



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS URGES COUNTY TO APPROVE LOAN OF UNUSED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO HELP SERVE THOUSANDS AT UPCOMING MEGA FREE RAM/LA CLINIC

Last year, more than 6,300 people were treated at the Forum in Inglewood

LOS ANGELES – In anticipation of a greater turnout than last year’s mega free clinic at the Forum In Inglewood, the Board today approved Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas’ request to authorize the Department of Health Services to donate its unused medical equipment, including mobile medical and dental vans to help services thousands at the April 27 to May 3 Remote Area Medical/LA free clinic at the Los Angeles Sports Arena.

With approval of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas’ request, the Board authorized the Interim DHS Director to negotiate the necessary agreements with RAM/LA to use the equipment on a temporary basis, without compensation to the County of Los Angeles.

“Use of the this equipment will enhance RAM/LA’s ability to provide free services to thousands of uninsured, underinsured or unemployed patients expected to attend the RAM/LA Clinic – without cost to the patient, taxpayers, or the government,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said.

With increasing unemployment rates and the rising cost of healthcare, many Americans now find themselves uninsured and unable to afford medical, dental and vision care. Los Angeles County is the epicenter of the uninsured in the United States, with over 2.1 million residents without health coverage.

RAM/LA organizer Don Manelli addressed the Board on the equipment’s contribution to the “quality of care and capacity” for the patients who will be treated at the clinic.

“The loan will expand the equipment component for the RAM/LA clinic,” Manelli said, “we are still working on the human component – volunteers.”

Last year, the week-long RAM/LA free health care clinic provided about 14,500 services to more than 6,300 patients. In addition to the immediate care provided, this year there will also be a strong emphasis on health education, prevention, and self-care.

This year, the Coliseum Commission waived rental fees for use of the Sports Arena paving the way for thousands to receive free medical services when RAM/LA hosts the touring clinic later this month. The clinic will be even larger than last year, treating over 1,200 patients a day.

“Because of the RAM/LA clinic staged last year at the Forum -- the first time it had been done in a major metropolitan area -- thousands of lives were changed,” the Supervisor said. “The Second District, along with RAM/LA, hopes to do it again and make history.”

For more information on the upcoming RAM/LA free clinic or to obtain volunteer information, please visit www.ramfreeclinic.org or visit RAM/LA’s Facebook and Twitter pages at:

- <http://www.facebook.com/#/event.php?eid=292741122080&index=1>
- <http://twitter.com/ramlosangeles>

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