



NEWS

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
L.A. County Board of Supervisors, 2nd District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2009

Contact: Aurelio Rojas
213-974-2222

**SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS CALLS FOR
STATE LEGISLATION TO HOST BOARD
MEETINGS ANYWHERE IN L.A. COUNTY**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, continuing his efforts to make government more accessible to residents of the Second District, today introduced a motion directing the county chief administrative officer to seek state legislation to allow the Board of Supervisors to meet in cities outside Los Angeles.

State law currently requires Boards of Supervisors to meet in their county seats, which in Los Angeles prohibits the board from convening in the other 87 cities in the county.

The county executive officer, in response to a motion introduced in January by Ridley-Thomas, recently issued a report advising the board it would need to pursue legislation in Sacramento to take its meetings on the road.

In 2004, Fifth District Supervisor Mike Antonovich proposed holding board meetings in each supervisorial district. But the idea was shelved after the board learned doing so would require a change in state law.

“I strongly believe that the County of Los Angeles should be able to hold its Board of Supervisors meeting out in the communities where our residents and members of the business community can become engaged in the issues which directly affect their quality of life, and we should take steps to do so immediately,” the supervisor said in his motion.

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The motion, which requested the chief executive office report back in two weeks, also asked for an analysis of holding board meetings in the late afternoon and evening hours to maximize public participation.

The report will identify potential funding sources for the Board to meet on a quarterly basis outside of the Los Angeles Civic Center. The chief executive officer estimated it would cost an extra \$13,000 each time the supervisors meet outside the Hall of Administration for such expenses as setting up tables and chairs and broadcasting from a remote location. There would also be a one-time \$10,000 cost to purchase portable screening devices.

When he took his oath of office in December, the supervisor vowed to bring “Change in the Second District” and county government closer to residents.

As a member of the Los Angeles City Council and California Legislature, Ridley-Thomas has held an annual Empowerment summit in his district to educate residents about government policies and encourage them to prod their elected officials into action.

This year, his first Empowerment Congress as a county supervisor was attended by a record 1,200 residents in Hawthorne.

“I made a promise during the campaign to bring the work of the Empowerment Congress with its commitment to education, engagement, and empowerment to the cities and communities which make up the Second Supervisorial District,” the supervisor told the audience.

With over 2.5 million residents, the Second District also includes the cities of Carson, Compton, Culver City, Gardena, Inglewood, Lawndale and as well as portions of the City of Los Angeles and unincorporated sections of south and southwest Los Angeles County.

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