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**CITY ATTORNEY DELGADILLO, COUNCIL MEMBER
HUIZAR ESTABLISH SAFE SCHOOL ZONES AROUND
SKID ROW CHILD CARE CENTER, CHARTER SCHOOL**
*Zones Bring Stiffer Penalties for Crimes Committed Near
Para Los Niños Facilities*

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, the City’s chief prosecutor, today joined with 14th District Council Member Jose Huizar, and representatives of the Central City East Association, Los Angeles Police Department, and Para Los Niños to announce the establishment of two new Safe School Zones – including the posting of 22 signs – which allow for increased penalties for crimes committed near Para Los Niños’ downtown Los Angeles child care center, an adjacent youth center, and a Charter elementary school.

“These signs and our Safe School Zones are crucial in our fight to protect our kids and improve quality of life in our neighborhoods - especially here in Skid Row,” said City Attorney Delgadillo. “The efforts of my office, Council Member Huizar, and our partners serve a strong notice to everyone in this community that we will not tolerate crime around our schools and the areas where our children travel.”

“We cannot expect our children to succeed in school if they are not safe. I hope that this new Safe School Zone will improve the learning environment for the students of Ninth Street Elementary School, in which 76 percent of students are homeless,” added Councilmember Huizar.

The City Attorney’s Office worked closely with Council Member Jose Huizar’s Office – which secured the necessary funding for the purchase of 22 signs – and the Los Angeles Police Department to designate the areas around the Para Los Niños’ 6th Street Child Care Center and a neighboring youth center, as well as the organization’s Family Learning Complex, as ‘Safe School Zones’. Both locations will now have 11 signs prominently displayed in the surrounding area attesting to increased penalties for crimes committed in the vicinity of each of the Para Los Niños locations. The prosecution of individuals who commit crimes within each ‘Safe School Zone’ will be handled by Neighborhood Prosecutor Songhai Miguda-Armstead.

One of the new 'Safe School Zones' will include the area within 1000' of the 6th Street Child Care Center - a preschool located at 845 E. 6th Street. The location is the site of the very first Para Los Niños Program, established in 1980 and now serves more than 130 infants, toddlers and preschoolers. This new Safe School Zone also encompasses a neighboring Youth Center which serves 60 teens from 11 middle schools and 11 high schools through tutoring, computers, recreation and college prep. A second new Safe School Zone has also been designated around the Para Los Niños Family Learning Complex - a charter school serving 340 students in grades K-5.

Designating "Safety Zones" around schools, child care facilities, bus stops and all areas within 1,000 feet from a school establishes a violence-free zone in accordance Penal Code Section 626.

Anyone convicted of committing a specified crime within the established Safe School Zone could face an additional penalty up to six months in jail and or a \$500 fine. Repeat offenders who commit a second violation within the Safe School Zone will spend at least 10 days in jail, and could spend as much as six months in jail. A third conviction for a violation within the established Safe School Zone carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 90 days in jail with a maximum sentence of six months in jail.

Each school in the Los Angeles Unified School District began implementation of its Safe School plan in June 2005 by posting information designating a list of boundaries, bus stops and other public property within the "Safe School Zone". The program has since expanded to include some private and charter schools, as well as pre and after-school programs where children are impacted by crime.

Para Los Niños is a non-profit family service organization that serves children and families from economically challenged communities through child development and education, after-school services, youth diversion, and family services.

Since 1980, Para Los Niños has grown to serve more than 5,000 families each year and assist 2,200 children and youth ages 6 weeks to 21 years at 21 sites throughout Pico-Union, Central, East, West and South Los Angeles as well as South El Monte and Ontario.

"Many of our parents work downtown and need educational programs for their children that are nearby and accessible. Just like children in other parts of the city, children here deserve safe passage to and from school, and a clean and healthy environment while in attendance," said Giselle Acevedo, Chief Executive Officer of Para Los Niños. "On behalf of the children, families and staff of Para Los Niños programs in the skid row area, I applaud the ongoing efforts of City Attorney Delgadillo, City Councilmember Jose Huizar and the Central City East Association to make this a safer place for everyone."

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