



**Office of the Mayor
City of Los Angeles**

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 18, 2007**

**Contact: Gil Durán
(213) 978-0741**

**MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR OF
INTERNATIONAL TRADE OFFICE**

Former White House staffer Dario J. Gomez promoted to top position

LOS ANGELES – Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has appointed Dario Gomez to serve as Director of the Mayor’s Office of International Trade.

Gomez, a former Clinton White House staffer, has been a Senior Trade Specialist in the International Trade Office since July 2006.

“Dario Gomez has a wealth of experience and in-depth knowledge that make him the best choice to serve as Director of International Trade,” Mayor Villaraigosa said. “His leadership has been instrumental in our successful trade trips, and he has worked tirelessly to strengthen the City’s international relationships in order to expand foreign investment here.”

A Southern California native, Gomez is a graduate of the IBEAR International MBA program at the University of Southern California, where he worked on global consulting projects for Fortune 100 companies involving the energy and telecommunications sectors. He holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

From 1999-2001 Dario was a Presidential Appointee as a Congressional Specialist for Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky, the United States Trade Representative.

-MORE-

During that time, he worked on such historic trade measures as Congressional approval for China's entry into the World Trade Organization, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement.

Prior to working for Barshefsky, Dario served on the White House staff in the Administration of President William Jefferson Clinton. Following his work in the Clinton Administration, Dario worked as a legislative liaison for the City of Los Angeles, where he helped secure federal funding for after-school programs and public works projects. He also worked as a regional manager for the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation prior to joining the Mayor's Office.

In the months ahead, Gomez will lead an effort to develop the Mayor's Trade Advisory Council, which will be charged with providing high level direction and focus to the City's efforts to expand foreign trade.

#