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Contact: James Bolden 213-200-5314
Aurelio Rojas 213-974-2222

**RIDLEY-THOMAS LEADS BOARD IN PROCLAIMING APRIL
AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

LOS ANGELES – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today led the Board in proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month in the County of Los Angeles, observing the 42nd anniversary of the enactment of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 signed into law by Congress.

Enforcement of Title VIII guarantees the right to equal housing opportunities for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, and national origin. Amendments to the law broadened the protections to include gender, families with children, and people with disabilities.

The Supervisor welcomed Marisol Arzate, Director of Outreach and Education for the Housing Rights Center, which provides residents with the opportunity to actively support fair housing through various activities offered throughout the year.

The Supervisor thanked the organization for its work in advancing equality and to providing residents with the needed resources to pursue home ownership.

The County of Los Angeles, through the Community Development Commission, supports and promotes fair housing activities in conjunction with the Housing Rights Center, Fair Housing Foundation of Long Beach, and the San Fernando Valley Fair Housing Council. Each year, the nation celebrates the rights granted under the Act during the month of April.

The County's Community Development Commission serves as the Housing Authority within the County, administering both the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing programs. The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program has approximately 23,466 vouchers available with over 10,000 partner property owners.

"We recognize the value and importance of the rights guaranteed under Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968," the Supervisor said. "I encourage everyone to take an opportunity to explore the various ways in which you can contribute to the work of equality in the County of Los Angeles."

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