

15-1368

Allen Matkins

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Direct Dial: 213.955.5647 File Number: 374217-00001/LA1033363.03

Via Email/U.S. Mail

January 11, 2016

City Council of the City of Los Angeles
Planning and Land Use Management
Committee
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, California 90012

**Re: CPC-2015-2119-CU: Conditional Use Permit for Bridge Back
Reentry Center at 1730 W. Vernon Avenue.**

Dear Chair Huizar and Councilmembers:

I ask for your support for Geo Reentry, Inc.'s ("Geo Reentry") request for a conditional use permit ("CUP") to reinstate the reentry center use at 1730 W. Vernon Avenue pursuant to Section 12.24 U.5 of the Municipal Code and adoption of a categorical exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). The CUP and categorical exemption were unanimously approved by the City Planning Commission and received strong community support. The appeal filed by Cheryl Branch has no merit and should be denied.

The Bridge Back reentry center proposed for 1730 W. Vernon Avenue would help fill a critical unmet need for reentry services in the City. As recognized by the creation of the Mayor's Office of Reentry last month, the formerly incarcerated population faces extraordinary challenges in finding work, a safe place to live, medical and mental health services, and reconnecting with their families and the community. Bridge Back would support parolees and inmates by providing a safe, structured, supervised environment where residents can gradually rebuild their ties to the community and transition to productive community living. Inmates who transition from incarceration through a reentry center like Bridge Back are less likely to re-offend because of the integrated support services that are provided to them, including job development services, counseling, group therapy, substance abuse treatment, and facilitating access to medical and mental health care. The Bridge Back facility would also create local jobs for area residents and improve the safety and security of the neighborhood by improving and reopening the now vacant building with 24-hour video surveillance monitoring and around-the-clock center staff. For all of these reasons, Bridge Back's CUP request has received strong support from the community, including the Area-1 Leadership Team, the Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Development Council ("ECCANDC"), and neighbors adjacent to the site.

At its October 8th meeting, the City Planning Commission unanimously approved the CUP for Bridge Back. As part of this approval, the Planning Commission found that the reentry services Bridge Back would provide are essential to the community, city or region and that the project's exterior improvements will enhance the built environment in the surrounding neighborhood. (Letter of Determination for Case No: CPC-2015-2119-CU, Findings 1.a). The Planning Commission also found that the project's location, size, height operation and other significant features are compatible with adjacent properties, the surrounding neighborhood, or the public health, welfare, and safety. Indeed, the Planning Commission found that "the existing structure is uniquely suited to the proposed use as it is self-contained and has operated without incident at this location since 1982." (Findings 1.b). The Planning Commission also found that the Bridge Back project substantially conforms with the purpose, intent and provisions of the General Plan and applicable Community Plan, and is consistent with the following Health and Wellness Element policies:

Policy 7.5: Reintegration of the Formerly Incarcerated. Support programs for previously incarcerated persons that provide job training, secondary education opportunities, substance abuse, mental health, tattoo removal, housing services, etcetera to foster healthy community reintegration.

Policy 7.6 Diversion. Proactively collaborate with public, private, and nonprofit partners to divert vulnerable populations such as homeless individuals, veterans, individuals with mental health issues, at-risk youth and young adults, and other non-violent offenders from conviction and incarceration to supportive services that promote access to economic, education, housing, and health resources within their communities.

Specifically, the Planning Commission found that the Bridge Back project "will use an underutilized building to improve the social health of a city by focusing on one of the most vulnerable groups of individuals – the formerly incarcerated," and that "[t]he type of support services provided to program participants offer lasting social and economic benefits not only for those individuals who are successfully re-integrated into society, but these benefits will have far-reaching positive impacts in the broader context of the community." (Findings 1.c). Nothing in the appeal filed by Ms. Branch justifies overturning the Planning Commission's findings. In fact, all of her contentions are without merit.

Ms. Branch argues in her appeal that the project site is not an appropriate location for a reentry center use. However, the City Planning Commission approved three CUPs for reentry center use on this property in 2009 (CPC 2008-4759-CU), 2004 (CPC 2003-9221-CU), and 1998 (City Plan Case 98-0319 CU), and the property has been used as a reentry center for many years without incident. In fact, Ms. Branch previously approached the owners of the Bridge Back site

City Council of the City of Los Angeles
January 11, 2016

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about opening a reentry center of her own on this property. Despite the verbiage in her appeal, it appears even Ms. Branch agrees that this site is appropriate for a reentry center use.

