



April 3, 2019

## **Community Coalition Statement on Shooting of Hip-Hop Rapper and Community Advocate Nipsey Hussle**

It is with a heavy heart that we mourn the loss of our hometown hero, Mr. Ermias Asghedom, professionally known as Nipsey Hussle, who was fatally shot and killed on Sunday afternoon outside of his Marathon clothing store located near the corner of Crenshaw and Slauson.

Nipsey Hussle was more than a rapper. He was an entrepreneur, a family man, an activist and a beacon of hope and positivity for the South LA community—the true definition of homegrown leadership.

Nipsey's love for South LA drove him to reinvest and rebuild the community that raised him. He understood the power of investing locally, providing jobs and opportunities for community members and cultivating local leadership.

One of his latest transformative endeavors included his partnership with LA City Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson on Destination Crenshaw, a one-of-a-kind mile long outdoor art experience and development celebrating Black Los Angeles, set to open in 2020. He also recently helped launch Vector 90, a Crenshaw district based STEM learning center and workspace dedicated to developing science and technology education for youth in the area.

It is in Nipsey's spirit that we call on Los Angeles City leaders to continue his legacy of investing in under resourced communities like South LA. Now is the time to commit toward expanding community-based gang intervention, bringing necessary mental health and diversion services to our communities, providing more opportunities for youth, economic development, and other solutions to prevent crime.

However, we are deeply concerned that the City's response will be to over police our community—only causing fear, trauma and unnecessary violence. This is congruent with a report released by Million Dollar Hoods that showed 46% of LAPD Metro Division arrests are in South LA. We stand firm in our demand to have LAPD Metro Division removed from our community.

Let us preserve Nipsey's legacy and fight for his vision for South LA until it becomes a reality. The marathon continues.