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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Councilwoman Hahn Calls for Hotel Workers to Receive Compensation for Lost Wages

LOS ANGELES — June 3, 2008 — Councilwoman Hahn today called for hotel workers adjacent to the Los Angeles Airport (LAX) to receive just compensation for lost wages. The living wage requirement approved by the Los Angeles City Council was intended to become effective on April 1, 2007. However, due to a lawsuit brought by the hotel industry, the implementation of the living wage requirement was delayed – costing hotel workers more than \$4.6 million dollars according to a recent study by the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE).

“These hard working men and women are the face of hospitality in Los Angeles,” said Councilwoman Hahn. “As a result of the legal shenanigans of the hotel industry they are being deprived of lost income. We need to ensure the intent of the living wage requirement is fulfilled and that they receive the wages that were taken away from them.”

A ruling by the California Supreme Court in April cleared the way for the LAX hotel living wage law to take effect. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge David Yaffe recently signed the papers to lift the injunction on publication of the ordinance. The Living Wage ordinance will be posted on June 4, 2008, and will take effect on July 5, 2008. Councilwoman Hahn has asked the City Attorney to find a way to require the Century Blvd. hotels to pay employees for back wages.

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