

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 10



City and County of San Francis

SHAMANN WALTON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

*****SUPERVISOR WALTON ANNOUNCES THE RETURN OF ESL LITERACY CLASSES TO VISITACION VALLEY*****

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — On Wednesday morning, District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton joined by members of the Visitation Valley community, at the Visitation Valley Family Center on 66 Raymond Avenue to announce the return of ESL literacy classes to neighborhood.

Senior citizens from the nearby community came out to show their support for the return of ESL classes to the area. It's been 9 years (2010) since ESL literacy courses and resources have been offered in the area. Supervisor Walton further reaffirmed his commitment to improving access to ESL classes across Visitation Valley, District 10 and the City of San Francisco.

Supervisor Walton was able to work with community leaders such as Marlene Tran, Rex Tabora of Asian Pacific American Community Center, Jenny Mai of Visitacion Valley Neighborhood Association, Edith Yamanoha and Cathy Spensley of Felton Family Services as well as funding resources from Paul Giusti of Recology to bring back ESL classes to a community where they are much needed. Approximately 63% of Visitacion Valley residents speak another language besides English at home with 33% speaking Chinese and 17% speaking Spanish, the importance of ESL courses in the community is clear.

“For over 9 years, has there been a lack of ESL classes for senior citizens in Visitation Valley” said Supervisor Shamann Walton “Thanks to help from community leaders like Marlene Tran, leadership from Al Gilbert and Cathy Spensley at the Felton Institute and funding resources from Recology I’m happy to announce the first of what will be many ESL courses in the neighborhood.”

“This is an auspicious day for the Visitacion Valley neighborhood as well celebrate the return of ESL classes,” said long-time community activist Marlene Tran and former ESL of 20 years to Visitacion Valley, “I hope we can have a lot of enrollment in these classes so that we can continue to offer them.”

Classes will begin Monday July 27th through Friday October 18th at the Visitation Valley Family Center at 66 Raymond Avenue. The classes are scheduled on Mon, Wed and Fri from 9AM-11AM and will be a combination of in classroom and in community experiences. An intermediate ESL class is expected to start in September and will be focused on activity-based learning including, but not limited to, cooking, learning how to prepare seasonal dishes in English and how to access tools and resources from smartphones in English. Please visit 66 Raymond Avenue to sign up.

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