



July 19, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Fred MacFarlane, (213) 369-8425

Vernon Mayor William ‘Bill’ Davis joins council members, fire officials at groundbreaking for new Vernon Fire Regional Training Center

Vernon, CA – Vernon Mayor William “Bill” Davis, members of the Vernon City Council and Vernon Fire Department officials held groundbreaking ceremonies today marking the start of full construction for the new Vernon Fire Regional Training Center, a specialized fire services training facility – built in partnership with the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs’ Association – that will offer training opportunities to fire service professionals serving with 31 fire agencies in the Los Angeles area.

Joining Vernon city officials at the groundbreaking ceremony at Vernon Fire Station No. 1 were U.S. Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, California State Senator Ricardo Lara, Huntington Park Mayor Graciela Ortiz, L.A. County Fire Chief Daryl Osby, L.A. Area Fire Chiefs’ Association President Bill Walker, Regional Training Group Director Jim Birrell, Montebello Fire Chief Dan Amador, Torrance Fire Chief Martin Serna, Sierra Madre Fire Chief Stephen Heydorff, Alhambra Fire Battalion Chief Edward Guerrero, and David Juarez, district director for 53rd District Assembly Member Miguel Santiago.

Mayor Davis said, “The City of Vernon is proud to be building the Vernon Fire Training Center in support our city’s fire department and fire departments in our region. All of the cities and communities in Southeast L.A. County will benefit by having the best-trained firefighters our cities can provide.”

“The recent Maywood Incident showed very clearly how difficult some fires are to combat. Our city knows better than many cities why it is so important to have firefighters with special training in hazardous materials on duty when a fire emergency hits in an industrial area,” he said.

“Without a skilled team of trained HazMat firefighters, the Maywood Incident might have gotten out of control, caused greater damage, and put nearby residents at greater risk. By supporting the Vernon Fire Regional Training Center, Vernon is doing its part as a ‘Good Neighbor’,” Mayor Davis said.

Vernon Fire Chief Michael Wilson said, “The Los Angeles Area Fire Chief’s Association (LAAFCA), an organization representing 31 Los Angeles area fire departments, formulated a strategic vision for meeting the fire safety needs of communities throughout our region. LAAFCA’s plan included the establishment of a series of fire

training facilities within our region to provide firefighters from participating agencies the opportunity to access specialized training sessions at any of the training sites in our region.”

“The City of Vernon supports LAAFCA’s vision. Members of the Vernon City Council voted to approve the construction of a Regional Fire Training Center adjacent to Vernon Fire Station No. 1 – to be managed by the Vernon Fire Department. LAAFCA facilities in various cities are scheduled include specific training in Hazardous Materials (HazMat) and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR). Though each of the facilities may offer similar training disciplines, each site will provide unique fire service training opportunities,” Chief Wilson said.

“In partnership with LAAFCA, the City of Vernon provided funds to build and equip a training center that, once constructed and outfitted, will offer specialized training for fire service professionals. By building this much-needed fire training facility, the City of Vernon is doing its part to contribute to the overall fire protection and public safety needs of residents and businesses in communities throughout our region,” Chief Wilson said.

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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 salaries and wages annually for workers in Los Angeles County. For more information, go to www.cityofvernon.org.