



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 31, 2014

**Contact:** Lisa Richardson 213-361-6980

**Email:** [lrichardson@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:lrichardson@bos.lacounty.gov)

**or**

**Contact:** Sharita Moon, 213-309-4136

**Email:** [smoon@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:smoon@bos.lacounty.gov)

**Media Advisory**  
**500 Freedom School Students to Gather**  
**for a Final Celebration**

**What:** At 9 a.m., on Friday, August 1, Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas will host 500 children ages 5 to 18 for the Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools finale. The Los Angeles Dodgers will host a baseball clinic for the scholars, as these students are called, from six Freedom School locations in the Second District. The scholars will sing, read, participate in a drumming workshop, puppet workshop, face painting and celebrate the end of a six-week summer literacy enrichment program called Freedom Schools.

**When:** Friday, August 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
\*\*Opening Program: 9 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.\*\*

**Where:** 6027 Ladera Park Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90056

**Who:** Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, actress, director, education advocate and daughter of civil rights leader Ralph Abernathy, Donzaleigh Abernathy, the Los Angeles Dodgers, Children's Defense Fund, Los Angeles County Public Library, Los Angeles County Fire Department, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation and the Music Center.

**Background:** Established in 1992 by Children's Defense Fund founder and children's advocate Marian Wright Edelman, Freedom Schools provide academically rigorous, quality summer and after school instruction to children. The program is guided by the belief that all children are capable of achieving high standards and is modeled on the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer Project, in which college students tutored at centers that served as an alternative to Mississippi's underfunded and segregated school system.

The Freedom Schools program is a free, six week summer literacy program that includes summer camp staples such as arts and crafts, field trips and recreational sports, but it also distinguishes itself by a heavy focus on reading instruction for students that may otherwise go all summer without brushing up on their academic skills. Students begin the morning with Harambee, a Swahili term that means "all pull together," during which time they read aloud, sing songs, recite motivational cheers, and then observe a moment of silence.

###