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Via Hand Delivery

January 12, 2016

Hon. Jose Huizar, Chair
Hon. Marquese Harris-Dawson
Hon. Gilbert A. Cedillo
Hon. Mitchell Englander
Hon. Felipe Fuentes
Los Angeles City Council
Planning and Land Use Management Committee
200 North Spring St., Room 350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

#8
Date: 01/12/2016
Submitted in PLUM Committee
Council File No: 15-1368
Item No. 8
Deputy Comm. from Public

Re: *Comments On 1541 Wilcox Hotel LLC ("Project")*
Mitigated Negative Declaration
CPC-2014-3706-VZC-HD-ZAA-SPR
Hearing Scheduled: January 12, 2016

Dear Chair Huizar and Councilmembers:

This Office respectfully writes on behalf of the Unite HERE Local 11 and Robert Mazariegos ("Local 11" or "Commentors") in support of the appeals of the referenced Project by Fran Offenhauser, David Carrera and Stephen Nourmand, and to oppose the applicant's requested Vesting Zone and Height District Change. The Project is scheduled for a PLUM hearing January 12, 2016.

Commentors support the appeals that raise issues including but not limited to: land use inconsistency, inadequacy of the Mitigated Negative Declaration ("MND"), noise, traffic and public safety impacts, Redevelopment Plan compliance, and inadequate variance and zone change findings.

Local 11 represents more than 20,000 workers employed in hotels, restaurants, airports, sports arenas, and convention centers throughout Southern California. Members of Local 11 join together to fight for improved living standards and working conditions. It is a stakeholder in this Project, and worker and labor organizations have a long history of engaging in the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") process to secure safe working conditions, reduce environmental impacts, and maximize community benefits. The courts have held that "unions have standing to litigate

environmental claims.” *Bakersfield Citizens for Local Control v. City of Bakersfield* (2004) 124 Cal.App.4th 1184, 1198.

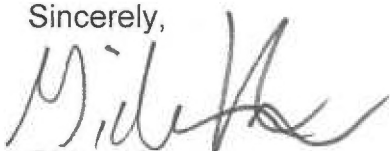
A MND has been prepared for this Project, not a more comprehensive Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”), pursuant to the CEQA law. This means that the less deferential “fair argument” standard applies. Indeed, this Project may have a “fair argument” of environmental impacts, requiring that the City prepare an EIR, as set forth in the appeals.

This comment letter is made to exhaust remedies under *Pub. Res. Code* § 21177 concerning the Project, and incorporates by this reference all written and oral comments submitted on the Project by any commenting party or agency. It is well-established that any party, as Commentors here, who participates in the administrative process can assert all factual and legal issues raised by any commenting party or agency. *Citizens for Open Government v. City of Lodi* (2006) 144 Cal.App.4th 865, 875.

Finally, this Office is requesting, on behalf of Commentors, all notices of CEQA actions and any approvals, Project CEQA determinations, or public hearings to be held on the Project under any provision of Title 7 of the California Government Code (California Planning and Zoning Law), as well as the City Municipal Code. This request is filed pursuant to *Pub. Res. Code* §§ 21092.2 and 21167(f), and *Government Code* § 65092, that require local agencies to mail such notices to any person who has filed a written request for them. Please send notice by electronic and regular mail to: Gideon Kracov, Esq., 801 S. Grand Avenue, 11th Fl., Los Angeles, CA 90017, gk@gideonlaw.net.

Thank you for consideration of these comments. We ask that they be placed in the Administrative Record for the Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gideon Kracov', written in a cursive style.

Gideon Kracov

Lawyer for Unite HERE Local 11 and Robert Mazariegos

Date: 01/12/2016
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Background of the GEO Group

Since its founding in 1984,^[1] GEO Group has profited from federal and state policies that have led to a dramatic rise in incarceration and detention in the United States--an increase of more than 500 percent over the past thirty years.^{[3] [4] [5]} As of 2011, around half of all prisoners in state facilities were there for nonviolent crimes, and half of inmates in federal prisons were serving time for drug offenses.^[6] GEO Group has explicitly identified drug decriminalization and sentencing leniency as factors that could have adverse effects on its business.

