



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

## **ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 13, 2007**

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### **MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

*New Executive Director is unanimous choice to lead workforce development,  
employment and job-training initiatives*

LOS ANGELES – As part of his effort to extend economic opportunity to every member of the Los Angeles community, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa today announced the appointment of Gregory P. Irish as the new Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Board (WIB).

“Every hard-working Angeleno deserves the training and education to compete and succeed in our City’s economy,” Mayor Villaraigosa said. “Greg Irish’s experience makes him the ideal candidate to lead WIB and prepare workers for employment opportunities throughout Los Angeles.”

Irish was the unanimous choice of a panel of seven City and community leaders to lead WIB. He brings nearly 20 years of experience in workforce development to the position, most recently serving as the Director of the District of Columbia’s Department of Employment Services and Labor.

Previously, Irish oversaw the provision of education and career advancement services to disadvantaged and dislocated workers as Director of the Employment and Training/CareerWorks Division of Santa Cruz County’s Human Resources Agency. He also facilitated the delivery of essential social services to low-income residents through his leadership of the Human Services department in the Santa Barbara County Administrator’s Office.

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As WIB's Executive Director, Irish will oversee the implementation of Mayor Villaraigosa's workforce development goals. Collaborating with the Mayor's office and local business, community and civic leaders, Irish will work to improve opportunities for low-wage workers and strengthen regional workforce development initiatives. In addition, he will be responsible for connecting the City's youth to career possibilities and enhancing WIB's partnerships with the Los Angeles Unified Schools District and the Los Angeles Community College District.

### **ABOUT THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

The Workforce Investment Board is dedicated to advancing worker opportunity and economic prosperity for business in Los Angeles. Appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council, WIB is comprised of local leaders in education, economic development, organized labor and other stakeholders in the workforce investment system.

Striving to fulfill a strong and just vision of workforce development policy in Los Angeles, WIB supports partnerships between industry, labor, government and service providers that strengthen the economic health of the region and provide business with access to a trained workforce. WIB also seeks to bolster the economic condition of local residents by offering them the opportunity to earn self-sufficient wages and giving them the tools to advance their careers.

### **BIOGRAPHY OF GREGORY P. IRISH**

Greg Irish has dedicated his entire career to public service and workforce development programs.

He has served as Director of the District of Columbia's Department of Employment Services and Labor since 1998. Previously, he worked in the Employment and Training/CareerWorks Division of Santa Cruz County's Human Resources Agency. Prior to that position, he led the Human Services department of the Santa Barbara County Administrator's Office. In each of these capacities, Irish oversaw multi-million dollar budgets and implemented job-training, worker outreach and social service initiatives for low-income residents.

Irish was Chief of Staff to Los Angeles City Councilman David Cunningham from 1984-1987, and Chief Legislative Deputy to Councilman Howard Finn from 1981-1984.

Irish holds a bachelor's degree in Urban Studies from Fordham University.

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