August 27, 2012

Councilmember Richard Alarcon, Chair  
Ad Hoc on Waste Reduction & Recycling Committee  
City Hall  
200 No. Spring Street  
Room 340  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: File No. 10-1797; 10-1797-S1; 10-1797-S2; 10-1797-S3; 10-1797-S4; 10-1791-S5, 10-1797-S6

Dear Councilmember Alarcon and Honorable Committee Members:

On behalf of the Century City Chamber of Commerce, which represents almost 50,000 employees and 5,000 residents, I am writing to express our position on the proposed plan to create an exclusive franchise system in the City of Los Angeles.

The Chamber OPPOSES an exclusive franchise system as we believe it will unnecessarily increase waste hauling costs to business and will reduce services provided. Similar exclusive systems have been instituted in other Southern California jurisdictions, Ventura and Santa Barbara to name two, and the costs of services and wait times for turnarounds have both increased. We also strongly believe due to experiences of members on our Board, the instances of illegal dumping will increase due to the lack of competition which ultimately will result in increased dumping fees and increased wait times.

The Chamber agrees with the City’s goals of reducing truck traffic and vehicle emissions, higher diversion rates and promotion of safe working conditions; however, we believe that these goals can be achieved through a non-exclusive franchise arrangement.

Businesses and residents in Century City currently have outstanding recycling and green programs in place. For example, FOX Studios already exceeds the stated goals that the ordinance hopes to accomplish. FOX currently diverts 87% of their waste from landfills and aims at a target diversion of 90% by 2015.

Century Park, a large office complex, has a diversion rate of 51%. In 2011 Constellation Place recycled 160 tons of mixed paper, cardboard, bottles and cans. They also collected approximately 1,000 pounds of E-waste, recycled lamps and ballasts as well as about 85% of all construction waste. The Dining Terrace at Westfield Century City uses all reusable glassware, plates and utensils and has an onsite composter ensuring that food waste does not go to a landfill.

It is critical that our community is able to continue our unique green programs without significant cost increases or reduction in the service level our tenants and residents are used to receiving.

With much thanks and appreciation for your consideration.

Most sincerely,

Susan Bursk
President & CEO

Cc: Committee Members