The company that later became GEO Group originally began in 1954 as a private investigation company in Boca Raton, Florida, founded by four former FBI agents, including George Wackenhut. In 1958, Wackenhut bought out his partners and formed the Wackenhut Corporation, which focused on building dossiers of civil rights demonstrators, anti-war protesters and others on the left politically that George Wackenhut, an extreme right-winger, considered communist sympathizers or "derogatory types," according to Frank Donner's book "Age of Surveillance."

The Wackenhut files included the corporation's investigation of the NAACP, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., The Progressive magazine, and numerous others active in the peace and justice movements. By the time Congress began investigating government and corporate entities that kept dossiers on Americans in the mid-1970s, Wackenhut reportedly had four million names on file, more than any other private entity.

Facilities Operated by the GEO Group

For prisons, "GEO has 98 facilities in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and South Africa with approximately 78,500 beds, and 18,000 employees around the globe." The bulk of its prisons appear to be within the U.S., where it claims to operate approximately 61,000 beds in 56 correctional and detention facilities.^[11] It also "has approximately 60

subsidiaries offering services beyond corrections and detention such as transportation services, community reentry facilities, community supervision services, mental health institutions and electronic monitoring technologies."

GEO Group Profit Driven

GEO's revenue in 2014 was \$1.69 billion and its profits were \$143.8 million, up from \$115 million the previous year. **BUSINESS MODEL:** GEO "contracts with federal corrections agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Marshals Service, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, as well as eleven state correctional clients and various county and city jurisdictions."¹ GEO's 2012 annual report states: "Our federal customers generated 43% of our total revenue for both of the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011."¹

GEO's business model rests on incarceration. The more individuals locked up, the more GEO and its shareholders profit. Increases in GEO's earnings and stock prices have corresponded with America's incarceration boom--and laws that criminalize a longer list of conduct and require that those convicted serve longer sentences are good for business.

According to the Justice Policy Institute: "Since private prison companies are in the business to make money, policies that maintain or increase incarceration boost their revenues; from a business perspective, the economic and social costs of mass incarceration are "externalities" that aren't figured into their corporate bottom line."¹

Indeed, the company has faced challenges in recent years as the public has slowly shifted away from a tough-on-crime model.

Although GEO has denied lobbying for criminal justice or sentencing laws, GEO's own contracts requiring a guaranteed occupancy for its prisons has a similar impact: these occupancy quotas can encourage tough enforcement and sentencing policies, or, at a minimum, can help deter reform.

Profit Motive and Supposedly Cost Cutting, Leads to Prisoner abuse, Sexual Assault, Violence, resulting in lawsuits against GEO Group

When comparing for-profit prisons with public, a nationwide study in 2001 found that assaults on guards by inmates were 49 percent more frequent in private prisons than in government-run prisons. The same study revealed that assaults on fellow inmates were 65 percent more frequent in for-profit/private prisons. Another study from the same year concluded that "Privately operated prisons appear to have systemic problems in maintaining secure facilities" concluding that for-profit/private prisons have significantly more escapes, homicides, assaults, and drug abuse compared to government-run prisons.

Examples of Abuse, violence, sexual assaults, mismanagement of GEO Group operated facilities.

- **ACLU Lawsuit in Mississippi Alleges "Barbaric and Horrific" Conditions** - In May 2013, inmates at East Mississippi Correctional Facility (EMCF), sued the state in U.S. District Court alleging "barbaric and horrific conditions" at the facility.^[62] GEO ran the facility from 1999^[63] to 2012,^[64] The suit was filed on behalf of 16 inmates. One of them, Christopher Lindsey, 27, went blind after guards denied him access to treatment for his glaucoma despite repeated pleas for help between 2011 and 2013
- **Jury Awards Over \$40 Million to Family of Inmate Killed in Beating** - Gregorio De La Rosa, an honorably discharged former National Guardsman, was serving a six-month sentence for drug possession at a prison in Raymondville, Texas operated by GEO Group (then known as Wackenhut). Gregorio was beaten to death by two other inmates using a lock tied to a sock, an incident that prompted officers and wardens to smirk and laugh, as well as allegations of a cover-up and destruction of evidence.
- **GEO Settles Suit with Family of a Woman who Committed Suicide after Reporting Rape** – A woman committed suicide at GEO Group-Operated Val Verde County jail in Texas. Shortly before her death, the woman reported that she had been raped and assaulted by male inmates who were housed in the same cell block. She also reported being sexually humiliated

by a GEO guard after reporting to the warden that guards allowed male and female inmates to have sex.

