



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

## **ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 10, 2009**

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### **MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA LAYS BUILDING BLOCKS FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY AT CITY WORKSOURCE CENTERS**

*Mayor will expand the Foreclosure Response Network and add financial counseling services to menu of options helping families avoid foreclosure and survive the economic downturn*

VAN NUYS – Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa joined Councilmember Richard Alarcón and leaders of Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services (LANHS), Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Valley College today to announce the expansion of the Foreclosure Response Network, adding financial literacy and debt counseling services to the menu of foreclosure prevention options available at LA's WorkSource Centers.

"As leaders of this City, it is our responsibility to provide Angelenos with every opportunity to weather this economic storm, help residents emerge from this recession with dignity, and remind families that resources are available and help is just around the corner," Mayor Villaraigosa said. "By expanding our Foreclosure Response Network, we will minimize the damage to our financial foundation, maximize the chances for recovery and success, and get local residents back on-track."

In April 2008, Mayor Villaraigosa created the Foreclosure Response Network – a partnership between City Hall, local non-profits and legal aid organizations to provide a comprehensive set of foreclosure prevention services to local residents at the City's WorkSource Centers. The participating centers are located in or near LA's hardest-hit communities, and offer a wide array of clinics and resources to help homeowners avoid foreclosure and stand on stable economic ground.

"The foreclosure crisis has devastated our communities and we must tackle it from every side," Councilmember Alarcón said. "Local families can come to the WorkSource Centers or other HUD certified counselors to receive free, quality assistance and hopefully get the help they need to save their American Dream and protect our communities from further destabilization."

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In response to the growing need for improvements in financial literacy and education, the Mayor will work with LANHS, Bet Tzedek and Valley College to:

- Provide bi-monthly foreclosure prevention clinics at the Van Nuys and South LA WorkSource Centers, where struggling homeowners can learn about the first steps they must take to stay in their homes
- Offer legal aid services to educate Angelenos about how to respond to loan modification scams and fraud
- Kick off the Money Management Awareness Program for adults who want to enhance their budgeting and entrepreneurial skills, and find out about the economic fundamentals of homeownership

With these additions, the Foreclosure Response Network will create a comprehensive resource system that addresses the short-term need for foreclosure and legal counseling, and delivers the long-term benefit of increased financial literacy across the City.

“We consider it a privilege to serve families throughout Los Angeles with 'help and hope' during this economic crises,” said Lori Gay, President and CEO, LANHS. “During these difficult times, all of us need to join together to assist each other to preserve our families and communities. Nothing is worse than doing nothing, so please call 888-89-LANHS for help; our services are free.”

“Too many homeowners are scammed into paying for bad loan modifications and bad legal advice. Reaching out to homeowners through the WorkSource Centers will help prevent fraud,” said Debra Zimmerman, Consumer Protection Attorney, Bet Tzedek Legal Services. “Bet Tzedek is proud to work in partnership with the Los Angeles WorkSource Centers to provide free legal services to homeowners to help with their loans and get them back on their feet.”

On top of developing the Foreclosure Response Network, Mayor Villaraigosa has taken a series of steps over the past year to address the foreclosure crisis in Los Angeles. In September 2008, the Mayor rolled out “Housing That Works,” a 5-year, \$5 billion plan to expand affordable housing options for low-income and middle class families and workers; build housing along public transit lines; develop a mixed-income housing ordinance; and expand homeless services across the City.

In November, Mayor Villaraigosa joined IndyMac Bank and the FDIC to host a “Home Preservation Day” at Van Nuys City Hall. At this event, the City and bank officials offered IndyMac customers the opportunity to renegotiate their loans, restructure their mortgage payments and remain in their homes. During the following month, the Mayor joined Council President Eric Garcetti and tenants rights advocates to sign a new law ensuring that renters are not forced from their homes and apartments when landlords and property owners fall behind on their payments.

At the beginning of 2009, Mayor Villaraigosa sounded the alarm about the growing number of loan modification scams, warning residents about foreclosure fraud and outlining free, reliable resources for preventing foreclosures and revamping mortgages.

Los Angeles has seen a dramatic increase in foreclosures over the past two years. In all of 2007, there were approximately 4,600 foreclosures in the City. The following year witnessed more than 12,000 homes lost to foreclosure, with the largest waves hitting single-family residences in the San Fernando Valley and multi-family buildings in South LA.

### FORECLOSURE RESPONSE NETWORK – LOCATIONS

The Foreclosure Response Network provides services at six locations throughout the San Fernando Valley and South Los Angeles. The participating sites include:

#### **West Adams–Baldwin Hills WorkSource Center**

5681 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, 90016  
(323) 525-3740 | TTY: (323) 931-9076  
[www.laul.org](http://www.laul.org)

#### **Metro North WorkSource Center**

342 San Fernando Rd., Los Angeles, 90031  
(323) 539-2000 | TTY: (323) 539-2057  
[www.goodwillsocal.org](http://www.goodwillsocal.org)

#### **Southeast LA–Watts WorkSource Center**

10950 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles, 90059  
(323) 563-4702 | TTY: (323) 563-5684  
[www.wlcac.org](http://www.wlcac.org)

#### **Van Nuys–North Sherman Oaks**

15400 Sherman Way, Suite 140, Van Nuys, 91406  
(818) 781-2522 | TTY: (818) 374-7024  
[www.worksourcecalifornia.com](http://www.worksourcecalifornia.com)

#### **Sun Valley WorkSource Center**

9024 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Sun Valley, 91352  
(818) 504-0334 | TTY: (818) 504-1974  
[www.wscalnetwork.org](http://www.wscalnetwork.org)

#### **South LA WorkSource Center**

7518 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, 90044  
(323) 752-2115 | TTY: (323) 752-9215  
[www.cciworksource.org](http://www.cciworksource.org)

The next foreclosure prevention clinic will be held on February 11, 2009, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the South LA WorkSource Center. To RSVP or find out more about the event, please call 323-752-2115 x 236.

Residents interested in hearing more about the services provided at each WorkSource Center should contact their nearest location directly.