

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **New Commissioner Says Redevelopment Essential to Low Income Communities**

**Los Angeles**—Madeline Janis-Aparicio, living wage advocate and executive director and co-founder of the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE), today cast her first vote in her new role as Commissioner to the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles City Council confirmed Janis-Aparicio's appointment to the CRA Board on September 13.

“Redevelopment is the most important tool we have to make our communities better,” said Janis-Aparicio. “I strongly support redevelopment; it is essential for improving low income communities,” she added.

Janis-Aparicio, a local and national leader in the living wage movement, is credited with the successful adoption of the City of Los Angeles' living wage ordinance which took effect in May 1997. The law requires city contractors and financial aid recipients to pay their employees \$8.27 an hour with health benefits, or \$9.52 without benefits.

Janis-Aparicio is the most recent appointment made by Mayor James K. Hahn to the CRA Board of Commissioners. Mayor Hahn also appointed five new commissioners within the last six months: Chairman David Farrar, real estate attorney; Treasurer Shu Kwan Woo, Chief Executive Officer of ABC Toys and managing partner of Woo Properties; Commissioner John A. Ornelas, public sector management consultant; Commissioner John Schafer, business representative for the Southern California Nevada Regional Council of Carpenters; and Marva Smith Battle-Bey, President and Executive Director of the Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation. Commissioner Doug Ring was appointed to the CRA Board in 1999 by former Mayor Richard Riordan.

Prior to founding LAANE, Janis-Aparicio, who is an attorney, served as the executive director of the Central American Refugee Center (CARECEN). She has also provided legal representation and advocacy for tenants, homeless people, and the disabled. Janis-Aparicio received degrees from the UCLA School of Law and Amherst College in Massachusetts.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to serve on this Commission and I hope during my tenure I can help make redevelopment even better for low income communities and working people,” said Janis-Aparicio.

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