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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Administrator Mark Whitworth sends ‘2011 Year End Message’ to Vernon community

Vernon, CA – Vernon City Administrator Mark Whitworth today issued the following ‘2011 Year End Message’ to city residents, businesses, private sector workers and public employees that comprise Vernon’s community –

“Despite what anyone inside or outside of the City of Vernon might say, the changes enacted over the past 12-months to implement a series of municipal reforms have made Vernon a stronger city and more unified community.

“The reforms have vitalized our city’s electorate, business community and workers. Vernon remains on a path to reform that will further strengthen our community and city.

“The reforms undertaken to date helped preserve our city’s 1,800 businesses and 55,000 jobs. Vernon has the ongoing opportunity to light the pathway toward reform for other troubled cities within Southeast L.A. County.

“The reforms taking place in Vernon are historic. We are proud of our city’s reform accomplishments and continuing contributions to the local economy. The work on our city’s reforms is not finished.

“When future generations of city residents, business leaders and employees look back on 2011, they will view this year as the time when Vernon used reforms to elevate our standing and engage communities and cities that make up our region.

“One year ago, at this exact point in time in December 2010, Vernon faced an unprecedented political and legal challenge to its constitutional right to exist.

“The political and public assault visited upon our city required an extraordinarily talented, skilled and experienced team of legal professionals to counsel city leaders and guide our city’s defense of its municipal incorporation.

“If we, as a city, had exhibited a weaker resolve to reform, our city would have fallen under the withering political attack mounted against it, and been eliminated.

Exclusively Industrial

“The people of Vernon can be proud. Our city embraced municipal reforms. Our city’s leaders enacted good governance changes. Our city’s voters cast ballots to place those reforms in our city’s charter. Our city remains standing for good reason.

“This week, as we prepare for the holiday season and bring a close to 2011, we can be thankful for the steps we took to save the City of Vernon. We are grateful to those in organized labor and local business who assisted us with their Save Vernon Jobs effort. Without their help and their strong push for municipal reforms, we would have surely failed.

“We close 2011 on a positive note. Vernon received reassuring news this week from the IRS. The close of the IRS audit with a ‘no change’ determination was not unexpected. In fact, it was anticipated from the start of the Treasury Department’s examination. Vernon fully cooperated with the IRS auditors, confident that our bond financial dealings have been legal and appropriate.

“The City of Vernon looks forward to a promising 2012. We have more reform steps in store in the coming year. We are hopeful our city will receive a positive progress report from our Independent Ethics Advisor John Van de Kamp in early 2012.

“We wish our city residents, businesses and their workers and our city family of Vernon public employees a very happy holiday and a Happy New Year.”

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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.