



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas on Metro's Vote to locate a Leimert Park Station on the Crenshaw/LAX Light Rail Corridor

Before a standing-room-only audience of 600 community residents, business, civic and religious leaders, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board voted to locate a train station in Leimert Park Village, but only if it can be built within the existing \$1.7 million budget allocated for the Crenshaw-to-LAX line. Although members of the Board overwhelmingly voiced support for the station, the refusal to allocate funds for the project leaves its fate up in the air. If contract bids for the light rail line project come in at lower-than-expected numbers, then savings will be used to fund the stop at Vernon and Crenshaw.

"In a nutshell, the ball has been moved forward in favor of the station," said Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, who has championed locating a stop in the iconic town square since he joined the Metro Board in 2008. "It's moved forward, but not nearly far enough. It's a victory with a small "v."

The urgency of locating a station in Leimert Park Village united the entire South L.A. community.

"I can think of no other issue that has united the community as has this one," the Supervisor said. The Supervisor also sought to run the line underground for a one-mile stretch through Park Mesa Heights, an option that was rejected by the Metro Board.

Nonetheless, the struggle continues, said the Supervisor.

“In addition to the hundreds of people who turned out for the meeting, thousands signed petitions asking Metro to do the right thing,” he said. “The unity members of the Board saw today is real and enduring. We are not going to give up on a station at Leimert Park Village. We are going to advocate for Park Mesa Heights. We’re going to keep pushing — it ain’t over ‘til it’s over.”

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