



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

**Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and the Empowerment Congress
present the 25th Annual Empowerment Congress Summit**

WHEN: Saturday, January 14, 2017

9 am: Plenary Session

9:30 am: Original theatrical performance by The Robey Theatre Company depicting the history of the Empowerment Congress, which rose from the ashes of the 1992 civil unrest to become the forerunner of the neighborhood council movement in Los Angeles.

(No entry into Bovard Auditorium after 9:30 a.m.)

11:30 am: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and other Plenary Session speakers will hold a media availability.

WHO: Plenary Session speakers

- Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
- Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
- Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn
- U.S. Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-Los Angeles)
- U.S. Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-San Pedro)
- USC President C.L. Max Nikias
- Alameda County Supervisor and California State Association of Counties President Keith Carson
- NextGen Climate President Tom Steyer

WHERE: University of Southern California
Bovard Auditorium
3551 Trousdale Parkway
Los Angeles, CA 90089

WHAT: The Empowerment Congress is a national model of civic engagement that harnesses community advocacy and activism to influence government policy on a wide range of issues. Its annual summit, featuring a plenary session and workshops, draws almost 1,500 people from across the Greater Los Angeles area. This year's theme is "Lessons Learned: 25 Years of Empowerment" and workshops include:

- Ending Homelessness Using the Empowerment Congress Model
- Criminal Justice Reform and Community Engagement
- Unlearning Learned Bias
- High Times: The Legalization of Cannabis and Its Impact on Health and Community Outcomes
- Gentrification Uncovered: What Does It Mean For You?

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