

# PRESS RELEASE

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## COUNTY BEGINS PHASE ONE OF CONSTRUCTION ON VERMONT CORRIDOR PROJECT IN KOREATOWN

Groundbreaking of State-of-the-Art Headquarters for Los Angeles County Mental Health and Workforce Development Departments



Los Angeles, October 17, 2018 – The County broke ground today on Phase One of a comprehensive effort to redevelop along the Vermont Corridor, as part of its commitment to provide a state-of-the-art home for County employees and clients and revitalize communities

that are home to County facilities and services.

Officials from the Community Development Commission/Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (CDC/HACoLA) joined Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Angeles City Council President Herb Wesson, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH), the Los Angeles County Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services (WDACS), and other dignitaries to celebrate the commencing of construction for the multi-phased mixed-use Koreatown development.

This 21-story office building is one of three sites that will begin to transform Vermont Avenue, between 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Once completed, it will house LACDMH and WDACS.



This location will include walk-in mental health services, utilizing ground-floor clinic and office space. With access to the Metro Vermont/Wilshire Red Line Station, Los Angeles County residents will be able to access an array of mental-health services. LACDMH will also consolidate its administrative functions into this centralized building, and expand several of its operations.

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas shared, “The Vermont Corridor Project represents our commitment to revitalizing the communities that are home to County facilities and services. In addition to supporting a robust and thriving community, we are also supporting our own. Every year, LACDMH and WDACS help tens of thousands of residents. Through these state-of-the-art County facilities, LACDMH and WDACS employees will be able to deliver improved services – from prevention to recovery – and assist their clients in taking the first steps on a journey toward healing and self-sufficiency.”

The Vermont Corridor Project was a collaborative effort between the County, Trammell Crow, and community organizations, such as the Anderson Munger Family YMCA and NewStory Church, which took several years to come to fruition.

“There has been a lot of hard work and collaboration leading up to this groundbreaking,” Monique King-Viehland, CDC/HACoLA Executive Director shared. “The

Vermont Corridor will soon be transformed into a place where many people can call home and can receive reliable, supportive services.”

Dr. Jon Sherin, Director of LACDMH, said, “I’m so proud of Los Angeles County for working together to reduce barriers and build a better future of mental health care. This new building will support a whole-person approach to recovery and wellbeing, with an open, friendly environment that’s healthier for the people we serve and a better workplace for the staff who inspire hope and work so hard to help people in great need.”

“This is a place where life transformation is bound to take place,” Pastor Tom Kang from NewStory Church shared. “We ask that this would be a place of hope, of positive life transformation to the community at large as well as to every employee and client who will be using this new building in the future.”

In addition to the new County Administrative Office Building, future phases of the Vermont Corridor Project will include a 72-unit housing development and supportive services reserved for seniors with limited means and formerly homeless seniors, as well as market-rate housing.

For information about the Vermont Corridor Project, please contact Chris Lopez, Development Specialist, at (626) 586-1550. All media may contact Elisa Vásquez, CDC/HACoLA Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

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