- **Class Action Strip-Search Lawsuit Against GEO Group** - Stephen Dimitri Bussy filed a nationwide civil rights class action lawsuit under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 challenging the practice of strip searches conducted in detention facilities operated by the GEO Group Inc. In July 2007, Bussy was arrested and charged with DUI and transported to a jail in Pennsylvania operated by the GEO Group, where he was strip searched. The plaintiffs allege that the GEO Group's policy of strip searching all pre-trial detainees regardless of the crime charged and in the absence of a reasonable suspicion that the detainee possesses weapons or contraband violates the Constitution. In May 2010, the parties settled the lawsuit for nearly \$3 million. The agreement covers up to 10,000 inmates in six facilities who were subjected to strip searches upon admission between January 2005 and January 2008.

Allegations of Sexual Harassment and Discrimination

GEO has a record of alleged racial and gender discrimination, sexual harassment, and allegations that the company intentionally maintains a male-dominated workforce.

- **Sexual Harassment Lawsuit in Washington.** In 2009, Molly Ware filed an action for wrongful termination against GEO Group in Federal District Court for the Western District of Washington at Tacoma. Ware alleged that she was the victim of sexual harassment in the form of lewd comments from a coworker at a GEO Group correctional facility where she was a prison guard. She claimed there was a hostile work environment at the GEO Group facility because her complaints of sexual harassment were ignored as a result of gender-based discrimination.
- **EEOC complaints over sexual harassment of female employees in Florence, Arizona.** In October 2010, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a lawsuit against GEO Group and some male managers supervising correctional officers for fostering a "sexual and sex-based hostile work environment" at two Florence prisons that allowed harassment and retaliation against female employees. The EEOC said the male employees engaged in verbal and physical harassment of female employees. A male manager grabbed and pinched a female employee, and a female employee was forced on a desk and kissed and touched by a male employee, the lawsuit says. The EEOC alleges GEO Group was aware but failed to take measures to prevent the harassment.

- **Allegations of Violence, Squalor, and Sexual Abuse in GEO Juvenile Prisons**

- *Bloomberg News* reports that at for-profit prisons in Mississippi, the assault rate was three times higher on average than in state-run lockups. None was as violent as the Walnut Grove Youth Correctional Facility, run by GEO for two years, from August 2010 until July 2012, according to the paper.¹
- Widespread Abuse and Sexual Assault at GEO-Operated Juvenile Prison Results in "Groundbreaking" Settlement and Consent Decree - The GEO-operated Walnut Grove Correctional Facility (WGYCF) juvenile prison in Mississippi was the subject of a legal complaint filed by the ACLU and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) alleging that the "for-profit entities that manage WCGYF perpetuate violence and corruption." According to the complaint, some juveniles were "kicked and punched while handcuffed, and others have been stripped naked and placed in solitary confinement for weeks;" one inmate claimed to have been "held hostage in his cell for almost 24 hours, brutally raped and physically assaulted after prison staff failed to heed his plea for protection," according to news reports
- **Wackenhut (GEO Group) Settles Allegations of Sexual, Physical, and Mental Abuse of Female Juveniles for \$1.5 Million** - Several young women sued Wackenhut (GEO Group) after they were allegedly sexually, physically, and mentally abused by employees of Wackenhut-owned and operated Coke County Juvenile Justice Center in Texas. The claims were settled in mediation for \$1,500,000, according to an appeal filed to enjoin enforcement of the settlement agreement.
- **U.S. Justice Department Sues and Files for Emergency Relief to Protect Juveniles from "Dangerous and Life-Threatening Conditions" at Wackenhut (GEO Group) Juvenile Facility in Louisiana** - The Department of Justice (DOJ) settled a lawsuit with the state of Louisiana and Wackenhut over allegations of excessive force and neglect at the company's Jena Juvenile Justice Center in 2000, according to a DOJ press release. The government alleged juveniles were being subjected to "dangerous and life-threatening conditions" at the center. The DOJ filed the emergency lawsuit under the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. In the

days that followed, Wackenhut turned over control of the facility to the state, which agreed to implement major reforms at the facility.¹

