



Date: 2/8/11

L.A. CITY COUNCIL – LAND USE COMMITTEE
TALKING POINTS

Committee

Council File No: 10-1688

Item No.: 1

Deputy: Communication from Public

For Submission: Planning & Land Use Management Committee

- Councilmember Ed P. Reyes, Chair
- Councilmember Jose Huizar
- Councilmember Paul Krekorian
- Michael Espinosa, Legislative Assistant

Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Re: File No. 10-1686

Testimony from: Marisa Olguin, President of the Vernon Chamber of Commerce

- The Vernon Chamber represents a working population of 50,000 employees of which approximately 15-20,000 working people live and vote in the City of Los Angeles
- We appreciate the concern over the City of Vernon and the Council’s steps to prepare a feasibility study on the interest to annex Vernon into the City of L.A.
- We also appreciate the statement that discussion should involve the Vernon residents and business constituencies.
- To that end, there has not been sufficient time for the Vernon community – comprised of its residents and business community to engage with you over the feasibility study. They are the tax paying constituencies who would be personally impacted and have everything at stake.
- The report is incomplete with certain omissions and inaccuracies that need to be addressed and we would like the opportunity to provide the facts to this Committee before it votes on this issue.
- We oppose AB 46. We are opposed to involuntary annexation from any City based on AB 46 should it pass. An annexation or a disincorporation will have devastating impact to thousands of jobs and people, most of who live within the City of L.A. boundaries.
- For this reason, we respectfully ask that the Committee would “stay” any decision and discuss with Vernon business and residents before it votes on this issue.



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Testimony from: Alma Arredondo, Owner of United Steel Fence Company in Vernon and former Chairman of the Chamber's Board of Directors

- My husband and I are native born Angelinos who own and operate a small business since 1973 – 26 years of which have been in the City of Vernon.
- We moved from Commerce to Vernon because Vernon is exceptionally responsive to our business operations.
- Vernon is a 100-year-old chartered municipality with City services designed to serve its community with top-ranked police and fire, environmental health, and low-cost utilities to name a few – and whose legitimacy as a municipality must be recognized.
- The City of Vernon has implemented needed reforms to better serve its community.
- The Chamber is an independent and accountable force that continues to ensure the City is making the necessary changes for a healthier form of government. The Chamber receives no funding from the City.
- An annexation or a disincorporation to the Vernon business community are equivalent and will have the same economic result – a dramatic loss of jobs, increase in costs to conduct business, and a quick exodus of companies who will leave the state or country.
- As a Vernon business owner and member of the Chamber of Commerce, I ask that the Committee “stay” its vote in order for the Committee to receive necessary information and discuss the economic impact to our community.



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Testimony from: Steve Freed, Vernon Property Owner, Vernon Chamber Board of Director, and Los Angeles Resident

- I am resident and voter in the City of Los Angeles. I also own and operate industrial investment properties in the City of Los Angeles. In addition to my Los Angeles based properties I own and operate a 31 unit industrial center in the City of Vernon.
- I speak on behalf of the City of Vernon residents, the roughly 2,000 business and property owners and the 50,000 people employed by the City of Vernon business community. All of us want you to know that we want the City of Vernon to remain independent. We do not support AB 46 and we are committed in our opposition to the annexation of the City of Vernon to any other City.
- Most of the Vernon community is unaware that this hearing is taking place and I only found out about this hearing yesterday afternoon. We ask that you postpone any vote on this proposal until we have had time to review the Feasibility Analysis report and prepare a rebuttal paper challenging some of this reports findings.
- Our country was founded on democratic principles and the people that live, work and operate businesses in the City of Vernon are asking you to respect our democratic right to keep our city independent.