



# NEWS

From the First Council District

## ED P. REYES, COUNCILMEMBER

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For Immediate Release

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### **REYES, PUBLIC WORKS MOVE TO CREATE YOUTH APPRENTICE PROGRAM**— *Program Seeks to Reinvest City Dollars Into Job Creation for Young Adults*

Working closely with Public Works officials, the Los Angeles City Council today unanimously approved a measure spearheaded by Councilmember Ed P. Reyes aimed at creating jobs for young adult Angelenos.

The Young Adult Apprenticeship program will specifically target capital improvement projects by the City's Department of Public Works such as construction of sewer lines, police and fire facilities and municipal libraries.

"There are multiple goals to be accomplished through this program," said Reyes. "First of all we are targeting a population of young adults ages 18-24 known to suffer some of the highest unemployment rates of anywhere in the region.

Secondly, we are looking closely at how the City reinvests its money into its own residents," Reyes said noting that last year the Department of Public Works spent more than \$250 million in capital improvement construction across the city.

"Reinvesting even a fraction of that money could make a world of difference in the lives of our communities," Reyes said.

Reyes, a member of the Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Gangs and Youth Development, originally introduced his motion as a means of working with gang-intervention specialist who argued that jobs act as a meaningful deterrent to gang involvement.

"Whenever I speak with young people or those in the field of gang prevention, the request is always for jobs. It made no sense to me that our own city, with all our resources, was not reinvesting its dollars into our young adults, " said also Reyes.

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