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February 21, 2017

The Honorable David Ryu
Los Angeles City Councilmember, District 4
Los Angeles City Hall, Room 425
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilman Ryu,

As pastor to Dolores and Bob Hope for many years, I am blessed to have known them as the faithful people they were. St. Charles Borromeo Church and the Family Services Center is forever appreciative of their service to God and fellow man and for their devotion to the less fortunate through their philanthropy, which continues to this day through the generosity of The Bob and Dolores Hope Foundation.

Dolores Hope was an active member in our church community for over decades, and believed deeply in providing for the poor and underserved. Her efforts and generosity were a driving force behind the creation of the Family Service Center and the families in need the center serves. The Hopes' generous financial commitments to the community and the poor were always offered quietly; they were not looking for accolades or recognition. The Hopes never sought to be honored for their charity work. Rather, they gave because it was the right thing to do, and because they felt a responsibility towards providing for those in need.

It is through knowing who Dolores and Bob Hope were that informs my belief that both would be against the designation of their Toluca Lake home as a historic monument. Such an action would impact the value of the property and the resulting work their foundation can do to help the poor, the hungry, the homeless, and the veterans.

If Bob and Dolores were alive, they would not want their home to be a historic monument, as it was their private enclave away from the trapping of their Hollywood notoriety. In their private lives, the charity that the sale of the property could provide would be their most important consideration.