



## **NEWS**

### **Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas L.A. County Board of Supervisors, 2<sup>nd</sup> District**

---

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 21, 2009

**Contact:** Aurelio Rojas James Bolden  
213-974-222 213-200-5314

#### **RIDLEY-THOMAS URGES USE OF FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION YOUTH WORKER PROGRAMS**

##### ***Proposed budget calls for elimination of Youth Worker positions***

**LOS ANGELES** – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today directed the County’s Chief Executive Officer to report back during the upcoming budget deliberations on the feasibility of using federal stimulus funds to create alternative youth programming in the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Under the proposed budget, 22 jobs would be eliminated from the department’s Youth Workers program. This program offers temporary employment for youth between the ages of 14 to 24 that have been identified as “at-risk.”

“For many of these young people, the positions in this program will offer them not only their first job, but provide an opportunity for them to learn and develop fundamental work and social skills and establish career goals that will be required for future success,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas stated in his proposal.

The Supervisor said the proposed “budget environment will clearly have a harmful impact on the County’s existing youth programs, so it is even more important that the county ensure that its share of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds will create jobs and job-training for at-risk youth.”

The federal stimulus program provides funding through Workforce Investment Act Youth Grants to be used for summer youth employment, as well as year-round youth employment activities. It also allows funds to be spent on employing youth through 24-years of age who have become disconnected from both education and the labor market.

**# # # #**