

Allen Matkins

Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP
Attorneys at Law
515 South Figueroa, 9th Floor | Los Angeles, CA 90071-3309
Telephone: 213.622.5555 | Facsimile: 213.620.8816
www.allenmatkins.com

Fernando Villa
E-mail: fvilla@allenmatkins.com
Direct Dial: 213.955.5647 File Number: 374217-00001/LA1034044.07

Via Email

January 25, 2016

The Honorable Members of the City Council
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, California 90012

**Re: Council File No. 15-1368, CPC-2015-2119-CU: Conditional Use
Permit for Bridge Back Reentry Center at 1730 W. Vernon Avenue**

Dear Honorable Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Applicant, Geo Reentry, Inc. ("Geo Reentry"), I request that you deny the appeal (the "Appeal") of Cheryl Branch ("Appellant") in this matter and uphold: a) the unanimous approval by the City Planning Commission (the "Planning Commission") of the conditional use permit ("CUP") to reinstate the reentry center use at 1730 W. Vernon Avenue; and b) the Planning Commission's adoption of a categorical exemption (the "CE") for this project (the "Project") under CEQA. As outlined below, Geo Reentry asks that your body apply the correct standard of review of the Planning Commission's grant of the CUP and adoption of the CE, and not replicate, rely upon or sanction the serious procedural errors and violations of due process that occurred when the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee (the "PLUM Committee") considered the Appeal and these Planning Commission actions on January 12, 2016.

The PLUM Committee incorrectly conducted a *de novo* hearing on the Appeal and the Planning Commission's actions, and wrongly admitted and considered new evidence in hearing these matters and making its recommendation to the City Council. In considering the Appeal and the Planning Commission's actions, the City Council and the PLUM Committee are limited to determining whether the Planning Commission erred or abused its discretion based on the record before the latter body: "When considering an appeal from the decision of an initial decision-maker, the appellate body shall make its decision, ***based on the record, as to whether the initial decision-maker erred or abused his or her discretion.***" Los Angeles Municipal Code ("LAMC") § 12.24(I)(3) (emphasis added). As the City's own Municipal Code makes clear, neither the City Council nor the PLUM Committee may hold a *de novo* hearing on Geo Reentry's CUP, or consider any evidence outside of the record of the Planning Commission's decision. Nevertheless, the PLUM Committee permitted new, extrinsic evidence in the form of public testimony and written materials during its proceeding, and adopted a resolution recommending that the City Council grant

The Honorable Members of the City Council
January 25, 2016

Page 2

the appeal and reverse the Planning Commission's decisions expressly based on these improperly admitted matters. In so doing, the PLUM Committee violated LAMC § 12.24(I)(3), applied an incorrect standard of review of these decisions and denied Geo Reentry its due process rights imbedded in the City's own regulations and the U.S. and California Constitutions.

Equally troubling, the PLUM Committee failed to prepare legally and factually sufficient findings to grant the appeal. As discussed above, LAMC§ 12.24(I)(3) requires that the City Council in considering the appeal must make findings as to whether the Planning Commission erred or abused its discretion in approving the CUP based on the record before it. The Findings for Upholding the Appeal for Case No. CPC-2015-2119-CU ("Findings") that the PLUM Committee recommends the City Council to adopt do not state whether or how the Planning Commission erred or abused its discretion in approving the CUP, and do not identify or rest *on any facts that would constitute substantial evidence of such an error or abuse of discretion*. Indeed, the Findings are entirely silent on this crucial issue. Compounding this fatal error, the Findings are deficient on their face because they do not present or rest on the evidence that meets the City's own Municipal Code requirements. For example, Finding (a) is "The project will not enhance the built environment in the surrounding neighborhood nor perform a function to provide a service that is essential or beneficial to the community, city or region." The narrative offered to support this finding, however, has no relevance to and fails utterly to show that the Project will not enhance the built environment nor perform an essential or beneficial service.¹ In fact, this narrative does not present or reflect any evidence whatsoever that the Planning Commission erred or abused its discretion in arriving at the opposite conclusion.

