



Charles Woo, President
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CALIFORNIA



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ERVIN“MAGIC” JOHNSON JOINS MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA TO MARK 10,000
YOUTH JOBS GOAL AND SET 15,000 NEW JOBS GOAL FOR
HIRE LA YOUTH PROGRAM**

***Vons Caps Goal With Final Placement, UPS Steps Up To Place First of 15,000 in HIRE LA Youth Program
Sponsored by the Mayor, City Council, Workforce Investment Board, and Community Partners.***

What: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa will announce success in filling his goal of 10,000 jobs through the Hire LA’s Youth program. Vons Grocery, a participating businesses in the program, which links youth ages 16-24 with local employers with paid full and part-time jobs, will announce placement of the 10,000th young person. Recognizing the success of the program United Parcel Service will step forward and announce hiring the first young person for the Mayor’s new goal of 15,000 jobs. The Mayor, Council, and Los Angeles Workforce Investment Board (WIB) are calling on business leaders citywide to help give employment experience to youth.

Who: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles City Council Members, Ervin “Magic” Johnson, WIB President Charlie Woo, WIB Youth Council Chair David Crippens, Community Development Department General Manager Richard Benbow, Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor Dr. Marshall Drummond, officials from Vons and UPS, LA Chamber of Commerce President Gary Toebben, and youth representatives.

When: Monday, June 2, 2008 at 11-11:30 a.m.

Where: L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce, 350 South Bixel Street, Los Angeles, 90017 (Outside of building on 4th Street between Bixel and Boylston Streets)

Why: According to the study, *One Out Of Five*, commissioned by the Community Development Department’s Workforce Development Division, one in five youth between the ages of 16- 24 in Los Angeles and Long Beach are out of school and out of work. This sobering statistic is a call for civic action, but at the same time employers are challenged in finding qualified entry-level workers. A significant component of the Hire LA’s Youth campaign is the Work Readiness



Certificate and Jobs Skills Workshops, which prepare youth for their first work experience. The Mayor is calling on all employers to recognize the benefits of the Hire LA's Youth program and how they can join him in preparing the youth of Los Angeles future. ###

The Workforce Investment Board, a 51-member panel, is made up of volunteers from private industry and business. The work of the WIB is to develop, in concert with the Mayor and City Council, policy and strategy to ensure business has access to a trained workforce and workers have access to quality jobs.

The City of Los Angeles Community Development Department administers Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds annually. Those funds are used to finance a number of programs that are vital to the everyday lives of City residents. Program dollars allow the City to offer start-up loans for small businesses-providing jobs, goods, services and a tax base that stabilizes and uplifts communities. CDBG funds build day-care centers, and subsidize after-school programs for the children of moderate- and low-income working parents. Money from the block grant is used to make hot meals and health screening available to elderly and disabled citizens who might otherwise go without. Average citizens may not know that they are seeing CDBG funds at work daily in their community through sidewalk and curb repair.