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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 19, 2007

GARCETTI, PERRY LAUNCH CELL PHONE COLLECTION DRIVE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

***Join Domestic Violence Task Force in releasing report on
domestic violence in multicultural and underserved communities***

Los Angeles – Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti and Councilmember Jan Perry today launched the City of Los Angeles’s participation in HopeLine, Verizon Wireless’s cell phone collection program to help victims of domestic violence. They also joined members of the Domestic Violence Task Force as it released its report on domestic violence in multicultural and underserved communities.

“Putting an end to domestic violence is crucial to creating safer communities” said Council President Garcetti. “Everyone should feel safe in their own homes, but unfortunately domestic violence impacts every community regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation. This month, every Angeleno has an opportunity to help victims of domestic violence by simply cleaning out their junk drawer and donating their old wireless phone.”

“Education is the key to preventing and stopping the tragic and senseless cycle of domestic violence that affects people throughout our city,” said Councilwoman Jan Perry. “This month is our opportunity to get what could be life-saving information out to our shared communities.”

“We in the City of Los Angeles are always challenged by providing services for those who do not speak English or may have cultural barriers that prevent them from getting the help they need and deserve. HopeLine brings us a tool for members of underserved communities to access help and supportive services,” said Carol Tantau, Chair of the City of Los Angeles’s Domestic Violence Task Force.

From October 19 through November 19, local residents and city employees may bring their used wireless phones and accessories to designated City offices, including City Hall, Van Nuys City Hall, and Council President Garcetti’s district office in Hollywood. Phones will be refurbished and sold with the proceeds donated to benefit

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local shelters and non-profit organizations that focus on domestic violence prevention and awareness. Phones are also donated to organizations that provide assistance to domestic violence victims. All wireless phones may be donated to the HopeLine program, regardless of carrier.

"These HopeLine phones do more than just call 9-1-1; they are fully functioning wireless phones", said John Palmer, president of the Southern California Region of Verizon Wireless. "Victims in shelters will be able to use these phones to stay in touch with loved ones; schedule appointments with doctors; set-up interviews with potential employers; and make any other calls they need to make during a very difficult time."

Verizon Wireless started the HopeLine program in 2001 and has collected more than 4 million phones nationwide. As a result, nearly \$4 million in cash grants has been awarded to domestic violence agencies and organizations, and more than 40,000 phones with airtime and other features have been distributed to be used by victims of domestic violence.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The City of Los Angeles Domestic Violence Task Force's report released today identifies issues of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, anti-immigrant sentiment, abilism, and ageism that create barriers for victims of domestic violence accessing services. The full report is available online at http://www.lacity.org/CDD/fam_dom_tf.html.

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