



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS AND GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER LIGHT HOLIDAY TREE OF HOPE AT MLK MEDICAL CENTER

Over 100 Children Receive Toys in CHP Giveaway

Los Angeles—Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas on Friday hosted a holiday tree lighting ceremony with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to celebrate the on-going progress in efforts to open a new Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Medical Center. The California Highway Patrol distributed toys to hundreds of local children, and the holiday tree was officially lit by Hallimah Felton, a fifth-grade student from Barack Obama Charter School.

“This is a season of hope in the Second District,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. “The community’s long-held hope for quality medical services is becoming a reality, brick by brick. We are here today to celebrate the unprecedented partnerships that have made this reality possible.”

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas highlighted the milestones that have been reached in the effort to build a new MLK Medical Center: a master plan for the campus has been approved, the \$20 million South Health Center is now under construction, and a Board of Directors has been named for the new MLK Hospital. This

coming Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors will consider a recommendation to negotiate a Project Labor Agreement with the building trades unions mandating that at least 30% of the construction workforce for the new Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center project be drawn from the local community.

Governor Schwarzenegger was instrumental in facilitating a partnership between the County of Los Angeles and the University of California to ensure that the highest level of patient care is delivered in the new state-of-the-art MLK Hospital.

“It is safe to say that without Governor Schwarzenegger’s intervention, we would not have reached the milestones that we have over the past two years,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. “It is with joy that we come together as a community to thank him for his support and to celebrate the progress we’ve made in this historic project.”

The Supervisor and Governor were joined by Dr. J. Benjamin Hardwick, pastor of Zion Baptist Church, the New Spirit Nation Junior Choir and Grant A.M.E. Church, and Tamasha Earl, a nursing attendant in the Women's Health Center of the MLK Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center.

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