Ms. Branch further states that the community shares her new found concerns regarding the location of the Bridge Back center: "I believe the residents of South Los Angeles subscribed to the notion that transitional halfway facilities are better placed in light industrial zoned area and/or buildings that are far removed from surrounding low density residential and viable commercial nodes." This is simply incorrect. The Planning Commission found that the project site was appropriate for the reentry center use precisely because it is not isolated in an industrial zone or far removed from residential and commercial uses: "The use is appropriately located in proximity to residential, educational, institutional uses and community resources, which directly support the facility's mission to aid and guide the transition of the center's residents." (Finding 1.b). The community also supports the location of the Bridge Back reentry center at this site. The Bridge Back project is supported by the Area-1 Leadership Team, the ECCANDC, and other community members, including two of the adjacent residential neighbors who would be most affected, Marcelino del Campos and Leonard Delpit. See the attached letters of support from the ECCANDC and Marcelino del Campos dated September 25, 2015, and September 23, 2015, respectively, and the Area-1 Leadership Team. Ms. Branch did not attend the Planning Commission hearing or submit any written comments. The community members who did attend the hearing or submitted comments were overwhelmingly in favor of approval of the CUP.

Ms. Branch next contends that locating the Bridge Back reentry center at 1730 W. Vernon Avenue is not consistent with the intent of the South Central Community Plan ("Community Plan"), because the proposed project is a residential only development. Specifically, Ms. Branch states that the proposed site is inconsistent with Objective 2-1: "To conserve and strengthen viable commercial development," and Policy 2-1.2: "Protect commercially planned/zoned areas from encroachment by residential only development." Again, this contention is simply incorrect. Bridge Back is not a residential only development, but is deemed a correctional institution use under Section 12.24 U.5 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code. The Bridge Back center will include offices, a multipurpose room, a conference room, administrative space, dining facilities, a day room, a computer room/library, and a group room in addition to group bedroom and bath facilities. None of these facilities or uses comprises a 'residential only' use. The project is thus entirely consistent with the Community Plan and any additional findings required for residential only development are inapplicable.

It is also important to note that the CUP is limited in term to five years or the termination of Geo Reentry's government funded contract, whichever is less. Ms. Branch states in her appeal that the project site is better suited to commercial use. Yet, she also acknowledges that due to poor economic conditions and civil unrest, "many businesses have moved out of the area . . . [and] left behind a proliferation of mini-shopping malls and an overconcentration of certain nuisance uses, including liquor stores, check cashing facilities, recycling centers, and drive through fast food

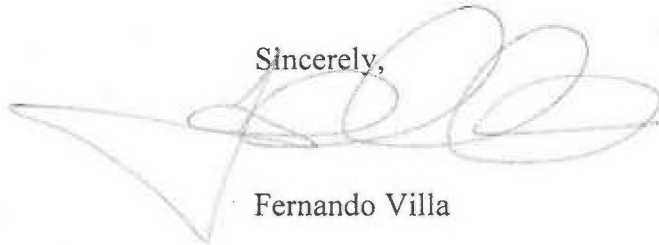
Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP
Attorneys at Law

City Council of the City of Los Angeles
January 11, 2016
Page 4

establishments." As suggested by Ms. Branch's observations, commercial use of the project site is currently not a viable option. The owners of the project site marketed the property for five years before entering into an agreement with Geo Reentry, and there was no interest in the property from commercial users during this five-year period. But if economic conditions change and commercial use of the site becomes viable in the future, the City Planning Commission will have the opportunity to take changed conditions into consideration in determining whether the CUP for reentry center use should be reauthorized at the end of its short term of no more than five years.

For all these reasons, we respectfully ask the PLUM Committee to issue a recommendation denying the appeal. Nothing in Ms. Branch's appeal justifies overturning the unanimous decision of the City Planning Commission to approve the CUP for reentry center use at this site. The Bridge Back reentry center is supported by the community and will help the City reach its own stated goals of providing critical services to the formerly incarcerated population and supporting their transition back into the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fernando Villa", written over a horizontal line.

Fernando Villa

FV:emo

TEAM

To: Hearing Officer for the City Planning Committee

Re: GEO Reentry Services, Case # CPC-2015-2119-CU

We the Area 1-Leadership Team, had the opportunity of having Mr. Weaver present the corporate vision for their projected use of the old "Bridgeback" facility on West Vernon Ave. This facility is located within the boundaries of "Area 1 Leadership Team".