Other Related Incidents of Mismanagement & Neglect by GEO-Group

- **Riot Sparked by Galindo's Death and the Prison's Inattention to Medical Needs** On December 12, 2008, inmates at Reeves County Detention Center near Pecos, Texas started a twenty-four hour riot, sparked by the death of Jesus Manuel Galindo that same day (see above) and stemming from a string of others proceeding his, which they attributed to the prison's inattention to medical needs.
- **Patient Dies in Hypothyroid-Related Coma While Awaiting Trial for Shoplifting** - In 2007, the estate of Cassandra Morgan filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the George W. Hill Correctional Facility (GHCF) in Thornton, Pennsylvania, which was run by the GEO Group Inc. at the time. Morgan, who was diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic, died on March 29, 2006 after lapsing into a hypothyroid-related, coma on the floor of her jail cell about six weeks after being arrested for shoplifting.
- **Numerous Escapes from GEO Facilities Reported To Be a Threat to Public Safety** - At least 27 escapes were reported from GEO-operated facilities between 2004 and 2011, including one that led to a murder, according to the *Arizona Republic*

GEO Group Tax Avoidance

GEO transformed itself into a real estate investment trust (REIT) in 2013. REITs are "designed to reduce the payment of corporate federal income taxes, REITs are a special tax designation for companies that focus on real estate holdings," explains a report from Grassroots Leadership. ^[115]

On January 1, 2013, GEO Group announced that as of the end of 2012 it had "completed all the necessary restructuring steps" to convert to a REIT. GEO Group says it authorized an initial special dividend of \$350 million to investors. ^[116]

In May 2013, GEO Group reported that its first-quarter profit rose 56 percent, helped by lower income taxes.

On an August 7, 2013 earnings conference call, GEO Group's Chief Financial Officer Brian Evans said: "Our quarterly results include a tax benefit of \$8.4 million associated with our recent REIT conversion. This tax benefit is offset by \$1 million after-tax, one time REIT conversion related expenses, and \$4.4 million after-tax associated with the write-off of deferred financing fees in connection with our recent financing activities.

Political ties & Lobbying:

Ties to the American Legislative Exchange Council

GEO Group's parent company, Wackenhut Corporation, has funded the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).¹ GEO Group itself is also a member as of 2010, according to *In These Times*.^[39]

While Wackenhut (later GEO) was a member of ALEC's crime Task Force, ***ALEC pushed legislation to privatize prisons, and at the same time advanced harsh sentencing bills to put more people in prison for more time, particularly "truth-in-sentencing" legislation calling for all violent offenders to serve 85 percent of their sentences before being eligible for release, and "three strikes you're out" bills requiring mandatory life imprisonment for a third felony conviction.*** These bills became law in a majority of states during the 1990s and early 2000s.

Between 2003 and 2010, ProPublica reports that GEO Group contributed to many candidates who have or had connections to ALEC.^[40]

Hobart Block Club

King Estates Community, South Los Angeles

January 11, 2016

City Clerk
Planning and Land Use Management Committee
Council and Public Services Division
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Date: 01/12/2016
Submitted in PLUM Committee
Council File No: 15-1368
Item No. 1
Deputy: Comm. from Public

To Whom It May Concern:

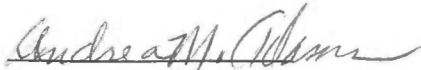
We, the residents of King Estates, a neighborhood of South Los Angeles, and members of the Hobart Block Club, are astounded about the recent discovery of the new GEO Re-entry facility to be built on the northeast corner of Vernon and Western Avenues. For far too long the city has neglected South Los Angeles and has ignored basic planning standards and code enforcement. Residents in the Vernon Square community have worked for years to clean up this corner, a corner that already houses two illegal marijuana dispensaries, a liquor store, and a homeless shelter. This close proximity of the proposed site to dispensaries and liquor store is a formula for not rehabilitating people with addiction, but setting them up for failure.

