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**WESSON DECIDES TO STAY IN CITY HALL SERVING 10th DISTRICT
Councilmember was favored to succeed Supervisor Yvonne Burke**

LOS ANGELES—Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr. has announced that he has decided to remain in City Hall, passing up an opportunity to succeed Supervisor Yvonne Burke on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

“This was not an easy decision for me. There are many valued friends and supporters who have urged me to run for the Board. However, I have come to the conclusion that I can make a greater contribution to the community in City Hall,” said Wesson.

Burke announced last year that she will not seek re-election after her current term representing the 2nd District on the Board of Supervisors ends in 2008. She was expected to endorse Wesson to replace her, had he chosen to run. Because of Wesson’s strong ties in the 2nd District, his statewide and national connections, and Burke’s expected support, Wesson was heavily favored to win the seat.

Wesson was first elected to the City Council’s 10th District by an overwhelming margin in a special election in November 2005. In March 2007, he was unopposed in his re-election to serve his first full term on the Council.

Wesson served as Supervisor Burke’s Chief of Staff prior to his election to the California State Assembly in 1998. In the Assembly, he held one of the most powerful positions in the state – as the 65th Speaker of the California State Assembly, only the second African American to achieve that distinction.

The Councilmember said that the opportunity to touch the lives of Angelenos and help shape the future of Los Angeles were key factors in his decision to stay on the Council.

“I have been blessed with opportunities to work at different levels of government, and work with people from all walks of life. But there has been nothing more rewarding than my work in City Hall. I cherish and thrive on the challenge of improving the lives of Angelenos. To me, there is no greater satisfaction than solving people’s problems and helping a community change for the better,” said Wesson.

Wesson’s decision will allow him to continue as an important voice on the City Council. During his one and a half years on the Council, he has emerged as a respected leader, exhibiting the traits that made him the Speaker of the Assembly. As Chair of the powerful Housing, Community and Economic Development Committee, he recently pushed through major changes to the city’s rental relocation policy – one of the most significant policy changes adopted in Los Angeles over the past year.

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