



News Advisory

(for Friday February 19th)

“South Los Angeles: Still Waiting for its Promise”

South Los Angeles was NOT selected during the most recent round of the Obama administration’s federal promise zone designations. Many feel this particular Los Angeles community was overlooked once again. So a new and sweeping collection of South Los Angeles advocates and leaders has come together to submit a compelling and detailed promise zone application. South Los Angeles residents who live in the suggested promise zone, are facing some staggering challenges:

---Nearly 46% of the nearly 200,000 residents in the suggested zone live below the federal poverty line. That’s a household of four living on less than \$23,550 per year...or \$11,940 for an individual.

---More than 53% of children in the suggested promise zone live in poverty...that’s double the rate for all of LA county.

---Education is barrier. 52% of those 25 and older in the suggested promise zone have less than high school education. There are only 9% holding bachelor’s degrees.

These are some of the reasons behind the broad-based South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z) strategy to seek a federal promise zone designation. The application is due next week and the partners will conduct a symbolic signing of the application as a show of support for the work accomplished and future implementation.

News Conference and Signing Party

Friday February 19th 9:00am-10:00am

Los Angeles Trade-Technical College

Aspen Hall/TE-101 2115 Grand Ave. Los Angeles CA 90015

Elected officials expected:

LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard

LA City Councilman Curren Price

Also attending, and available for interview will be students who will benefit from improved educational opportunities, community members who need to work to support even part-time college attendance and young people who concurrently enrolled in high school and community college. All could receive direct benefits from the promise zone designation. Plus the SLATE-Z partners from business, labor, non-profits, community-based programs, public transit, education interests, public entities and law enforcement.

MEDIA MAY PARK IN THE HORSESHOE DRIVEWAY OFF GRAND AVENUE

CONTACT: David P. Ysais, Manager, Communications, LATTTC. 213.763.7063 or 213.792.0280