Our communities are hardly acknowledged to partake in the decision of bringing in new facilities and the type of establishments we would like to see in our neighborhoods. We and the rest of South LA residents deserve to be a part of the process of the kind of facilities, institutions and businesses brought into our community.

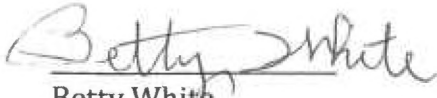
The City has been partners to business operators who seek to profit from poverty and addiction in South L.A. We did not have notice of this facility early on and looking into GEO Corporation's history, we are concerned about the company's track record. The Planning and Land Use Management (P.L.U.M.) Committee should address the residents' concerns and deny the request for a conditional use permit and demonstrate that the City of Los Angeles is committed to creating healthy and safe living environments for all residents.

Sincerely,

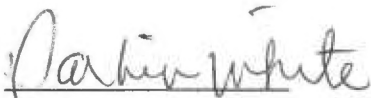
Hobart Block Club
(Please see attached signature sheet)



Andrea M Adams
3808 S Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90062



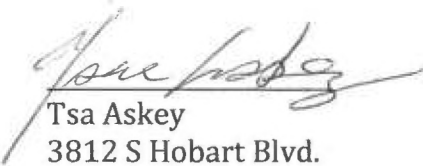
Betty White
3801 S Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90062



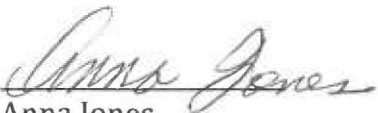
Darbin White
3809 S Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90062



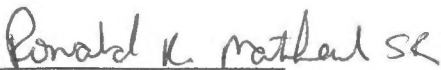
Isaac White
3809 S Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90062



Tsa Askey
3812 S Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90062



Anna Jones
3791 S Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90018



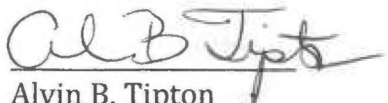
Ronald K. Matthews, Sr.
3813 S Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90062



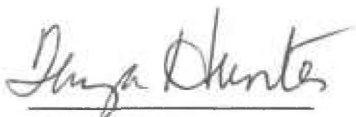
Jasmine Ivy
3821 S Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90062



Percy Matthews
3805 S Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90062



Alvin B. Tipton
3817 S Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90062



Tanya Hunter
3825 S Hobart Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90062

January 12, 2016
Janice Ramakalwan
1942 41st Place
Los Angeles, CA 90062

Date: 01/12/2016
Submitted in PLUM Committee
Council File No: 15-1368
Item No. 1
Deputy Comm. from Public

Hello, my name is Janice Ramkalawan. I'm a homeowner close to the halfway house that is being proposed. This is a high crime area. I know this because my friend's son was shot on the Western and Vernon intersection at the Master Burger, or what we know as Murder Burger. According to crimemapping.com, there have been 70 violent crimes within a half-mile radius of the site that is being considered today.

There is a marijuana dispensary, a liquor store and at one point there was an illegal doctor who was dispensing all types of medications to people.

The City of Los Angeles has neglected South LA in terms of basic city planning and management of these types of facilities and especially where they are located.

People need the support that helps them lead productive lives, not in nuisance high crime areas.

#1

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

Date: 01/12/2016
Submitted in PLUM Committee
Council File No: 15-1368
Item No. 1
~~Deputy~~ Comm. from Public

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".

Carolyn H. Evans

President
Kamalik Corporation

Janice
Ramkalawan

[CrimeMapping.com](#)
[Set Bookmark](#)
[Send](#)
[Link](#)
[Print](#)
[Trend Report](#)

Crime report for 7/15/2015 - 1/11/2016

Submitted in 01/12/2016 PLUM Committee

Council File No: 15-1368

70 crimes found.

Violent crimes

















Within a 0.5 mile radius of 1730 W Vernon Ave, Los Angeles, California, 90062.

1

Comm from Public

✱ Click a crime to "Map It."

