



NEWS

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUPERVISORS RIDLEY-THOMAS AND ANTONOVICH ADVOCATE FOR HEARING EXAMINER PROGRAM

*Supervisors push to provide local venues an opportunity to
hold public testimony during Board meetings*

LOS ANGELES – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today joined Supervisor Michael Antonovich in asking the Board to determine whether funding options are available to implement a county program that would allow public testimony to be given at locations in the five supervisorial districts, rather than requiring constituents to travel to the downtown civic center to address the Board.

The joint request on behalf of the County's Hearing Examiner program was part of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' continued efforts to make County government more accessible to residents.

"I strongly believe that we should be able to empower our residents and members of the business community, so they can become engaged in the issues which directly affect their quality of life," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said. "The County's Hearing Examiner approach is long overdue."

Last year the Board voted to implement the program in the Department of Regional Planning, where planners would facilitate public hearings in unincorporated communities concerning proposed land-use projects.

Although the program was scheduled to be gradually implemented at the Board of Supervisors level in mid 2009, current budget restraints have forced the County's Chief Executive Officer to push back on its implementation.

“Public testimony on projects that impact our lives, homes and communities should not be a privilege. The Board and CEO should make every effort possible to identify funding for the Hearing Examiner Program,” Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Antonovich stated in their joint request to the Board.

The Chief Executive Officer is expected to report back to Board during final consideration of the County budget in June.

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