



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

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

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**MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA STATEMENT ON HISTORIC CONTRACT
BETWEEN LA SECURITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYERS**

Setting a model for future negotiations across America, tentative agreement calls for 40 percent increase in wages and benefits for 4,000 officers over five years

LOS ANGELES – At a press conference on Martin Luther King Day with security officers, union leaders and building owners, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa today made the following statement on the tentative agreement reached between Service Employees International Union Security Officers United Local LA 2006 (SEIU SOULA) and security firms that service 80 percent of the commercial real estate throughout Los Angeles County:

“Today we honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King by restoring economic justice throughout the skyscrapers that define the Los Angeles skyline.

“I am proud to announce that the 4,000 security officers of Los Angeles hold in their hands not only their first contract, but the single best contract of its kind in America.

“The officers who protect the hallowed marble corridors of our most prosperous companies will now see the same level of protection for their own homes, and South LA will see millions of dollars reinvested in its communities every year.”

Negotiations for the union's first contract have lasted seven months and impact Los Angeles' more than 4,000 security officers, who on average earn just above the minimum wage without healthcare benefits.

The union estimates that raising the earnings of security officers to match the wages of many janitors in the same buildings would bring an estimated \$50

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million more each year into South Los Angeles, where most security officers live. Nearly 70 percent of Los Angeles' security officers are African American.

The tentative contract, reached Saturday morning after 24-hour negotiations facilitated by the Mayor's staff, awaits ratification by the union membership on January 26, 2008.

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