



**Office of the Mayor  
City of Los Angeles**

## **ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 6, 2009**

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### **MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA LAUNCHES TRADE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

*New team will help Mayor stimulate the local economy by creating jobs, increasing foreign investment in Los Angeles and expanding export opportunities worldwide*

LOS ANGELES – Fulfilling his commitment to stimulate the economy, create jobs and enhance Los Angeles' role as a global financial leader, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa today launched the Mayor's Trade Advisory Council (MTAC). Comprised of international business leaders, trade experts and City commissioners, this group will advise the Mayor on how to increase foreign direct investment in LA, boost tourism and expand export opportunities worldwide.

"Trade is the lifeblood of the local economy, and serves as a catalyst for growth and good-paying jobs," Mayor Villaraigosa said. "MTAC will ensure that Los Angeles reaps all of the benefits of international trade and investment, stands front and center in the global economy, and thrives on the world stage."

MTAC will work directly with the Mayor's Office of International Trade to identify new investment opportunities and build Los Angeles' reputation as a key destination for international commerce.

Following today's inaugural meeting, Mayor Villaraigosa will convene quarterly gatherings for MTAC's members. Over the course of these sessions, the council will:

- Offer counsel and advice to the Mayor, specifically regarding the changing global environment and new opportunities to position Los Angeles as a more business-friendly destination
- Alert the Mayor's Office to any overseas corporations seeking to establish a presence in the US or considering leaving Los Angeles

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- Provide guidance and support for trade missions, meetings, and other events to raise the international profile of the City

Recognizing LA's place as a primary entry point for goods and services into the United States, Mayor Villaraigosa has made international trade, foreign direct investment (FDI) and tourism key components of his economic development strategy.

FDI is responsible for significant stability and growth in a wide range of economic sectors, including retail, wholesale trade, manufacturing, finance and insurance, and transportation. Overseas companies support approximately 359,000 employees – accounting for nearly one in ten jobs in this region – and contribute more than \$16.9 billion in wages to workers across LA County.

On top of its success in attracting foreign investment, LA is the first Customs District in the United States to surpass \$300 billion in trade for a single year, making it the largest regional trading bloc in the country. In addition, the City's tourism industry provides employment for over 260,000 local residents and brings in more than \$4 billion in spending by overseas visitors.

### MEMBERS OF MTAC

The following individuals will serve as MTAC's founding co-chairs and members:

#### ***Co-Chairs***

- **Dominic Ng**, Chairman and CEO, East West Bank
- **Suzanne Nora Johnson**, Former Vice Chairman, The Goldman Sachs Group

#### ***Members***

- **Andy Bird**, Chairman, Walt Disney International
- **Maria Contreras-Sweet**, Chairwoman of the Board, Promerica Bank
- **John Emerson**, President of Personal Investment Management, Capital Group Companies
- **Thomas Iino**, Chairman, Pacific Commerce Bank
- **Lydia Kennard**, Founder, Airport Property Ventures
- **Christopher Lee**, Senior Vice President, Forever 21, Inc.
- **Donald Tang**, President and CEO, Citic Securities Global Partners, Inc.
- **Carlos J. Valderrama**, Director of Latin American Operations, Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP

#### ***Ex-Officio Members***

- **Cathy Bradley Berg**, Chairman, Board of Directors, L.A., Inc. (Regional Vice President, Passenger Sales, American Airlines)
- **S. David Freeman**, President, Board of Harbor Commissioners
- **William H. Jackson III**, Chairman, Board of Commissioners, Community Redevelopment Agency (Partner, Pircher, Nichols & Meeks)
- **Christina Noonan**, President, L.A. Convention Center Board (Senior Vice President, Jones Lang LaSalle)
- **Alan I. Rothenberg**, President, Board of Commissioners, Los Angeles World Airports (Founder & Chairman, 1<sup>st</sup> Century Bank)

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