



## NEWS

### **Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas** **L.A. County Board of Supervisors, 2<sup>nd</sup> District**

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Supervisor Ridley-Thomas to Host Town Hall Meeting at Drew Magnet High School to discuss new Martin Luther King Hospital**

**LOS ANGELES** – Due to overwhelming response, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas has moved this Saturday's Town Hall meeting on the County's efforts to open a new hospital on the Martin Luther King Medical Center site from the H. Claude Hudson Auditorium to a larger venue.

**WHEN:** Saturday, August 1, 2009  
9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** Charles Drew University Magnet High School, 1601 W. 120<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles.



Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office William T "Bill" Fujioka will share information on the current status of negotiations with the University of California and the County's plans to construct new, seismically compliant facilities at the former hospital site.

Other speakers who will be on hand to discuss how the hospital planning efforts relate to other health care reform, transit and economic development efforts will include:

- Dr. Hector Florez, L.A. Health Options Task Force;
- Dr. Bob Ross, Executive Officer of the California Endowment;
- Irv Taylor, Transportation Planning Manager with the L.A. County Metropolitan Transit Authority; and
- Katherine Aguilar Perez, Director, Urban Land Institute, Los Angeles, who will present the ULI's report developed following a two-day on-site evaluation conducted in June this year.

The Town Hall is co-sponsored by the Empowerment Congress, a neighborhood-based organization that promotes civic engagement in the Second Supervisorial District.

"We continue to make progress toward opening a new 120-bed hospital devoted to quality patient care on the Martin Luther King Medical Center campus," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said. "This Town Hall is the latest of several efforts by my office to inform stakeholders, residents and the general public about our work to establish a new, community hospital in collaboration with the University of California."

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"We continue to make progress toward opening a new 120 bed hospital devoted to quality patient care on the Martin Luther King Medical Center campus," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. "This Town Hall is the latest of several efforts by my office to inform stakeholders, residents and the general public about our work to establish a new, community hospital in collaboration with the University of California since we agreed on a framework outlining our respective obligations this past March."

According to the framework, the new hospital will open as a 120 bed facility, offer comprehensive services including an emergency room, surgical beds and ancillary services. The hospital will be organized as a private, non-profit organization under an independent board of directors. A new, county-operated Multi-service Ambulatory Care Center will provide out-patient, clinical services.

On hand to discuss how the hospital planning efforts relate to other health care reform, transit and economic development efforts will be

"The new Martin Luther King hospital has the potential to be a catalytic economic development project," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas observed. "I engaged the land use professionals associated with the Urban Land Institute to evaluate the development potential of the 38 acre, County-owned Medical Center site and the surrounding area to re-envision how the job creation, educational, commercial and residential real estate opportunities associated with the \$300 million investment the County is contemplating there."

- Urban Land Institute Executive Director Katherine Aguilar Perez will present the ULI's report developed after a two day on-site evaluation conducted in early June.

"As the President and Congress continue to work toward health care reform that is beneficial to all Americans, we are working diligently at the local level to provide a first class medical facility to the residents of Los Angeles County. It is my hope that Town Hall participants will learn the many ways this groundbreaking project will benefit the residents of my district and beyond," the Supervisor stated.

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