

**ROTHNER, SEGALL & GREENSTONE**  
**ATTORNEYS**

510 SOUTH MARENGO AVENUE  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91101-3115

GLENN ROTHNER  
ANTHONY R. SEGALL  
ELLEN GREENSTONE  
JONATHAN M. COHEN

MICHELE S. ANCHETA  
JOSHUA ADAMS  
MARIA KEEGAN MYERS  
ELI NADURIS-WEISSMAN  
ANTHONY P. RESNICK  
CONSTANCE HSIAO

TELEPHONE:  
(626) 796-7555

FACSIMILE:  
(626) 577-0124

WEBSITE:  
WWW.RSGLABOR.COM

February 13, 2012

CF. 12-0049

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa  
and City Council - City of Los Angeles  
City Hall Office  
200 North Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Board of the Designated Local Authority  
and Christine Essel, CEO  
Successor Agency to the Community Redevelopment Agency  
of the City of Los Angeles  
1200 West 7th Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: City's Election to Assume CRA/LA Housing Functions and Assets

Dear Mayor Villaraigosa, City Councilmembers, Boardmembers and Ms. Essel:

This office represents Locals 1890, 164, 585 and 2004 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and their parent body, District Council 36 (collectively, "AFSCME"). As you are aware, AFSCME represents most of the employees of the former Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles ("CRA/LA"). I am writing to address the rights and status of those employees in light of the City's election on January 25, 2012, to retain certain functions and assets of CRA/LA.

When the state legislature passed ABX1 26, the clear intent of the statute was to minimize the harmful effects of redevelopment agencies' dissolution on their employees. To this end, the statute provides that when a city elects to retain "the housing assets and functions previously performed by the redevelopment agency, *all rights, powers, assets, liabilities, duties, and obligations . . . shall be transferred to the city . . .*" Health & Safety Code § 34176(a).

This broad and unambiguous language provides that the City may not retain housing authority functions and assets without assuming the liabilities, duties and obligations of CRA/LA. By necessity, these include the obligation to become the employer of former CRA/LA employees, to recognize their employee organizations, and to honor all memoranda of understanding ("MOUs") currently in effect.

Furthermore, it is hard to imagine a more conspicuous acknowledgment of successor employer obligations than the City's resolution to accept housing assets and functions, which states:

The City, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code Section 31476(a), hereby elects to . . . accept transfer of all rights, powers, duties and obligations, except as otherwise provided in Part 1.85, of CRA/LA related to the housing assets and functions.

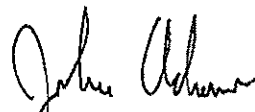
(City Resolution, Agenda Item CF 12-0049, January 25, 2012.) Without doubt, the City's obligations include the hiring of former CRA/LA employees to perform housing authority functions, under the terms and conditions of their employment while at CRA/LA.

Based on the foregoing, AFSCME demands that the City immediately take the following actions with respect to its assumption of CRA/LA functions and assets:

- (1) hire, transfer or otherwise employ former CRA/LA employees to perform all housing authority functions retained by or transferred to the City;
- (2) recognize AFSCME Locals 1890, 164, 585 and 2004 as the exclusive bargaining representatives of the respective units of such employees pursuant to the provisions of the Meyers-Miliias-Brown Act, Gov't Code § 3500, *et seq.*;
- (3) adopt and implement the terms and conditions of all existing MOUs in effect in such representation units; and
- (4) meet and confer with AFSCME regarding all matters within the statutory scope of representation in connection with the transfer of the affected employees from CRA/LA to the City.

Should the City fail to honor its legal obligations to former CRA/LA employees and their elected employee organizations, AFSCME will take appropriate legal action. This letter is not intended to be a comprehensive statement of AFSCME's rights and remedies in this regard, all of which are expressly reserved.

Very truly yours,



Joshua Adams

JA/dm

cc: Steve Koffroth, AFSCME District Council 36  
Jose Trujillo, President of Local 164 – Basic Unit  
Joy Brown-Price, President of Local 585 – Professional Unit  
Leon Thomas, President of Local 2204 – Supervisory Unit  
Michelle Banks-Ordone, President of Local 1890 – Management Unit (CRAMA)