Type:	Description:	Case #:	Location:	Agency:	Date:
	BRANDISHING WEAPON, EXHIBITING DEADLY WEAPON	161204403	1800 BLOCK W 45TH ST	Los Angeles Police	1/6/2016 08:45 AM
	THEFT FROM PERSON	161204348	WESTERN AV & VERNON AV	Los Angeles Police	1/6/2016 01:45 AM
	BICYCLE - STOLEN	160304214	4200 BLOCK S HARVARD BL	Los Angeles Police	1/4/2016 04:00 AM
	ROBBERY (taking property of another by means of force or fear)	161204070	4400 BLOCK S WESTERN AV	Los Angeles Police	1/1/2016 08:30 PM
	ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON (ADW) (likely to produce great bodily injury)	151228365	WESTERN AV & 46TH ST	Los Angeles Police	12/26/2015 04:00 AM
	ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON (ADW) (likely to produce great bodily injury)	151228366	WESTERN AV & 46TH ST	Los Angeles Police	12/26/2015 04:00 AM
	ROBBERY (taking property of another by means of force or fear)	150327076	1700 BLOCK W VERNON AV	Los Angeles Police	12/23/2015 02:45 AM
	ROBBERY (taking property of another by means of force or fear)	151226834	VERNON AV & WESTERN AV	Los Angeles Police	12/2/2015 05:00 PM
	THEFT-GRAND (plain theft-grand) \$950.01 & over (or \$100 if fowl, livestock, produce, etc.)	151226879	1800 BLOCK W 45TH ST	Los Angeles Police	12/1/2015 06:30 PM
	ROBBERY (taking property of another by means of force or fear)	150325515	4300 BLOCK S WESTERN AV	Los Angeles Police	11/28/2015 09:00 PM
	ROBBERY - ATTEMPTED	150325420	S GRAMERCY & W VERNON AV	Los Angeles Police	11/27/2015 11:30 AM
	THEFT - PETTY (plain theft-petty) (\$950 & under)	150325384	4300 BLOCK DALTON AV	Los Angeles Police	11/26/2015 06:45 PM
	ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON (ADW) (likely to produce great bodily injury)	151226456	48TH ST & WESTERN AV	Los Angeles Police	11/25/2015 03:00 PM

	(ADW) (likely to produce great bodily injury)	151224490	ANDREWS PL & 47TH ST	Police	10/27/2015 08:35 AM
	ASSAULT, NON-AGG: Hands, Feet, Fist, Etc.	915-06038-6893	47TH ST & WESTERN AVE	Los Angeles County Sheriff (unincorp.)	10/20/2015 07:00 AM
	ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON (ADW) (likely to produce great bodily injury)	151223689	1700 W 46TH ST	Los Angeles Police	10/16/2015 05:30 PM
	ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON (ADW) (likely to produce great bodily injury)	151223690	1700 W 46TH ST	Los Angeles Police	10/16/2015 05:30 PM
	ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON (ADW) (likely to produce great bodily injury)	151223000	WESTERN AV & VERNON AV	Los Angeles Police	10/6/2015 08:30 AM
	ROBBERY (taking property of another by means of force or fear)	151222868	4700 S WESTERN AV	Los Angeles Police	10/3/2015 07:35 PM
	SHOPLIFTING - PETTY THEFT (\$950 & under)	150321534	4200 S WESTERN AV	Los Angeles Police	10/1/2015 10:30 AM
	THEFT-GRAND (plain theft-grand) \$950.01 & over (or \$100 if fowl, livestock, produce, etc.)	150321610	1800 W 41ST DR	Los Angeles Police	9/30/2015 11:30 AM
	ROBBERY (taking property of another by means of force or fear)	150321270	S WESTERN AV & W 42ND PL	Los Angeles Police	9/27/2015 11:30 PM
	ROBBERY (taking property of another by means of force or fear)	150321187	S WESTERN AV & W 41ST PL	Los Angeles Police	9/26/2015 05:45 AM
	ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON (ADW) (likely to produce great bodily injury)	151222244	4400 S WESTERN AV	Los Angeles Police	9/23/2015 05:30 PM
	RAPE, FORCIBLE (any age, non consensual sexual intercourse)	151222218	4600 S GRAMERCY PL	Los Angeles Police	9/23/2015 02:37 AM
	ROBBERY (taking property of another by means of force or fear)	151221375	WESTERN AV & 48TH ST	Los Angeles Police	9/12/2015 02:30 AM
	THEFT - PETTY (plain theft-petty) (\$950 & under)	151221962	4500 S GRAMERCY PL	Los Angeles Police	9/9/2015 08:00 PM
	ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON (ADW) (likely to produce great bodily injury)	151221074	1700 W 48TH ST	Los Angeles Police	9/7/2015 08:30 PM
	ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON (ADW) (likely to produce great bodily injury)	151221075	1700 W 48TH ST	Los Angeles Police	9/7/2015 08:30 PM
	THEFT FROM PERSON	150319871	1700 W VERNON AV	Los Angeles Police	9/6/2015 02:45 AM
	THEFT - PETTY (plain theft-petty) (\$950 & under)	150319809	41ST & WESTERN	Los Angeles Police	9/5/2015 07:15 PM
	ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON				

