and applying for state and federal grants to provide technology centers at City facilities.

A UCLA Internet Report published on Oct. 25, “Surveying the Digital Future,” [*available online at <http://www.ccp.ucla.edu>*] found that while 60% of adults with incomes of \$15-49,000 use the Internet, only 41% of adults with incomes less than \$15,000 are Internet users.

Other studies have found that low-income minority groups are more likely to access computers at public facilities rather than in their homes.

“It is our responsibility to bridge the ‘digital divide’ to provide equal access to information, technology, and opportunity to everyone regardless of socioeconomic status,” said Padilla, Chair of the City’s Information Technology and General Services Committee and a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. “The City has a responsibility to access grant monies to begin building community technology centers at libraries and parks, where adults and children alike would be able to take weekend and after-school computer classes.

“Learning computer skills provides the tools necessary to be competitive in the workplace of today – and even more so in the future,” Padilla added.

The motion will be heard in City Council next week.

***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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