

OFFICE OF MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSON

CITY OF SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA

915 I STREET, 5TH FLOOR SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

Contact: Joaquin McPeek Phone: 916-808-5440

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Mayor Johnson joins President Obama and Vice President Biden to Celebrate Black History Month

Mayor invited to two special events in DC by President Obama and Vice President Biden

SACRAMENTO – Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson has been invited by the White House to attend two special events in Washington, DC in celebration of Black History month.

Last night, Mayor Johnson joined a special dinner at the residence of Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Dr. Jill Biden.

Today, Mayor Johnson will join President Barack Obama at the White House for a special screening of "Thurgood," a play filmed in front of a live audience at the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theater in Washington, D.C.

"It is truly an honor to join the President and Vice President for these events," said Mayor Johnson. "Thurgood Marshall is an American hero and inspiration to this country. As someone who has studied and admired Justice Marshall, I can't think of a better way to celebrate Black History Month."

A seminal figure in the civil rights movement, Marshall tried the historic case of Brown vs. Board of Education before the Supreme Court, successfully challenging the unconstitutional segregation of black and white students in public schools. His achievements eventually led him to become the first African-American to serve as a Supreme Court Justice.

The one-man play stars Laurence Fishburne and will officially debut on HBO later this month.

###