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MAYOR HAHN, COUNCILMEMBERS GARCETTI & REYES URGE SUPPORT FOR SUPERSTORE ORDINANCE PROPOSAL

Los Angeles -- Mayor Jim Hahn today joined Councilmembers Eric Garcetti and Ed Reyes to support the proposed "superstore" ordinance that is on today's City Council agenda.

"The ordinance's standard for a proposed superstore is simple: would it be a net gain to the community or not?" Mayor Hahn said. "This ordinance would ensure that a superstore project would add to a neighborhood's economy and quality of life, not detract from them. This ordinance works because it is the result of my office, the City Attorney, Councilman Garcetti, Councilman Reyes and all stakeholders coming together to create a final product that will contribute to a better city economy."

"Communities deserve a voice," said Councilmember Eric Garcetti, chair of the Housing, Community and Economic Development Committee that unanimously approved the ordinance and a co-sponsor of the motion. "This ordinance will ask the developers of big-box groceries if they are going to cost our communities jobs. We've invested too much in developing good jobs in Los Angeles to let these questions go unanswered."

"We have invested millions of dollars into the infrastructure of this city and we did it for the taxpayers and the residents of Los Angeles. We did not do it so that superstores can come in and reap the benefits of that investment at the larger expense of our neighborhoods and communities," said Reyes, who helped shepherd the ordinance through the council.

"We heard from the people loud and clear in Inglewood: they want to be involved in the process," said Reverend William Jarvis Johnson of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice. "This process listens to the people. It asks the questions on their minds. It gives neighborhoods a voice."

The ordinance covers "superstore" development in the city's economic assistance areas, including State Enterprise Zones, a Federal Empowerment

Zone, a Federal Renewal Community, and Community Redevelopment Project Areas and in a one-mile buffer around each. A "superstore" is a big-box store that includes a full-service grocery store; as defined by the ordinance, superstores have a floor area of 100,000 square feet or more of which 10 percent or more is devoted to merchandise not subject to California state sales tax, i.e. groceries; healthcare, beauty, exercise, or other services; or theaters or other entertainment uses. Membership warehouse clubs, which have a much smaller traffic and economic impact than superstores, would not be subject to the ordinance.

Under the ordinance, developers would have to address questions about potential economic impacts to the community in which the project would locate. The questions address job displacement, fiscal impact, blight and impacts on existing neighborhood businesses

The process to determine whether a project will benefit the community will run concurrently with other approvals processes so as not to cause undue delays to projects that would serve the city.

"My economic development cabinet has already developed the administrative processes that this ordinance would require if enacted," Mayor Hahn said. "We brought the private sector together with the city to make sure everyone knows exactly what to expect."

The proposed ordinance was approved unanimously by a joint hearing of the Council's Housing, Community and Economic Development Committee and its Planning and Land Use Management Committee last week and will today be addressed by the full City Council.

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