The major points discuss were;

- Additional persons from GEO congregating outside of their facility and in our community.
- Programs for their in-house residents and for the community as well.
- The origins of the participant in GEO in-house program.
- What procedures were in place to monitor their program participants.

Mr. Weaver, during his presentation to our Team, assured us that the integrity of the community would be of major interest to them. We were also inform that the 'GEO' residents would be pre-screened and required to follow the rules and regulations as set forth by GEO's national committee. We were also informed that the community has the opportunity to be part of their "Community Relations" committee. We were given the invitation to have members from the Leadership Team be a part of that committee.

We, Area-1 Leadership Team, would like to lend our support to GEO's effort in returning to our community a rehabilitation program of which will be an asset to the individual and to our community. We will continue to engage and collaborate with GEO, in order to maintain an open-end dialogue, community awareness and corporate integrity.

Sincerely,

Members of Area 1 Leadership Team

Rev. Robert Campbell
Deborah Strong
Wanda Capers
Lorraine Curry
Algje Lee

Leonard Delpit
Diane McDowell
Delores Alleyne
Willie Green
Robert Campbell Jr.

October 1, 2015

Michelle Singh
Hearing Officer
City Planning Commission
City Hall 10th Floor Room 1020
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support for Bridge Back Residential Reentry Center at 1730 W. Vernon Ave.
(CASE NO. CPC-2015-2119-CU)

Dear Ms. Singh:

My name is Leonard Delpit and I live directly behind the Bridge Back facility. I am also an Area 1 Representative on the Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Development Council and a member of the city attorney's neighborhood justice panel.

I am writing to you today to express my support for the GEO Group's application to operate the Bridge Back Residential Reentry facility. Ms. Carolyn Evans and her husband were excellent stewards of this property and have passed the responsibility on to an equally qualified and quality company. After speaking with GEO Group numerous times about their plans for the facility and involvement in our community, I am confident in their ability to run a safe and quality program.

It is important that this facility be properly run by a company that is willing to improve and support our community. I believe GEO Group will become a valued member of our community and be a responsible property owner. They have agreed to continuously engage the community and be receptive to feedback and any issues that may arise as they operate this facility. They are also committed to helping residents recover and prepare to reenter the community by hosting job fairs and 12-step programs, as well as offering mental health services.

GEO Group has taken into consideration the concerns of neighbors and the community in their security plans, while also committing to being a full-time member of our community. They are committed to keeping the allies and sidewalks around the property clean and preventing residents from loitering. They have also committed to staying involved in the community and hiring locally.

I encourage you to support GEO Group's application.

Sincerely,

Leonard Delpit

September 23, 2015

Michelle Singh
Hearing Officer
City Planning Commission
City Hall 10th Floor Room 1020
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sent Via Electronic Mail to Michelle.Singh@lacity.org

RE: Support for Bridge Back Residential Reentry Center at 1730 W. Vernon Ave.
(CASE NO. CPC-2015-2119-CU)

Dear Ms. Singh:

My name is Marcelino del Campos and I am writing you to express my full support for GEO Group's application to operate the Bridge Back Residential Reentry facility in Los Angeles.

My family and I have lived directly adjacent to the property for several years. During this time, we have not experienced any safety issues or concerns resulting from the property or its operation.

I believe that reopening the Bridge Back facility will help elevate the safety of our community because of the enhanced security measures of the project, including a 24-hour video surveillance monitoring system and around-the-clock facility staff.

I also believe that Bridge Back will greatly assist its residents to transition back into our community through the various programs and services that reentry facilities provide.

I encourage you to support GEO Group's application.

Sincerely,



Marcelino del Campos

ADDRESS:

1734 W. VERNON AVE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90062

Kamalik Corporation
5356 West Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90043

January 11, 2016

City Council of the City of Los Angeles
Planning and Land Use Management Committee
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Case No: CPC-2015-2119-CU 1730 West Vernon Avenue

Dear Committee Members:

I fully support Geo Reentry, Inc.'s request for a conditional use permit to operate a reentry facility at 1730 W. Vernon Avenue, a property that my family's company, Kamalik Corporation, owns. The City Planning Commission unanimously approved the CUP, and I ask that you deny the appeal filed by Cheryl Branch which I believe does not have any merit.

