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Whereas, LULAC is the largest and oldest Latino civil rights organization in the United States.

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Whereas, For over 77 years LULAC has been a leader in the struggle for equality for the Latino community in the area of civil rights which includes voting rights.

Whereas, LULAC has strongly supported efforts from other Latino organizations to protect the rights of Latinos.

Whereas, the Los Angeles County Chicano Employees Association has filed the largest Latino voting rights Section 2 complaint with the United States Department of Justice against the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors 2001 adopted districts.

Whereas, Los Angeles County has a population of approximately 10,000,000 in 2005 with 46.8% of the residents Latino but has only one Latino representative among the five current Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Whereas, Los Angeles County in 1990 was found to have violated the voting rights of Latinos in the drawing of Board of Supervisor districts.

Therefore, be it resolved that LULAC continue its efforts to support LACCEA Section 2 administrative Federal voting rights complaint in regards to the 2001 Supervisorial districts and that LULAC contact Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez on this case. In addition that LULAC contact the Hispanic Congressional Caucus, and the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda requesting that they contact Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez to request that he support the filing of this Section 2 Federal voting rights case in Federal District Court as soon as possible.

By Alan Clayton, Director of EEO, LACCEA

**Description of the Los Angeles County Chicano Employees Association Section 2 Federal voting rights administrative complaint filed with the Voting Rights Section of the United States Department of Justice.**

By Alan Clayton, Director of EEO

In August 2006, our Legal Counsel Joaquin Avila and I filed a massive request with the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice to re-open the Los Angeles County Chicano Employees Association's (LACCEA's) Section 2 Federal Voting Rights complaint against the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The actual complaint is almost 70-pages in length and was accompanied by a binder with over 1,800 pages of information in support of LACCEA's voting rights complaint. The Voting Rights Section of the United States Department of Justice unfairly closed our previous complaint in 2005.

We were joined in LACCEA's federal voting rights complaint by the League of the United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the oldest and largest Latino organization in the United States. We were also joined by the American G.I. Forum of the United States, which was formed in 1948 and represents the interests of Latino Veterans. There is tremendous significance in these two major National Latino groups joining us in this complaint. It was these two National Latino groups who this year took a federal voting rights case against the State of Texas all the way to the United States Supreme Court. Both organizations have a long and distinguished record in fighting for the voting rights of Latinos.

LACCEA's Section 2 Federal Voting Rights request for reconsideration complaint is in regards to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors 2001 adopted districts. The 2001 Supervisorial Districts adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors significantly discriminate against the voting rights of the Latino community by packing Latino voters into one district when two reasonable compact districts could have been drawn with Latinos comprising over 50.0% of the voters in each district. If LACCEA's alternate plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors, then two of the five Supervisorial Districts would have sufficient numbers of Latino registered voters to give the Latino community the opportunity to elect candidates of their own choice.

This case has a huge significance to both Latino County employees and the Latino community. It is of critical significance to Latino county employees because even though LACCEA's aggressive advocacy efforts over the years have convinced and sometimes forced many county department heads to recruit, hire, and promote more Latinos, which had many positive effects, still much more needs to be done. Latino county employees continue to be significantly underrepresented in most county departments at the supervisory and management level positions with only minimal representation in the top level positions, including department heads. Obviously, even after all the years of our efforts, Latinos still have a long way to go in order to have equal employment and promotional opportunities in Los Angeles County government.

In 2006, Los Angeles County had over 10,000,000 residents and approximately 47.0% are Latino. Over 4,700,000 Latinos currently reside in Los Angeles County. Whites comprise less than 35.0% of the population, but still they hold three Supervisorial Districts or 60% of the districts. Clearly, this current situation is not fair to the Latino community.

If our efforts are successful and there are two districts out of the five Supervisorial Districts where the Latino community could impact on the election of the Board of Supervisor's members, the views of our organization and other Latino organizations representing Latino county employees would clearly have much more impact. Finally, we might see more Latinos in charge of major county departments. Currently, only one major county department is headed by a Latino. Also, we should see more focus by Los Angeles County departments on the recruitment and hiring of Spanish-speaking staff in entry level public contact positions.

This struggle for justice for the Latino community will not come easily. We have been filing voting rights complaints over many years against the 2001 adopted Supervisorial district in our efforts to convince the Voting Rights Section of the United States Department of Justice to sue Los Angeles County in Federal Court. It is important to remember that in 1985 the United



States Department of Justice sued the City of Los Angeles over their city council districts. As a result of that lawsuit a second district was created where the Latino community could elect candidates of its own choice. Our current Board of Supervisor Member Gloria Molina was elected to that second heavily Latino city council district in 1987. It is also important to remember that in 1988 the United States Department of Justice joined MALDEF and other organizations in suing Los Angeles County over their 1981 Board of Supervisors districts. In 1990, the United States Department of Justice, MALDEF, and another organization prevailed and a new election was held in a newly created district in which the majority of voters were Latino.

In 1990, Supervisor Molina was elected in that newly created district. Clearly, since 1990, the Latino community has experienced a massive growth in the number of citizens over 18 and registered voters that currently reside in Los Angeles County. Our Attorney Joaquin Avila and I have submitted overwhelming evidence to the Voting Rights Section of the United States Department of Justice to the effect that there should be two districts out of the five on the Board of Supervisors where the Latino community could elect candidates of its own choice.



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