



## **THE HOME DEPOT AND CITY OF LOS ANGELES TEMPORARILY STAY LITIGATION**

***Incremental but positive progress “opens doors for discussion”***

LOS ANGELES, CA (March 4, 2008) – The Home Depot today announced the filing of a stipulation with the Los Angeles Superior Court providing that The Home Depot’s lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles will be temporarily stayed while the two parties work toward finding solutions alternative to litigation.

As background, on November 9, 2007, The Home Depot sued the City of Los Angeles, asking the California Superior Court (Court of Los Angeles, Central District) to reinstate remodeling permits for its Sunland-Tujunga store site, which the Los Angeles City Council had previously voted to revoke.

“Both The Home Depot and the City have agreed to open doors for discussion and pursue alternative solutions for obtaining approvals to open our Sunland-Tujunga site,” said Jeff Nichols, Director of Real Estate/Western Region for The Home Depot. “We have a long way to go in terms of any potential final resolution for this store, but we achieved a positive step recently with the “lockdown” approval to prevent damage to the building and are encouraged by this latest development.”

The primary components of the stipulation for the stay include:

- The Home Depot will apply for a new discretionary permit for the Sunland-Tujunga store to be opened, specifically applying for a “project permit compliance review” in March 2008. The application will include interior remodeling work, which was approved previously in the permit currently subject to litigation, and minor exterior improvements.
- The City Attorney’s mediation program will facilitate discussions between The Home Depot and Sunland-Tujunga community stakeholders concerning the proposed store. Organized under the auspices of the City Attorney’s community mediation program, a “Community Stakeholder Committee” will be convened. The goal is to provide a forum for constructive discussions relating to the store.
- In the stipulation, the City agreed to expeditiously process The Home Depot’s permit application, with a maximum processing time not to exceed five months, and will follow its customary practices for determining the appropriate level of environmental review. The time periods outlined in the stipulation may be extended or modified if mutually agreed to by the City and The Home Depot.

- The litigation would be dismissed if the store is approved and would resume if the store is not approved. Also, either party can withdraw from the settlement process and resume the litigation.

“In addition to the City processing a new permit application for The Home Depot, the City Attorney will now be spearheading a community outreach and mediation program that our company is committed to in both spirit and objective,” added Nichols. “We support the program’s objective of soliciting honest, open and productive public input and will work diligently in the next few months with the City and local community stakeholders.”

A complete copy of the stipulation is available upon request.

### **About The Home Depot/Los Angeles**

- The Home Depot, the world’s largest home improvement retailer, operates 13 stores in Los Angeles. With approximately 200 associates for each store, the company employs 3,364 associates in the City of Los Angeles, and more than 10,000 associates in Los Angeles County. The Home Depot offers the most competitive pay and benefits in its industry, providing health benefits for part-time and full-time employees. The Home Depot is essential to the Los Angeles economy, generating \$13 million annually in tax revenues, an average of \$1 million annually per store. The company and its private foundation have donated more than \$3.8 million to greater Los Angeles in the past four years, and thousands of volunteer hours. The Home Depot Foundation works to improve the health of local communities by supporting the development of affordable, healthy homes for working families and by the strategic planting and preserving of trees in parks, in schoolyards and along city streets. For example, The Home Depot Foundation donated \$500,000 to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles Jimmy Carter project late last year.

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*For more information, please visit [www.homedepotsunlandtujung.com](http://www.homedepotsunlandtujung.com).*