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CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA



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Community Development Department

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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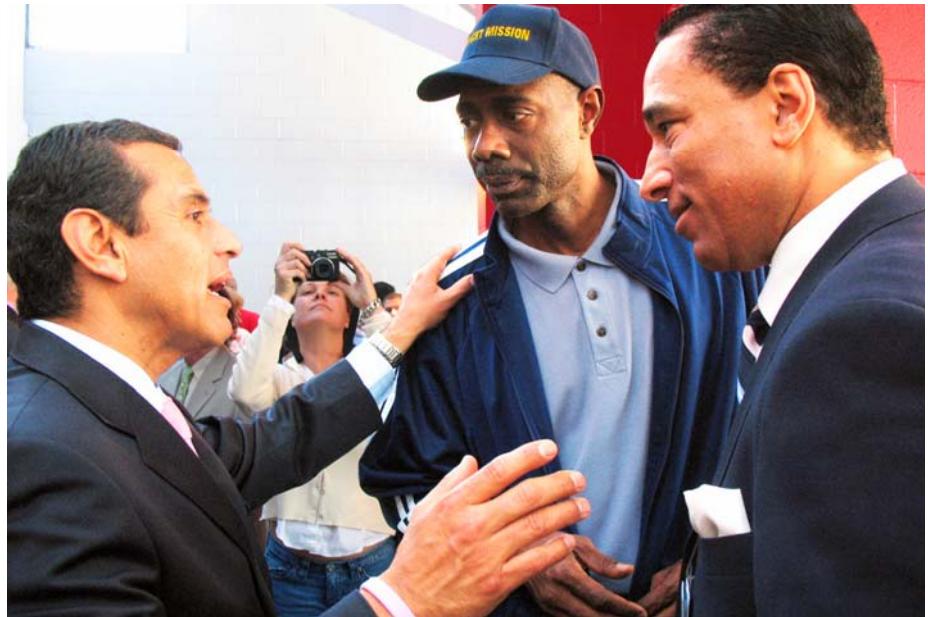
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**MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA, VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA TO BRING  
JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO SKID ROW**

*New "WorkSource portal" delivers direct access to City resources designed  
to help Skid Row residents find jobs*

**LOS ANGELES** - Bringing hope and opportunity to the Skid Row community, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa joined Volunteers of America, homeless service providers, local employers, members of the Workforce Investment Board, and Community Development Department General Manager Richard Benbow for the grand opening of the new Skid Row Development Corporation Employment Portal today at the Volunteers of America Drop-In Center.

The portal is a miniature job training and employment center with computers and staff to assist residents in finding and pursuing job opportunities. By participating in on-site programs, homeless individuals can prepare résumés, attend work-readiness workshops, and receive skills-based training sponsored by LAUSD and the LA Community College District.



*Workforce Investment Board Director Greg Irish (r) listens intently while Mayor Villaraigosa connects with portal client.*

“This program is about providing hope, opportunity and self-sufficiency to men and women on Skid Row,” said Mayor Villaraigosa. “This new employment center will supply the necessary tools to help the homeless successfully reintegrate into their communities and get a foothold on the path to independence and success.”

Funded through 2009 with over \$500,000 in funds allocated by the City, the new portal is part of the City's "Living Independently Through Employment" (L.I.T.E) project, which provides



residents of Skid Row with access to the City's Workforce Development System and its myriad job search, placement and support services.

"There is a great need for job training and placement services in every part of the City, but especially here on Skid Row," said Richard Benbow, Executive Director of the Community Development Department which oversees WorkSource Centers, "We are responding to this need in a major way by placing these essential services in the heart of Skid Row."

The L.I.T.E. program is part of the Mayor's Economic Action Plan and Workforce Strategy to place 100,000 Angelenos in living wage jobs by July 1, 2010. It is a collaboration of seven other private and public agencies, each playing a unique role in the project. The partners include: Metro North WorkSource Center, Hollywood WorkSource Center located at People Helping the Homeless (PATH) Mall, Chrysalis, SRO Housing, Inc., Human Solutions LLC, LAMP Community and Mental Health Advocacy Services.

Many local employers have also thrown their support behind the project, including: ServisAir, Roto-Rooter, I-Candy, National Conveyor Corporation, Pro-Trades Construction, Securitas, Woodland Farms, IQ Personnel, Select Staffing, 99 Cent Stores and Drivers Stop/Swift Trucking.

The Worksource Portal on Skid Row is located at the Volunteers of America Drop-In Center, 628 South San Julian Street, and is open Monday-Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM. The office is staffed by four case managers, one project manager and several volunteers.

For more information about the program or to enroll, call 1-800-FORAJOB.

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