Finding (b) is similarly flawed. First, since it comes directly from material provided in the Appeal, which was filed after the Planning Commission's hearing and decision, it cannot be considered by the City Council as a basis for reviewing the Commission's actions, as noted previously. Second, this finding relies entirely on a lengthy quote purportedly from the draft South Los Angeles Community Plan that has not been finalized or approved by the City and thus is of no effect or weight in this Appeal. Moreover, the quoted text is not actually included in the draft South Los Angeles Community Plan dated October 2014.² Finding (b) thus relies on a purported quote

¹ This narrative simply provides a generalized discussion of how the Project purportedly is not consistent with the General Plan.

² The most updated draft of the South Los Angeles Community Plan available on the New Community Plan section of the Department of City Planning website entitled "Preliminary Draft South Los Angeles Plan – December 2012" does not include the quoted text from the Findings. Nor does the "Updated Draft Community Plan -10/2014" available at the Department of City Planning dedicated webpage for the South Los Angeles Plan at <http://sites.google.com/site/southlaplan> include the quoted text. Part of the language included within the quote is apparently from the appeal materials filed by Ms. Branch and therefore cannot be relied upon to support the findings because it is not included in the record that was before the Planning Commission as discussed

The Honorable Members of the City Council
January 25, 2016

Page 3

from a draft plan that does not actually appear in that plan. In short, the Findings are fatally defective and cannot support City Council approval of the Appeal.

Because the City Council is confined to the record before the Planning Commission in considering the Appeal, any finding that the Planning Commission erred or abused its discretion in approving the CUP and adopting the CE must be based solely on the evidence that was before the Planning Commission. That record unequivocally demonstrates that the Planning Commission had substantial evidence to support each of its findings that form the basis of its grant of the CUP and adoption of the CE. *Every speaker*, save one, that spoke before the Planning Commission strongly supported the Project, *and all written evidence* presented to that body also provided the evidentiary basis for approving the Project. Indeed, City Planner Michelle Singh also spoke in support of the Project and presented the City Planning Department Report that recommended granting the CUP and adopting the CE, and that provided the evidentiary findings for these actions. The sole speaker who did not wholly support the Project simply asked for a continuance of the Planning Commission's hearing, which this body denied, and expressed generalized, non-specific "concerns" about the Project. Such testimony by one person cannot form substantial evidence to demonstrate that the Planning Commission erred or abused its discretion in granting the CUP, especially when weighed against *all other evidence* presented at the Planning Commission hearing which uniformly supported the Project and demonstrated its consistency with the City's Community Plan, Zoning Code and mandatory CUP finding requirements. Because the record shows that no error or abuse of discretion occurred, Geo Reentry asks that the City Council deny the Appeal and affirm the Planning Commission's grant of the CUP and adoption of the CE.

Similarly, while much of the public comment at the PLUM Committee focused on Geo Reentry as the Applicant for the Project, California law does not allow any consideration of the *identity* of the applicant in considering whether to approve a conditional use permit. "The issuance of a conditional use permit, based on a requirement related to the owner of the property rather than the use of the property, would violate well-established principles concerning conditional use permits. It is not appropriate to condition the issuance of a conditional use permit on the nature of the applicant, as opposed to the use of the property." (*Sounhein v. City of San Dimas* (1996) 47 Cal.App.4th 1181).

Much of this improperly admitted public comment alleged that Geo Group, Inc. ("Geo Group"), the parent company of Geo Reentry, has a history of operational problems at its correctional facilities. While, as noted, evidence regarding the applicant is patently irrelevant and cannot be considered in reviewing the Planning Commission's action, it is important to stress in the interests of fairness that Geo Group has an excellent operational record and that these allegations are unfounded. For example, allegations similar to those raised at the PLUM Committee hearing were made about Geo Group's Karnes City, Texas detention facility and were thoroughly

above.

