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RIDLEY-THOMAS HOSTS A FORUM HIGHLIGHTING CONSTRUCTION JOB AND CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE NEW MLK MEDICAL CENTER

*Four Hundred Participants Learn About New Opportunities
Available Through a Wide Range of County Projects*

Los Angeles— Over 400 people joined Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas this week at a Small Business Forum which addressed opportunities for Small Business Enterprises (SBE) and local workers to secure work on the Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Medical Center Replacement projects.

Forty-five exhibitors, including the four finalists for the design-build contracts, were present. Representatives from the Los Angeles World Airports and Metropolitan Water District were also present to share other job opportunities. The forum connected SBEs and local workers with resources including bonding, access to capital, certification, technical assistance, and contractor training.

Last week, Ridley-Thomas led an effort before the Board of Supervisors to establish a local worker hiring policy and small business enterprise program for both projects at the new MLK medical center.

“This is an important step in our effort to bring tangible solutions to the job crisis in our community by establishing new policies that will fundamentally change the way the

County provides employment opportunities,” said Ridley Thomas. “Today’s unprecedented turnout is evidence of the great need for jobs and business opportunities in the County of Los Angeles”.

The new local hire policy will ensure that at least 30% of the total construction hours associated with the MLK Inpatient Tower and MACC projects are reserved for workers who live within a five-mile radius or in zip codes experiencing 150% of the County’s average rate of unemployment. In the same spirit, the SBE program requires that contractors maintain SBE participation throughout the life of the project. Together these programs present an opportunity to use the County’s investment in public works as a catalyst for local job creation and revenue generation.

“Facility improvements at MLK represent an opportunity to expand access to healthcare, but through construction, we also have an opportunity to put contractors and workers to work,” said Jacob Williams, Assistant Director of the Department of Public Works.

The new MLK Hospital Inpatient Tower and Multi-service Ambulatory Care Center (or MACC) will provide the highest quality of patient care in compassionate, culturally competent and seismically compliant state-of-the-art facilities. Together, these projects represent an investment by Los Angeles County of over \$400 million of construction activity.

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