I was very surprised to hear that Ms. Branch filed an appeal based on the idea that the Property is not an appropriate site for a reentry center use. Ms. Branch contacted my late husband, Roy Evans, and me several times making inquiries about 1730 West Vernon Avenue over a period of years. She expressed to Roy that she was interested in acquiring this property and opening a new reentry facility or continuing the Bridge Back reentry program that my family operated on this property for many years. I therefore do not understand how she can now say that our property is not suitable for the continuation of the reentry facility when Ms. Branch herself wanted to acquire this site and use it for the exact same purpose.

Roy founded Bridge Back and operated this reentry program for over 40 years at the Property. Roy grew up in an environment with criminal role models, slipped into drugs, and embraced the criminal lifestyle until he was incarcerated, went through a rehabilitation program and had a spiritual awakening. Through this program, God, and the 12 Steps, Roy was able to turn his life around. This previous negative path was preparation for his life's calling – helping others heal themselves. Roy worked around the clock; he was always working and talking about Bridge Back, trying to come up with ideas to better the program and help people get past the criminality that they had grown up with. Roy was nationally recognized for his work helping people recover from drug use and past criminality. He was hand-picked from California to serve with the Executive Office of the President of the United States in the Special Action Office of Drug Abuse Prevention as an Expert Consultant (Coordinator of Minority Affairs) and spoke across the country on these issues, including lecturing at Stanford, UCLA and USC. But no matter how prominent he became, Roy made time to run addiction groups himself and to work directly with the people who needed help in the community.

In her appeal Ms. Branch claims that a reentry facility would contribute to criminal activity, loitering and other inappropriate behavior. As she should know, however, that is simply not true. Before Roy first acquired this property and began Bridge Back, a motel existed on the site and experienced crime, prostitution and other activities that our community wanted to end. After Roy bought the property and started first a drug rehabilitation center and later a reentry facility, all of these wrongful activities disappeared from this area and did not return so long as he and we operated such programs on the property. We ran a secure facility that provided important services to formerly incarcerated persons to help them return as productive members of society and reduce the risk that they would instead return to a life of crime. By its nature, then, Bridge Back had the effect of steering its residents away from inappropriate behaviors and inhibiting such conduct by others who found themselves near our safe, secure facility.

Both Roy and I were deeply involved in the South Los Angeles community. In addition to his work at Bridge Back, Roy spoke at schools, worked with gangs, and was dedicated to resolving conflicts in the community. The Bridge Back reentry center is Roy's legacy in the community, and Geo Reentry will maintain the Bridge Back name in his honor if the City Council upholds the Planning Commission's unanimous approval of the CUP and denies Ms. Branch's appeal.

Roy and I chose Geo Reentry to purchase the Property and continue the reentry center use there because it has an outstanding track record in the reentry field. Geo Reentry has the know-how and resources to improve the facility and create an effective reentry program that fills a critical community need. Just as important, we are convinced that Geo Reentry is a responsible neighbor that will partner with the community to make a positive impact and help the neighborhood.

If the City Council denies Bridge Back a CUP, it will have devastating financial consequences for our family, including Roy's children and grandchildren, and place an enormous financial burden on us. Roy spent his life helping other people in this community heal and transcend their past mistakes. Now that Roy has passed away, his legacy and the financial wellbeing of his family are in your hands.

On behalf of Roy's family, I ask that you issue a recommendation to deny the appeal and uphold the Planning Commission's unanimous approval of the CUP for the Bridge Back reentry center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carolyn H. Evans". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Carolyn H. Evans

President
Kamalik Corporation

DELORES GORDON ALLEYNE MD, MPH, MBA

4022 KENWAY AVENUE

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90008

323 2916917 del90008@aol.com

January 10, 2016

Planning and Land Use Management Committee

Board of Public Works, Los Angeles City Hall

200 North Spring Street

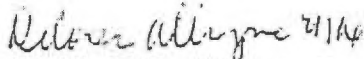
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Sirs:

This letter is written in Support of the GEO corporations use of the BridgeBack facility located at 1730 West Vernon Avenue in Los Angeles. I am the founder and Chairperson of Save Our Sons Prison Ministry at Crenshaw United Methodist Church. Our organization has met every third Sunday for 19 years, providing a support group for prisoners, probationers, ex-offenders and their families and friends. In addition, Save Our Sons serves as a monthly forum on community issues and the law, and provides workshops on expungement, employment, mental health and other issues. Community activists and professionals attend and meet individually with attendees during a networking /refreshment period. Meetings include lawyer, educator, social worker, physician tradesman & minister.

