



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RIDLEY-THOMAS CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW QUINCY JONES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Hundreds Gather For Historic Opening of Charter School in Los Angeles

Los Angeles -- Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas stood at the side of legendary artist Quincy Jones as a large gathering of students, parents, officials and community residents cheered the opening of an innovative charter school that bears his name in South Los Angeles this week.

“Repeat after me,” shouted Ridley-Thomas to the excited gathering. “Q is in the house! Q is in the house!”

The crowd of over 500 applauded wildly at the arrival of the Grammy winning composer, musician, and humanitarian who proudly watched as the ribbons were cut at the Quincy Jones Elementary School and Synergy Charter Academy which will become the first LAUSD Charter School of its kind in South Los Angeles.

“We are here to witness a special moment in history,” said Ridley-Thomas to the gathering. “Many years from now, you students will be able to tell your children and your friends that you were here with Quincy Jones on the day that your school which bears his name was dedicated.”

Following a rendition of Jones' song "Tomorrow" by the school choir, Jones gave an emotional speech to the gathering. "When I was growing up as a poor kid in a crime ridden neighborhood in Chicago, I could not have imagined that I would stand here with you today and witness the dedication of a school with my name on it," Jones said. "This is one of the greatest honors of my life."

Joining the Supervisor in welcoming the superstar who has created music with stars including Ray Charles and Michael Jackson, were Superintendent Ramon Cortines, Board President Monica Garcia and Local District 5 Superintendent Roberto Martinez.

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