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COMMUNITY DINNER TO BENEFIT CITYHOOD FOR EAST LOS ANGELES

Local residents, artists, and businesses show support at Nov. 5 East LA Dinner

EAST LOS ANGELES (October 30, 2009) – The East Los Angeles Residents Association (ELARA) is hosting a Community Dinner in support of Cityhood for East Los Angeles. The dinner is on Thursday, November 5, from 5pm to 8pm at the East Los Angeles Community Center, 133 N. Sunol Dr., 90063. The event seeks to raise awareness and funds for a fiscal study of unincorporated East LA, the next required step towards Cityhood.

Entertainment will be provided by local East Los Angeles band, “Upground”. This group of young Garfield High alums, “Upground” has established themselves as East LA’s premiere band, releasing their debut album “Feel The Vibe” in 2006. Their energetic fusion of cumbia, reggae, ska, and rock has drawn national praise – opening for some of their influences and fellow East LA groups, Los Lobos and Ozomatli. The dinner is fully catered by Tamales Liliana’s, a renowned and long-time staple amongst East LA restaurants.

Your attendance at this dinner will support an effort sparked by inquisitive young minds in Alberto Palacios’ Garfield High School government classroom several years ago during a discussion on local civic engagement. Today, we are asking for your support in moving this discussion forward with the community at large.

Palacios, who taught government at Garfield High for 35 years says, “More than 16,000 signatures were gathered to get this study underway, so the money raised will make sure we fulfill that commitment. We’re providing information the people of East LA need so they can make an informed decision about Cityhood.”

In 2007, the East Los Angeles Residents Association (ELARA) officially began the Cityhood process by releasing an initial fiscal study that showed a future city of East LA could be viable, without raising taxes. After collecting petition signatures from over 33% of East LA’s registered voters – only 25% were needed -- ELARA is continuing to raise toward the goal of \$134,000 to fund a Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis, a required next step towards Cityhood.

“We understand East LA is a thriving community with the construction of the new Esteban Torres High School, the opening of the Gold Line just a few weeks away, and this week’s traditional Día de Los Muertos events that East LA is well known for. However, we hope you’ll also make time to support participatory democracy right here in East LA,” says Kristie Hernandez, member of the East Los Angeles Residents Association Board of Directors. “This is a great opportunity for local residents to come together and learn more about Cityhood, help us reach the next step, and for people from all over the county to show support for our grassroots effort.”

To learn more about the Cityhood for East Los Angeles effort, and to purchase tickets, sponsorships, or program ads, visit www.CityhoodForEastLA.org. Contact Ana Mascareñas at (323) 715-1335, Ana.Mascarenas@CityhoodForEastLA.org for more information.

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Cityhood for East LA is a project of the East Los Angeles Residents Association (ELARA), a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization. Our mission is to develop the community’s social, educational, economic and structural resources through advocacy and civic engagement. Our objective is to incorporate our community and become the City of East Los Angeles.

