



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUPERVISORS VOTE TO ACCEPT LA84 FOUNDATION DONATION TO IMPLEMENT COUNTY'S 'PARKS AFTER DARK' SUMMER PROGRAM

LOS ANGELES – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today was pleased with the Board's acceptance of a \$41,640 grant from the LA84 Foundation to fund the "Parks After Dark" (PAD) program at three County parks beginning this week.

The Supervisors authorized the County's Director of Department Parks and Recreation to accept the grant and conduct all procedures in accordance with the grant.

PAD will offer extended park hours and activities to surrounding communities and youth at Ted Watkins Park in South Los Angeles, Franklin Roosevelt Park in the Florence Firestone area, and Pamela Park in unincorporated Duarte.

The goal of PAD is to strengthen individuals in communities and influence them to see their communities and neighbors in a better light. PAD will provide youth with productive activities to decrease the likelihood of participation in at-risk behavior, including gang activity, and is a component of the County's Gang Initiative, which seeks to reduce gangs and gang violence.

Extended park hours will take place Wednesdays to Saturdays between July 7 and September 4, 2010. Additional programming and activities for all community residents will include sports activities, cultural and educational activities, musical concerts in the parks, movies in the parks, employment opportunities for local youth and resource fairs.

The grant provided by the LA84 Foundation will be used to offset costs for sports officials, participant awards, uniforms, and necessary program equipment for the basketball and soccer portions of the program.

PAD is made possible through a partnership between the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, LA 84 Foundation, the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles County Probation Department, the Los Angeles County Public Library, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, the Los Angeles County Department of Community and Senior Services, the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

For a complete listing of hours and activities that will be available at each location, visit the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation website at: <http://parks.lacounty.gov>.

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