The presence of a residential facility which provides and supports controlled re-entry is a blessing to the returning individual and to the community. This controlled environment allows people to regain their footing in society, while providing food, shelter and assistance with health care, education, housing and employment. Persons who return without this support and control often founder and return to crime, as this may be the only way they know to live. Our organization has observed many returnees who lived in an environment such as GEO offers where their coming and going and contacts are carefully monitored and assistance in finding jobs is provided.

Many people go to prison from this area, by re-entering through the community from which they entered prison, returnees can more easily maintain and strengthen positive family contacts under supervision, while being kept away from negative influences which lead to recidivism. Help finding a job and obtaining available benefits makes a new, productive lifestyle possible. Many families in the inner city suffer from the incarceration of men who should be heads of household, this rehabilitative environment will restore men and families to independence and productivity. GEO at Bridgeback will be an asset to the community.



Delores Alleyne MD, MPH, MBA

Founder and Chairperson, Save Our Sons Prison Ministry

(Ret) Director of Child and Adolescent Health

Los Angeles County Department of Health Services

October 1, 2015

Michelle Singh
Hearing Officer
City Planning Commission
City Hall 10th Floor Room 1020
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support for Bridge Back Residential Reentry Center at 1730 W. Vernon Ave.
(CASE NO. CPC-2015-2119-CU)

Dear Ms. Singh:

My name is Leonard Delpit and I live directly behind the Bridge Back facility. I am also an Area 1 Representative on the Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Development Council and a member of the city attorney's neighborhood justice panel.

I am writing to you today to express my support for the GEO Group's application to operate the Bridge Back Residential Reentry facility. Ms. Carolyn Evans and her husband were excellent stewards of this property and have passed the responsibility on to an equally qualified and quality company. After speaking with GEO Group numerous times about their plans for the facility and involvement in our community, I am confident in their ability to run a safe and quality program.

It is important that this facility be properly run by a company that is willing to improve and support our community. I believe GEO Group will become a valued member of our community and be a responsible property owner. They have agreed to continuously engage the community and be receptive to feedback and any issues that may arise as they operate this facility. They are also committed to helping residents recover and prepare to reenter the community by hosting job fairs and 12-step programs, as well as offering mental health services.

GEO Group has taken into consideration the concerns of neighbors and the community in their security plans, while also committing to being a full-time member of our community. They are committed to keeping the allies and sidewalks around the property clean and preventing residents from loitering. They have also committed to staying involved in the community and hiring locally.

I encourage you to support GEO Group's application.

Sincerely,

Leonard Delpit



To: Hearing Officer for the City Planning Committee

Re: GEO Reentry Services, Case # CPC-2015-2119-CU

We the Area 1-Leadership Team, had the opportunity of having Mr. Weaver present the corporate vision for their projected use of the old "Bridgeback" facility on West Vernon Ave. This facility is located within the boundaries of "Area 1 Leadership Team".

The major points discuss were;

- Additional persons from GEO congregating outside of their facility and in our community.
- Programs for their in-house residents and for the community as well.
- The origins of the participant in GEO in-house program.
- What procedures were in place to monitor their program participants.

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We, Area-1 Leadership Team, would like to lend our support to GEO's effort in returning to our community a rehabilitation program of which will be an asset to the individual and to our community. We will continue to engage and collaborate with GEO, in order to maintain an open-end dialogue, community awareness and corporate integrity.

Sincerely,

Members of Area 1 Leadership Team

Rev. Robert Campbell
Deborah Strong
Wanda Capers
Lorraine Curry
Algie Lee

Leonard Delpit
Diane McDowell
Delores Alleyne
Willie Green
Robert Campbell Jr.



Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Development Council
Serving Chesterfield Square and Canterbury Knolls



Visit our website: www.eccandc.org

Email: secretary@eccandc.org

Constituent Center Office 8475 S. Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90044 (323) 789-1449

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Corey W. Flournoy • Co-Chair Keith McCowen • Secretary Ayana McCowen • Treasurer James Hadley | <p style="text-align: center;">Area Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algie Lee, Area 1 • Leonard Delpit, Area 1 • Charletta Butler, Area 2 • Vacant • Hazel Dean, Area 3 • Vacant, Area 3 | <p style="text-align: center;">Members at Large</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gwendolyn Wood • Barbara Jones -Chikosi • Rita Banks <p style="text-align: center;">Stakeholder Associate Rep</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant <p style="text-align: center;">Youth Representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tyrone Lewis |
|--|--|--|

September 25, 2015

Michelle Singh
Hearing Officer
City Planning Commission
City Hall 10th Floor Room 1020
200 N. Spring St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support for Bridge Back Residential Reentry Center at 1730 W. Vernon Ave. (CASE NO. CPC-2015-2119-CU)

Dear Ms. Singh,

It is with great pleasure that the Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Development Council, ECCANDC, write this letter of support for the Bridge Back Residential Reentry Center.

