

August 25, 2011

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NEWS ADVISORY**

### **Story for TODAY at 4:00 p.m.**

**Vernon City Council to vote on ‘De León Plan’ proposals for broad municipal reform at special meeting today at 4:00 p.m.**

**Staff recommendations include an agreement for four-year oversight by an independent reform monitor, development of 50 residential housing units, establishment of a \$50 million environmental mitigation fund and \$10 million in park improvement funds for Boyle Heights and Huntington Park.**

**Vernon, CA** – Vernon city council members will convene at 4:00 p.m. today (Thursday, August 25) at Vernon City Hall for a special meeting on to vote on a series of broad municipal reform recommendations advanced by California State Senator Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles) as an alternative to disincorporating the City of Vernon through pending state legislation.

**Editors NOTE:** Senator Kevin de León is expected to address Vernon City Council members today in open session prior to their discussion, deliberation and vote on his proposed municipal reform package.

Among the ‘de León Plan’ reforms to be considered by the five-member Vernon City Council are the establishment of a \$50 million environmental mitigation fund; development and construction of approximately 50 new housing units in Vernon; appointment of an independent reform monitor for four years; implementation of the Van de Kamp Report recommendations; city charter reforms including those governing term limits, city utility fund transfers and prevailing wages; and the establishment of a \$10 million “Good Neighbor Program” to improve public parks for residents of Boyle Heights and Huntington Park.

**Vernon was founded in 1905 to create jobs in California. Vernon's 1,800 businesses create more than 105,000 jobs in the Los Angeles area – including 55,000 jobs within the city's 5.2-mile boundary. The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation designated Vernon as California's 'Most Business Friendly City.' Vernon generates more than \$330 million in state income and sales taxes, \$1.1 billion in taxable spending. Vernon's businesses provide more than 4.4 billion in wages and benefits annually for workers in Los Angeles County**

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**Editors NOTE re City Council Agenda:** The attached agenda PDF document contains staff recommendations and council resolutions. Click on the "paper clip" icons within the agenda PDF document to open the additional PDF attachments.