The Honorable Members of the City Council

January 25, 2016

Page 4

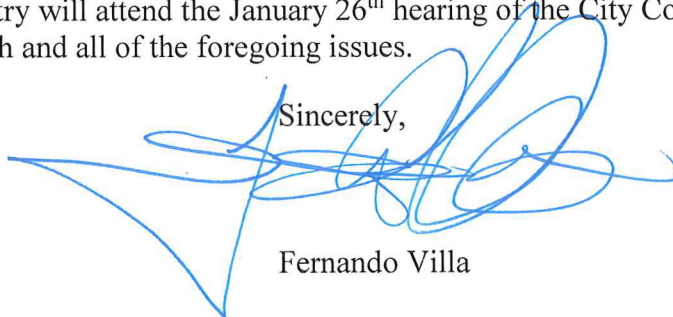
investigated by the Department of Homeland Security. The Department of Homeland Security Inspector General concluded that these allegations were completely unsubstantiated, as reflected in his report dated January 7, 2015, attached hereto as Attachment A and incorporated herein by reference.

As shown in my letter to the PLUM Committee dated January 11, 2016 (attached hereto as Attachment B and incorporated herein by reference), the Appeal is devoid of any merit. It also improperly attempts to introduce new evidence not presented to the Planning Commission. This extraneous, new evidence cannot thus be considered on this Appeal.

The City has exacerbated these serious procedural errors by failing to give proper notice of the City Council's consideration of the Appeal at its January 26, 2016 meeting. At the PLUM Committee hearing on January 12, 2016, Chair Huizar confirmed on the record that the Appeal would be before City Council on January 20, 2016, but the Appeal was not, in fact, set for a hearing for that date, and neither Geo Reentry nor the public were given notice that it would instead be heard on January 26th. Geo Reentry has a constitutional and statutory right to notice and the right to be heard at the City Council meeting at which a decision on the Appeal affecting its interests will be made. The rights of members of the community who have a stake in the outcome of the Appeal and who wish to voice their support for the Project have also been affected by the City's failure to provide proper notice of the date on which the Appeal is scheduled to be heard. The City's failure to give notice that the City Council would consider the Appeal on January 26th, and not January 20th as previously announced, is thus a fundamental violation of due process.

For each of the foregoing reasons, we respectfully ask the City Council to deny the Appeal and uphold the City Planning Commission's unanimous approval of the CUP and adoption of the CE. Representatives of Geo Reentry will attend the January 26th hearing of the City Council to speak in more detail regarding each and all of the foregoing issues.

Sincerely,



Fernando Villa

FV:emo
Attachments



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528 / www.oig.dhs.gov

JAN 07 2015

MEMORANDUM TO: The Honorable Jeh C. Johnson
Secretary

FROM:

John Roth *John Roth*
Inspector General

SUBJECT: Investigative Summary – GEO Group
Incorporated Detention Facility, Karnes City,
Texas

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted an investigation into allegations of inappropriate relationships between Detention Officers and female detainees at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detention Facility in Karnes City, Texas.¹ Investigative field work was conducted at the facility from September 19, 2014 through November 24, 2014.

We initiated an investigation after counsel for one detainee reported misconduct on the part of Detention Officers at the facility. Specifically, a female detainee reported hearing rumors that several Detention Officers and several female detainees were possibly engaged in inappropriate sexual relationships, which reportedly occurred in a laundry room and restroom during late night or early morning hours. The complainant, who had no firsthand information, reported that:

- A female detainee was being escorted by a male Detention Officer into the laundry room, after hours, under the pretext of washing clothes to engage in sex.
- A female detainee may have been impregnated by a Detention Officer.

¹The Karnes facility is operated under a contract with GEO Group Incorporated. All Detention Officers at that facility are contract employees.



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Department of Homeland Security

- Female detainees were receiving preferential treatment in exchange for sex.
- Detention Officers were depositing money into female detainees' commissary accounts in return for sex or preferential treatment.
- One particular Detention Officer rented an apartment in San Antonio, Texas, for a female detainee to use upon her release from the facility.
- Detention Officers retaliated against the complainant by fabricating "write ups" indicating she had violated facility policies. These "write ups" were supposedly to be used against the complainant during her pending immigration proceedings.
- A Supervisory Detention Officer knew of the misconduct and failed to take appropriate action.