This facility is a necessary and much needed component for assisting in the edification of our community. This facility will assist in preparing men to effectively reenter society and become positive and productive citizens. All too often individuals are released from prison and soon return to a life of crime. However, having the Bridge Back facility will help to reduce the rate of recidivism by providing shelter and vital programs to help men get their lives back on track as well as give hope to individuals by showing them there is a better way to live.

Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Development Council

Serving Chesterfield Square and Canterbury Knolls

Visit our website: www.eccandc.org

Email: secretary@eccandc.org

ECCANDC is committed to the revitalization and positive growth of our community and having the Bridge Back facility would be a great step in that direction.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Ayana McCowen,
ECCANDC Secretary
Eccandc.org
Ayana.eccandc@gmail.com
424-209-7729

August 14, 2015

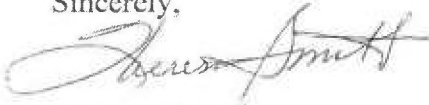
To whom it may concern:

My name is Theresa Smith and I am currently a resident of the Marvin Gardens facility operated by Geo Group. I am writing to you today to share positive feedback on my experiences at Marvin Gardens and how they are successfully helping me to transition back into my community.

Some of the services that I am benefiting from at this time at Marvin Gardens are job training, educational assistance and case management. In addition, the program also offers an array of services that are specific to a resident's needs such as substance abuse treatment, transitional life skills counseling and access to medical and mental health care. The staff here at Marvin Gardens are professional as well as friendly, helpful and accommodating, treating the residents with respect and dignity, which are key factors, in my opinion, that help to restore self-esteem, confidence and dignity.

I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve the last year of my sentence in this facility. Even with the support of a loving and supportive family, after being away for almost 8 years I honestly don't know how I would have made this transition back into society without the help I have received from the staff here at Marvin Gardens. I truly believe it is imperative that offenders serve the final months of their sentences in facilities such as this one in order to be able to utilize every opportunity available along with the encouragement and aids provided to them, such as the computers, bus passes and even just some of the most basic needs. I am a witness and example of the benefits and success of the Marvin Gardens Geo Group's Reentry program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theresa Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Theresa Smith

September 23, 2015

Michelle Singh
Hearing Officer
City Planning Commission
City Hall 10th Floor Room 1020
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sent Via Electronic Mail to Michelle.Singh@lacity.org

RE: Support for Bridge Back Residential Reentry Center at 1730 W. Vernon Ave.
(CASE NO. CPC-2015-2119-CU)

Dear Ms. Singh:

My name is Marcelino del Campos and I am writing you to express my full support for GEO Group's application to operate the Bridge Back Residential Reentry facility in Los Angeles.

My family and I have lived directly adjacent to the property for several years. During this time, we have not experienced any safety issues or concerns resulting from the property or its operation.

I believe that reopening the Bridge Back facility will help elevate the safety of our community because of the enhanced security measures of the project, including a 24-hour video surveillance monitoring system and around-the-clock facility staff.

I also believe that Bridge Back will greatly assist its residents to transition back into our community through the various programs and services that reentry facilities provide.

I encourage you to support GEO Group's application.

Sincerely,



Marcelino del Campos

ADDRESS:

1734 W. VERNON AVE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90062

August 14, 2015


To whom it may concern:

My name is Theresa Smith and I am currently a resident of the Marvin Gardens facility operated by Geo Group. I am writing to you today to share positive feedback on my experiences at Marvin Gardens and how they are successfully helping me to transition back into my community.

