

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Max Follmer
(213) 978-8378

**CITY ATTORNEY DELGADILLO, SUPERINTENDANT CORTINES
ANNOUNCE EXPANSION OF SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP**

*City Attorney and LAUSD Partners Also Unveil \$80,000 Worth of New Music Instruments
for Nightingale Middle School*

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, the city’s chief prosecutor, today joined with Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent Ramon Cortines, to announce the expansion of the successful two-year-old School Safety strategic partnership between the Office of the City Attorney and the School District to an additional five middle schools.

Delgadillo and Cortines also unveiled a gift of \$80,000 worth of new musical instruments to Nightingale Middle School in Cypress Park that is part of the School District and City Attorney’s Office’s plan to build anti-gang youth centers at middle schools across Los Angeles. The instruments were procured with the assistance of the Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation.

“Over the past two years, we have seen that when we work together to create safer campuses for our students, they respond with higher test scores and better grades,” said City Attorney Delgadillo. “I am delighted that even in these tough economic times, the district is continuing this important partnership with the City Attorney’s Office so that we can help students in even more neighborhoods across the City of Los Angeles.”

“And as any gang prosecutor will tell you, the best way to keep kids out of gangs is to keep them engaged in, and excited about, school. This music program at Nightingale will provide an important new avenue for students to explore their talents, and will keep them in school and off the streets.

"The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation and L.A. City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo have given a gift to Nightingale Middle School students that goes far beyond the instruments they have supplied," LAUSD Superintendent Ramon C. Cortines said. "This partnership supports a larger vision of arts instruction as a cornerstone of a successful education."

Based on the City Attorney’s successful Neighborhood Prosecutor Program, the school safety partnership with LAUSD moves prosecutors from the City Attorney’s School Safety Division into our communities and assigns them to individual schools across the City of Los Angeles.

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As the partnership enters its second full academic year, the City Attorney will assign prosecutors to five additional middle schools: Carver Middle School in South Los Angeles, Emerson Middle School in Westwood, El Sereno Middle School in El Sereno, Pacoima Middle School in Pacoima, and Dana Middle School in San Pedro. These five schools are in addition to four schools where prosecutors are already on campus: Audubon Middle School in Leimert Park, Bethune Middle School in South Los Angeles, Berendo Middle School in Koreatown, and Mark Twain Middle School in Mar Vista.

In addition to providing prosecutors to help ensure that all students are safe on and around school campuses, the City Attorney's Office works with LAUSD to create dynamic and engaging extra-curricular programs for students. As part of those efforts, the City Attorney's Office secured funding for \$80,000 worth of new musical instruments for Nightingale Middle School.

The gift is part of the ongoing citywide anti-gang youth centers building project that City Attorney Delgadillo and Superintendent Cortines announced earlier this year.

"We are thrilled to be working again with Nightingale, and we salute Mr. Delgadillo and his staff for recognizing the importance of school music programs. On the student's behalf, many thanks!" said Felice Mancini, Executive Director of the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation.

Representatives of the Los Angeles Philharmonic joined Delgadillo, Cortines, and Garcia for the announcement. LA Phil has long supported music education at Nightingale and other Los Angeles schools.

"The Los Angeles Philharmonic is proud to support the music program at Nightingale Middle School. For more than five years, Nightingale has been a partner school of the LA Phil, with our musicians and teaching artists working to strengthen students' participation and learning in music," said Deborah Borda, President of Los Angeles Philharmonic Association. "Recognizing the power of music to change kid's lives, the City Attorney's office and LAUSD are now making music the focus of their School Safety initiative on Nightingale's campus. It is a wonderful testament to the fine work that can happen in the public schools."

School Safety Prosecutors work directly with local school administrators, teachers, students and their parents, neighborhood councils, business owners, the City Council, and law enforcement officials to focus resources and coordinate both traditional and non-prosecutorial responses. This strategy includes the close partnerships with the Citywide Nuisance Abatement Program, school police and community groups to identify and abate nuisance activity at problem properties and evict school-adjacent tenants engaged in criminal activity as well as monitor Registered Sex Offenders in the neighborhoods of the targeted schools and removing any wanted felons on probation.

The mission of LAUSD's Facilities Joint Use Development Program, part of LAUSD's multi-billion dollar New School Construction, Modernization & Repair Program, is to identify and develop mutually beneficial projects on new and existing campuses for LAUSD students and the communities in which they live. The Planning and Development Branch is working to develop projects that bring value to the school district in the form of

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revenue, cost savings and programming. These include open space for recreational facilities, youth development centers, workforce housing for teachers and district employees, and childcare and healthcare facilities.

The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation donates new and refurbished musical instruments to underserved schools, community music programs and individual students nationwide, in an effort to give youngsters the many benefits of music education, help them to be better students and inspire creativity and expression through playing music. More than 500,000 students across the country have benefited and thousands of instruments have been donated to 869 school and community music programs across the country, in addition to helping 112 schools affected by Hurricane Katrina. More information can be found at www.mhopus.org

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