	PICKPOCKET - PICKPURSE (form of grand theft person)	151217852	WESTERN AV & VERNON AV	Los Angeles Police	7/22/2015 06:40 AM
	ROBBERY (taking property of another by means of force or fear)	151217758	WESTERN AV & 48TH ST	Los Angeles Police	7/19/2015 11:30 PM

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

#1

Date: 01/12/2016
Submitted in PLUM Committee
Council File No: 15-1368
Item No. 1
Deputy: Comm. from Public

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

Dear Committee Members,

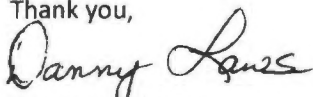
My name is Danny Laws and I am writing to express my support for the reopening of the Bridge Back Residential Reentry facility. The Bridge Back property served as an integral part of the community during its years in operation. It helped rehabilitate ex-inmates to transition back into our community's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

Page 2.

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.

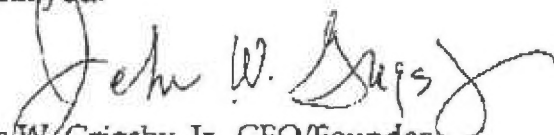
Bridge Back gave me the strength and tools to take control of my life and the desire to want to become a real contributing part of society. 7 years after leaving Bridge Back, I was fortunate enough to open my own sober living facility, which I model after Bridge Back. Eula's House is a 501©3 which currently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

Page 3.

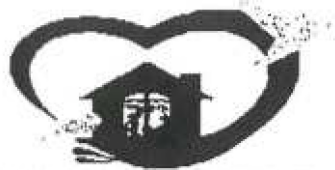
As the CEO of Eula's House, I have worked with the re-entry of clients from the AB 109 Program in the past. This is why I believe Bridge Back is a perfect and much needed facility. Bridge Back is extremely vital to this community because of the tracking, networking and groundwork they provide. Bridge 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.



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

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.

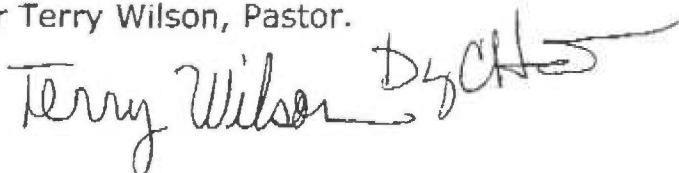
There are so many men and women in this community that have been trapped in our justice system and can't seem to find a way out. Bridge Back has assisted in providing that way out. They have made available to the community a great service, providing rehabilitation and getting people back to being productive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

To Whom it May Concern:

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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.

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

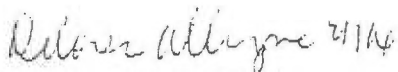
Los Angeles, California 90012

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

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcelino del Campos", written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Marcelino del Campos

ADDRESS:

1734 W. VERNON AVE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90062

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

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

August 14, 2015

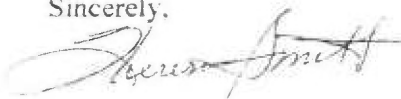
To whom it may concern:

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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Theresa Smith', written in a cursive style.

Theresa Smith

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

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

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

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	Leonard Delpit
Deborah Strong	Diane McDowell
Wanda Capers	Delores Alleyne
Lorraine Curry	Willie Green
Algie Lee	Robert Campbell Jr.