



Mama Hot Tamales

The Tamales Capital of the World!

April 28, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Tamales de la Paz (Peace) will Taper past Troubles and inspire Transformation”
Community Event to Demonstrate Solidarity at MacArthur Park

Sponsored by Councilmember Ed P. Reyes – District 1, the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA), The Boeing Company, and Mama’s Hot Tamales.

Community leaders will gather on Thursday, April 30 from 5:00 pm to dusk right before the May 1, 2009 International Worker’s Rally and March in a show of community solidarity that will help bring peace and healing to past events and outstanding issues that trouble the MacArthur Park neighborhood including the May 1, 2007 confrontation between rally and march supporters, media, police, and others.

LA Councilmember Ed P. Reyes - First District, LA City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, LA Police Chief William J. Bratton, and CA Assemblymember John A. Pérez - 46th District, are confirmed to speak at the event starting at 6:00 pm. LA Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa is invited to speak. Other confirmed speakers are Angelica Salas, Executive Director of Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) and Bethany Leal, Network Director of the Multi-Ethnic Immigrant Worker Organizing Network (MIWON) who organize the May 1 marches and who will talk about the march on the following day and about the huge post card and special message for President Barak Obama.

Tamales de la Paz (Peace) will further the existing Rediscover MacArthur Park Campaign which is dedicated to revitalizing the neighborhood and surrounding areas through community partnerships that provide local health, safety, business, festive, educational, recreational, and social service activities. The Campaign has begun transforming the community from a crime-filled "point of destination" into a thriving business and social/cultural "point of destination." The event will also highlight past and future community reinvestment activities. Approximately 30 agencies will be displaying their contributions to the revitalization effort on tables.

Certificates of Appreciation will be presented by Councilmember Ed P. Reyes to various organizations for helping reverse decades of disinvestment into neighborhood reinvestment within the MacArthur Park/Westlake District. Also, Sandi “Mama” Romero of Mama’s Hot Tamales on behalf of the Rediscover MacArthur Park Alliance will present an award to the “10 Top Hot Tamales of Los Angeles” who are 10 community builders whose efforts have had a significant impact on the MacArthur Park neighborhood. Councilmember Ed P. Reyes and Police Chief William J. Bratton will be two of the recipients of the award. The event will end with all participants dining on a unique 10 foot long “peace tamale” created by Mama’s Hot Tamales.

When: Thursday, April 30, 2009
Time: 5 pm to Dusk
Where: Along Seventh Street Between Alvarado and Lake Streets in front of Mama’s Hot Tamales Café - 2122 W. Seventh St.

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If you would like more information about this event or to schedule an interview in English with event organizers please contact Joe Colletti at 213.482.9302 or joecolletti@earthlink.net or visit the following web site: www.mamashottamales.com. If you desire more information or want to schedule an interview in Spanish please contact Sandi "Mama" Romero at 213.487.4300 or mama@mamashottamales.com.

FACT SHEET

What Is Tamales de La Paz (Peace)?

Tamales de la Paz (Peace) will be a show of community solidarity that will help bring peace and healing to past events and outstanding issues that trouble the MacArthur Park neighborhood including the May 1, 2007 confrontation between rally supporters, media, police, and others.

Who Is Invited?

Members from businesses, community service groups, corporations, educational institutions, entertainment industry, faith-based organizations, local government agencies and departments, mass media, non-profits, residents, social service providers, and others are invited.

Who Will Speak at the Event?

Several representatives from the community will speak including LA Councilmember Ed P. Reyes, First District, LA City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, LA Police Chief William J. Bratton, and CA Assemblymember John A. Pérez - 46th District. LA Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa is invited to speak. Angelica Salas, Executive Director of Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) and Bethany Leal, Network Director of the Multi-Ethnic Immigrant Worker Organizing Network who organized last year's May 1 March at MacArthur Park and are organizing this year's May 1 March at MacArthur Park. Speakers will address the crowd beginning at 6:00 pm.

When Will the Event Occur?

The event will occur on Thursday, April 30 between 5:00 pm and dusk.

Why Will the Event Occur?

Without forgetting the past, the event will point to current and future community reinvestment activities that allow members to further their traditions and cultures. The event will also further the existing Rediscover MacArthur Park Campaign which is dedicated to revitalizing the neighborhood and surrounding areas through community partnerships that provide local health, safety, business, festive, educational, recreational, and social service activities. The Campaign has begun transforming the community from a crime-filled "point of destination" into a thriving business and social/cultural "point of destination."

How Will the Event Occur?

Participants will dine on many types of Latin American tamales after Seventh Street between Alvarado and Lake Streets are closed to traffic and filled with tables and chairs. The tamales will be served by Mama's Hot Tamales which is known as the "Tamales Capital of the World" and for uniting the "tamales of the world into a force of change" and "bringing all of Los Angeles together, one tamale at a time" as noted by media. In addition, representatives will dine on a unique six foot long "peace tamale" created by Mama's Hot Tamales. Each participant will be designated as a "tamal de la paz" by Sandi "Mama" Romero of Mama's Hot Tamales and encouraged to help bring peace and healing to the MacArthur Park neighborhood.