



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MLK HOSPITAL CAMPUS FITNESS PARK RECEIVES FUNDING THROUGH RIDLEY-THOMAS MOTION**

*Part of Comprehensive Effort to Provide Quality, Affordable Health Care in Second District*

**Los Angeles**—Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today applauded a vote by the Board of Supervisors to allocate nearly \$1 million for a state-of-the-art fitness park in the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center campus. The park is an important component of Los Angeles County’s efforts to promote exercise and preventive wellbeing, and its creation will mark another important step forward for the entire MLK Hospital project.

“This allocation represents more than an investment in our physical infrastructure; it is an investment in our community’s health and future,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. “As we fight to protect the historic health reform legislation that is giving millions of Los Angeles County residents access to affordable care, we are also moving forward with local projects like the South Health Fitness Park that provide Second District residents with a place to exercise and stay healthy.”

The quarter-acre park, which will be located adjacent to the \$20 million South Health Center currently under construction, will feature a greenway, exercise stations, seating areas and native, drought-tolerant landscaping. The project is part of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' goal to provide quality healthcare and wellness opportunities to all Second District residents.

"The fitness park will be a vital part of the new MLK Hospital Campus and an invaluable resource for Second District residents," added Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. "This innovative feature of the new South Health Center reaffirms Los Angeles County's commitment to the idea that health and wellbeing are a basic right for all."

In June 2010, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas joined local leaders and health advocates to break ground on the 33,000 square-foot South Health Center, which will provide wellness and preventive services and feature a community kitchen and garden. Construction is expected to begin in the coming months on the \$400 million Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center, which will provide the highest quality of medical care in state-of-the art facilities.

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