



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 8, 2010

**Contact:** Ed Maddox, 213-361-6980

**Email:** [emaddox@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:emaddox@bos.lacounty.gov)

**Contact:** Jamarah Harris, 213-974-2222

**Email:** [jharris@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:jharris@bos.lacounty.gov)

## **RIDLEY-THOMAS ENCOURAGES BOARD ACTION ALLOWING BOARD OF SUPERVISOR MEETINGS TO BE HOSTED ANYWHERE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

*Will Allow Board to Meet in Unincorporated Areas and 87 Additional  
Municipalities*

**Los Angeles**—Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today recommended that the Board of Supervisors vote to approve an ordinance allowing regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Supervisors to be held at locations outside of the City of Los Angeles. The Board of Supervisors currently meets each week at the Hall of Administration in downtown Los Angeles. The new ordinance, which will greatly increase access to government, is the result of one of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas's first recommendations upon being elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2008.

"The ability to participate in governmental decision-making is at the very foundation of our democracy. We as civic leaders must do everything possible to increase the public's ability to make its voice heard. This new ordinance, one of my earliest priorities upon taking office, will make government more accessible, transparent and accountable to the people whose quality of life we affect on a daily basis."

Current Los Angeles County code and recently amended California State law allow regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meetings to be held only at the County seat, the City of Los Angeles. In January of 2009, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas recommended that the Board take steps to address this policy, which prevented meetings from being held in the County's unincorporated areas and other 87 municipalities. To make this change possible, the Board of Supervisors and the Chief Executive Officer worked to amend the County Code and successfully requested that the State Legislature change existing State law, which was accomplished with the passage of Assembly Bill 139 earlier this year, signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on July 6, 2010.

“Even in this modern age of instant information and virtual connectedness, government still works best when people engage with decision makers face-to-face. This new policy will be especially important for people in unincorporated areas of the County, those living with disabilities or those who simply cannot afford to take several hours off of work to travel to and from downtown Los Angeles.”

The Board of Supervisors will vote on the new ordinance at tomorrow's regularly scheduled meeting. If approved, the new policy will take effect on January 1, 2011.

# # # #