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I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve the last year of my sentence in this facility. Even with the support of a loving and supportive family, after being away for almost 8 years I honestly don't know how I would have made this transition back into society without the help I have received from the staff here at Marvin Gardens. I truly believe it is imperative that offenders serve the final months of their sentences in facilities such as this one in order to be able to utilize every opportunity available along with the encouragement and aids provided to them, such as the computers, bus passes and even just some of the most basic needs. I am a witness and example of the benefits and success of the Marvin Gardens Geo Group's Reentry program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theresa Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Theresa Smith

October 2, 2015

Michelle Singh
Hearing Officer
City Planning Commission
City Hall 10th Floor Room 1020
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support for Bridge Back Residential Reentry Center at 1730 W. Vernon Ave.
(CASE NO. CPC-2015-2119-CU)

Dear Ms. Singh:

My name is Angela Moore and I am the administrator of the Little Citizens Westside Academy (LCWA) at 4256 S. Western Ave. I am writing to express my support for GEO Group's application to operate the Bridge Back Residential Reentry facility. LCWA is located in close proximity to the Bridge Back property which is currently vacant and I feel that this contributes to many of the community's safety concerns in that area. Turning the facility into a once again fully operating building would greatly improve the safety and security of our neighborhood.

Our area currently suffers from excessive loitering, drug sales and abuse, and gang violence. I believe that GEO Group's objective to reopen and operate Bridge Back would help improve some of these concerns. The 24-hour surveillance and onsite faculty/staff will greatly aid in keeping a close watch of the perimeters around the property where most of these actions take place such as alley ways, vacant spaces and dim-lit street corners.

As someone who is invested in this community and a longtime member of it, I would like to see the Bridge Back property as a fully operating facility that will provide a strong sense of security and increase the safety of neighborhood residents. I believe that GEO Group's plan will serve this need.

I encourage you approve GEO Group's application.

Sincerely,

Angela Moore
Administrator
Little Citizens Westside Academy
4256 S. Western Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90062

Good News Missionary Baptist Church

2400 West Vernon Ave. Los Angeles, CA. 90008

Church (323) 292-3589

Elder Terry Wilson, Pastor



01/05/2016

To Whom it May Concern:

Bridge Back has been a tremendous benefit to the community. The members of the Good News Missionary Baptist Church supports the sale to the G.E.O. Corp and will continue to support the vision of Roy Evans, a man who has helped to transform so many lives in this community in a positive way.

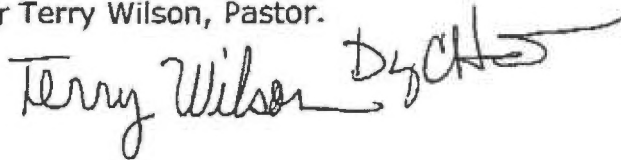
There are so many men and women in this community that have been trapped in our justice system and can't seem to find a way out. Bridge Back has assisted in providing that way out. They have made available to the community a great service, providing rehabilitation and getting people back to being productive members of society.

We are praying that we can continue his legacy, by giving men and women that have been rejected elsewhere - *a place to go.*

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Good News Missionary Baptist Church

Elder Terry Wilson, Pastor.



Good News Missionary Baptist Church

2400 West Vernon Ave . Los Angeles, CA. 90008

Church (323) 292-3589

Elder Terry Wilson, Pastor



Enter to Worship; Depart to Serve

01/05/2016

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Good News Missionary Baptist Church

Elder Terry Wilson, Pastor.

January 11, 2016

Planning and Land Use Management Committee
Board of Public Works
Edward R. Roybal Hearing Room 350
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support for Bridge Back Residential Reentry Center at 1730 W. Vernon Ave L.A. California 90062

Dear Committee Members ,

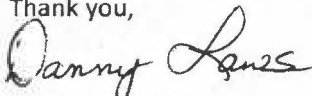
My name is Danny Laws and I am writing to express my support for the reopening of the Bridge Back Residential Reentry facility. The Bridge Back property served as an integral part of the community during its years in operation. It helped rehabilitate ex-inmates to transition back into our community's streets to lessen to probability of committing a crime once again.

The property currently sits vacant and I believe it should be restored back to its original intent and continue to offer the tools and resources to individuals who are in need of it.

Additionally, reopening Bridge Back would greatly improve the safety and security of this community. It will provide 24-hour security and surveillance to the surrounding area, and the facility's around the clock staff will help in assuring that there is a presence in that section of the neighborhood at all times.

There is a critical need for rehabilitative services like those that will be offered by Bridge Back to exist in our communities. I would like to see the Bridge Back property as a fully operating facility that will bring needed services once again to those who are in need of them. In SPA 6 Bridge Back has always been The Land Mark Facility in Our Community.

