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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vernon’s \$1.5 million ‘Good Neighbor Program’ grant provides needed support for Legacy LA’s \$3.3 million facility renovation project in Boyle Heights

Vernon, CA – Vernon Mayor William “Bill” Davis, and Council Members Melissa Ybarra and Leticia Lopez were honored on Friday, September 9 at a facility renovation project groundbreaking ceremony in Boyle Heights by Legacy LA CEO Lou Calanche and her nonprofit organization’s board of directors for Vernon’s substantial grant of \$1.5 million from the city’s “Good Neighbor Program.”

The funds granted by the Vernon Good Neighbor Program will partially fund Legacy LA’s \$3.3 million facility renovation project at the L.A. City-owned Hazard Park Armory in Boyle Heights. A similar Good Neighbor Program grant in 2014 funded the purchase and installation of a state-of-the-art artificial turf soccer field at Huntington Park’s popular Salt Lake Park.

In receiving Legacy LA’s crystal recognition award, Mayor Davis said, “Legacy LA is taking this former military facility – now owned by the City of Los Angeles – and transforming it into a place where Boyle Heights youth can explore the world around them, thrive together in a supportive environment, reach their full potential, and achieve their goals in life. This is a great day for Legacy LA and Boyle Heights. The City of Vernon is proud to be a ‘good neighbor’ in this effort.”

California Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León, L.A. City Council Member Jose Huizar, Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez and L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis were also honored for their efforts to secure an additional \$1.5 million in state, county and L.A. City grant funds for Legacy LA’s facility renovation project.

Vernon’s Good Neighbor Program was created in 2013 as part of the city’s good governance reforms. It was predecessor to the Vernon CommUNITY Fund, a municipal philanthropic entity established by city ordinance in January 2014 to aid worthy nonprofit organizations in the “Vernon Area” that has provided grants totaling nearly \$1.5 million to more than 30 local nonprofit groups serving seniors, teens, and working families. For more information on the Vernon CommUNITY Fund, go to vernoncommunityfund.org.

Legacy LA is a nonprofit community benefit organization providing youth development, mentorship, leadership training and educational support to young people living in the Ramona Gardens community in East Los Angeles.

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Vernon was founded in 1905 to create jobs in California. Vernon's 1,800 businesses create more than 105,000 jobs in the Los Angeles area – including 55,000 jobs within the city's 5.2-mile boundary. The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation designated Vernon as California's 'Most Business Friendly City.' Vernon generates more than \$330 million in state income and sales taxes, \$1.1 billion in taxable spending. Vernon's businesses provide more than 4.4 billion in salaries and wages annually for workers in Los Angeles County. For more information, go to www.cityofvernon.org.