



Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

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Housing Authority joins Efforts to Fight Gang Violence – “Summer Night Lights” (Anti-Gang Program)

LOS ANGELES – The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) is welcoming “Summer Night Lights” at four public housing development sites. The gang prevention program provides nine weeks of expanded programming for youth and families in 16 recreational facilities within the Mayor’s Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zones.

On Monday June 29, 2009, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa kicked off the event at Imperial Courts Public Housing Complex in Watts. The Mayor was joined by community members, youth participants and other city leaders including program contributor and supporter, USC football Coach, Pete Carroll.

“We are happy to be a partner in an effort to steer youth toward positive activity and away from the streets and gang involvement in our public housing developments,” said Rudolf C. Montiel, President and CEO of HACLA. “This year youth at Jordan Downs, Ramona Gardens, Imperial Courts and Nickerson Gardens public housing complexes have an opportunity to participate in fun, productive and engaging activities while they are out of school.”

The program is headed by the Mayor’s Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD), and developed in partnership with USC football Coach Pete Carroll’s non-profit organization, A Better LA, Department of Recreation and Parks, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

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Research indicates that youth are most likely to commit violent crimes between the hours of 4 p.m. and midnight. Additionally, crime spikes during the summer months when longer daylight hours also result in youth searching for activities to cure restlessness and boredom.

Beginning July 8 – Sept. 5, the 16 participating sites will have extended hours and programming including youth-centered recreational, educational and artistic activities. The recreation centers will stay open until midnight. Youth coordinators will help facilitate various programs.

For more information on “Summer Night Lights”, including a complete list of all participating sties, please visit our website www.hacla.org

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