Thank you,



Danny Laws-CEO
Laws Transitional Housing
674 Crenshaw Blvd L.A. Calif 90005

dannyplaws@sbcglobal.net

Office # 310-350-0852



EULA'S HOUSE
Transitional Housing, Sober Living & Recovery Model

January 11, 2016

Planning & Land Use Management Committee
Board of Public Works
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Room 350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Bridge Back Residential Reentry Center, 1730 W. Vernon Avenue, Los Angeles
(ITEM NO. 15-1368 CD 8) (Case No. CPC-2015-2119-CU)

Dear Planning & Land Use Management Committee:

It has come to my attention that Bridge Back is currently in the process of obtaining a permit to reopen its Residential Re-entry Center. I am extremely happy and encouraged to learn of this, and I would like to submit my recommendation.

Bridge Back has been a beckon of light in the community for over 27 years, and I am proud and grateful to say that if it were not for the services, dedication and commitment of the counselors in Bridge Back, I would not be the man I am today.

Please allow me to share just a little of what an incredible impact Bridge Back had on my life and how my experiences, educational strategies and the development of life-long friends has been a "blessing" and a true "bridge" to my success. After 45 years of hard core drug user, I was admitted straight out of prison into the Bridge Back Program for recovery.

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While at Bridge Back, I received the most dynamic, personalized and intense drug treatment which allowed me to truly find the strength from within to stop the madness. Their all-inclusive therapy programs delved deeply into my drug addiction, and opened up some of the root causes, both spiritually and mentally, which were taking me down the path of self-destruction. Bridge Back made me look honestly at my life and showed me that I deserved so much more.

Although I will forever be grateful for those who assist in my recovery, my sincere gratitude and everlasting appreciation goes to Mr. LeRoy Solomon, Mr. Grady Ray and Ms. Evans who played a crucial part in my recovery and turned my life completely upside down and lovingly and carefully put me back together again. These unique individuals wrapped me in love, care and compassion until I was ready to make the transition out of my severe drug addiction.

Today, I am proud to say that, I have been clean and sober for 25 years and I am an active member and noted speaker for Alcohol Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. Because of the education, knowledge and the amazing and intense therapy that I received while in Bridge Back. Now, I spread the word of Healing, Hope and Restoration.

Bridge Back gave me the strength and tools to take control of my life and the desire to want to become a real contributing part of society. 7 years after leaving Bridge Back, I was fortunate enough to open my own sober living facility, which I model after Bridge Back. Eula's House is a 501©3 which currently has a contract with the Department of Mental Health to provide temporary shelter to its clients. I am a success because of Bridge Back!



EULA'S HOUSE
Transitional Housing, Sober Living & Recovery Model

January 11, 2016

Planning and Land Use Management Committee
Board of Public Works
Edward R. Roybal Hearing Room 350
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support for Bridge Back Residential Reentry Center at 1730 W. Vernon Avenue, Los Angeles
(ITEM NO. 15-1368 CD 8) (Case No. CPC-2015-2119-CU)

Dear Committee Members:

My name is John Grigsby and I am writing to you to express my support for the GEO Group's application to operate the Bridge Back Residential Reentry facility. As a former resident of Bridge Back, I know firsthand the benefits of the services that rehabilitative facilities like this can provide. The programs that Bridge Back will offer its residents will help them to successfully transition back into our community in a safe, structured and supervised manner.

I also believe that reopening Bridge Back and reestablishing the facility's presence in our community will strengthen the safety and security of our neighborhood. It would greatly benefit our area by making our neighborhood streets more secure, restoring the landscape of the environment surrounding the facility and creating and promoting local jobs for residents of our community.

I urge you to approve GEO Group's application.

Sincerely,


John Grigsby, Jr.
CEO/Founder

Page 3.

As the CEO of Eula's House, I have worked with the re-entry of clients from the AB 109 Program in the past. This why I believe Bridge Back is a prefect and much needed facility. Bridge Back is extremely vital to this community because of the tracking, networking and groundwork they provide. Bridge Back's continuum of care network to care our youth, young adult, abandoned defendants that needs a safe place and stress free supervised atmosphere. The dedication and commitment of Bridge Back to revive the lives and souls of the addict is to be commended.

Therefore, I would like to respectfully request your consideration in allowing the Bridge Back Project to be accepted and allow them to go forward as they set out to make a tremendous difference in this world. Unfortunately, there are so many others who desperately need and will continue to need the incredible services of Bridge Back in order to re-enter society and become successful contributors in this world.

Thank you!


John W. Grigsby, Jr., CEO/Founder
Eula's House, Inc.