OIG agents interviewed 33 witnesses and spent 380 hours investigating the allegations. We found:

- Each of the female detainees identified by the complainant denied they had ever engaged in any form of inappropriate activity, to include sexual acts, with any Detention Officers. They also each denied having been escorted into a laundry room, restroom, or other area to engage in any sexual activity or having received any money, benefits, or preferential treatment in exchange for sex or anything of value.
- The female reportedly impregnated by a Detention Officer denied the allegation and voluntarily submitted to a pregnancy test which was negative.
- Review of over 360 hours of time lapsed surveillance video footage of the laundry room and day room areas failed to



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Department of Homeland Security

confirm that any of the detainees were escorted to those areas after hours by Detention Officers.

- Review of the Detention Facility's commissary account records determined that none of the deposits into these accounts were made by Detention Officers.
- Each of the Detention Officers who could have been referenced by the complainant denied the allegations. Specifically, each denied engaging in any misconduct with any female detainee, including any apartment rentals, deposits into commissary accounts, after-hours escorts, having sex or sexual relations with female detainees, impregnating any female detainee, or providing preferential treatment in exchange for sex.
- The responsible Supervisory Detention Officer stated that he was unaware of any inappropriate relationships between Detention Officers and detainees and would have immediately reported such activity.
- Interviews of managerial personnel at the facility disclosed that no female detainees had reported any incidents concerning any form of misconduct against any of the facility's employees.
- Review of the complainant's detention records revealed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would not have an adverse impact on her immigration proceedings.
- Detainee interviews revealed that that the complainant and other female detainees [REDACTED] relationship before the complaints were made. [REDACTED] ship was based upon the [REDACTED] within the f attributed to [REDACTED].



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Department of Homeland Security

Conclusions:

- We found no evidence to substantiate the allegations and were unable to identify a victim or suspect in this matter.
- Review of video footage revealed that two [REDACTED] Detention Officers were engaged in a romantic relationship with each other and had engaged in inappropriate physical contact in the laundry room area while on duty. When presented with this information, Federal and State prosecutors concluded that no violation of Federal or State statute had occurred. Both employees [REDACTED] after being interviewed.
- A report of our investigative findings was provided to ICE and DHS Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) officials before a scheduled CRCL inspection of the facility.
- ICE complied with the Prison Rape Elimination Act reporting requirements.

cc: The Honorable Sarah R. Saldaña
Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Allen Matkins

Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP
Attorneys at Law
515 South Figueroa, 9th Floor | Los Angeles, CA 90071-3309
Telephone: 213.622.5555 | Facsimile: 213.620.8816
www.allenmatkins.com

Fernando Villa
E-mail: fvilla@allenmatkins.com
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.

City Council of the City of Los Angeles
January 11, 2016
Page 2

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

Page 3

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.

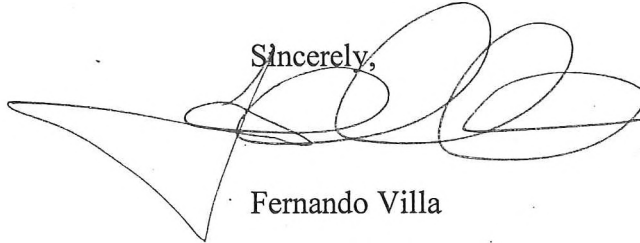
It is also important to note that the CUP is limited in term to five years or the termination of Geo Reentry's government funded contract, whichever is less. Ms. Branch states in her appeal that the project site is better suited to commercial use. Yet, she also acknowledges that due to poor economic 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

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', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Fernando Villa

FV:emo



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
Algie Lee

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



City of Los Angeles

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

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

City of Los Angeles

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

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.

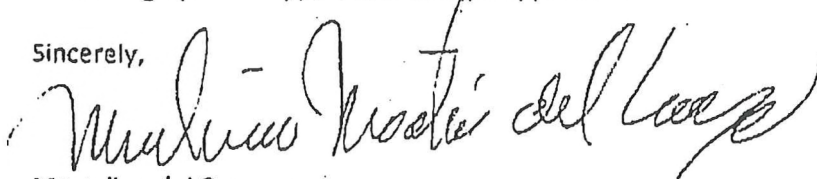
My family and I have lived directly adjacent to the property for several years. During this time, we have not experienced any safety issues or concerns resulting from the property or its operation.

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