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CITY ATTORNEY ROCKY DELGADILLO ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF INNOVATIVE SCHOOL SAFETY PROJECT NEAR BOYLE HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo today joined with City Council Member Jose Huizar and Los Angeles Unified School District Board President Monica Garcia to announce the selection of Roosevelt High School as the latest school to be assigned a School Safety Prosecutor in the City’s continuing effort to coordinate crime reduction strategies in the surrounding community.

“Our School Safety Prosecutors are working with school and other law enforcement officials, as well as members of the surrounding community to create a safe and positive environment for learning,” said City Attorney Delgadillo.

“While a quality education is certainly a ticket to a brighter future, our kids can’t learn when they’re too terrified to go to school. That’s why it’s incumbent upon us as law enforcement officials and educators to do everything we can to ensure our kids feel safe and supported as they embark upon their education.”

Roosevelt High School, located in the Boyle Heights community and serves more than 4,000 students, is located within the safety zone for the White Fence criminal street gang. Feeder middle and elementary schools in the area also border several other street gang territories. Law enforcement officials have investigated numerous crimes within the School Safety Zone surrounding the school, including burglaries, drug possession, assaults, nuisance crimes and other serious offenses.

School Safety Prosecutors are experienced litigators tasked with implementing comprehensive crime reduction strategies to ensure a crime free and safe environment in the immediate area surrounding the principal high school as well as recreational areas frequented by students.

Deputy City Attorney Veronica de Alba, the School Safety Prosecutor assigned to Roosevelt High School, is initially focusing on the School Safety Zones encompassing 1000 feet around the targeted high school and feeder middle and elementary schools to establish working partnerships with law enforcement and the community.

“I have every confidence that Veronica, like every other member of our elite team of School Safety Prosecutors, will work tirelessly to build relationships, educate students, school officials, and local residents about critical public safety issues, and effectively remove the enablers that allow crime to occur in and around the school we’ve asked her to help,” added Delgadillo, whose made school safety a top priority during his tenure at the City Attorney’s Office.

“A safe learning environment is crucial to the academic success of the thousands of students that attend Roosevelt High School. The expansion of the School Safety Prosecutor Program will help reduce crime in the immediate area surrounding the school and will also have a positive impact in all of Boyle Heights,” said Councilmember José Huizar.

Each School Safety Prosecutor will be responsible for prosecution of quality-of-life crimes prioritized by the school, the neighboring community, and law enforcement, with a specific focus on drug and gang related offenses, street prostitution, thefts, assaults, vandalism, code violations, and sale of tobacco and drug paraphernalia within the school safety zone and school corridors.

Since assigned in September, Deputy City Attorney De Alba has worked closely with the school to facilitate educational presentations including curriculum on substance abuse, teen violence, animal cruelty, gun violence, and driving under the influence. In addition, the School Safety Prosecutor will work in concert with the City Attorney’s Operation Bright Future program to contribute to their effort to address truancy issues in the feeder elementary and middle schools near Roosevelt High School.

Deputy City Attorney De Alba has also worked closely with the LAPD and community groups to target and prosecute crimes of concern in the community including aggressive panhandling, selling of alcohol to minors, and selling of aerosol sprays for graffiti and intoxication.

In all schools, the program will work directly with local school administrators, teachers, students and their parents, neighborhood councils, business owners, the City Council, and law enforcement officials to focus resources and coordinate both traditional and non-prosecutorial responses. This strategy includes the close partnerships with the Citywide Nuisance Abatement Program, school police and community groups to identify and abate nuisance activity at problem properties and evict school-adjacent tenants engaged in criminal activity as well as monitor Registered Sex Offenders in the neighborhoods of the targeted schools and removing any wanted felons on probation.

"I am pleased to welcome Deputy City Attorney Veronica De Alba to the Roosevelt High School community", said Board President García. "Through partnerships with students, parents, and community we can achieve greater community safety, access to resources, and raise student achievement."

Roosevelt High School joins John C. Fremont High School, Venice High School, Panorama High School and Arleta High School as schools with active school safety prosecutors working in partnership with Delgado’s Neighborhood Prosecutor Program. School Safety Prosecutors at those schools have already made significant progress in improving the safety of the surrounding neighborhoods including coordinating law enforcement actions, collaborating on gang intervention programs, and conducting surveys to identify school and community concerns including the identification of chronic graffiti locations, unsafe school passages and other security issues.

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