



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## RIDLEY-THOMAS RECEIVES HONOR FROM HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOR LEADERSHIP IN OPENING NEW MLK HOSPITAL

*First Elected Official to Receive Award*

**Los Angeles**—Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas was honored this week by the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC) for his leadership in opening the new Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Hospital. Supervisor Ridley-Thomas received the Hospital Hero Award at HASC’s fifth annual awards luncheon, which was attended by over 400 people. He is the first elected official to receive this honor in the Awards’ history.

“The improvement of community hospitals has been at the very heart of my efforts to improve public health in the Second District,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. “I am tremendously honored to receive this award and look forward to a continued partnership with the Hospital Association of Southern California as we work to restore quality medical services to the historically underserved residents of South Los Angeles.”

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas prioritized opening a new MLK Hospital upon taking office in 2008. The new MLK Medical Center’s Inpatient Tower and the Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center (MACC) will provide the highest quality of

patient care in a compassionate, culturally competent manner. The 38-acre site will include space for an emergency department, in-patient pharmacy, operating rooms and 120 hospital beds.

“Supervisor Ridley-Thomas’ leadership has been extraordinary. The task of bringing all the necessary stakeholders to the table was nothing short of phenomenal,” said Jim Lott, Executive Vice President of Policy and Communications for the Hospital Association of Southern California.

Last month, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas led a successful effort to establish a local hire policy for jobs related to the new medical center’s construction. The local hire policy will mandate that at least 30% of the total construction hours associated with the MLK construction projects are reserved for workers who live within a five-mile radius of the project area or in zip codes with unemployment rates of 150% of the County’s average, or higher. The policy, approved unanimously by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, will bring thousands of jobs to many of the neighborhoods hardest hit by the recession.

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