



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.

From: tworeal4u1@yahoo.com [<mailto:tworeal4u1@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 1:20 PM

To: Los Angeles City Council

Subject: Reentry program

Dear City Council,

Our community is in desperate need of our re-entry programs. On behalf of the bridge back program I would like to say it was an asset to our community and had a positive impact. Please reinstate our community Bridge Back program.

Sincerely,

A 30 year community member

Denise E. Croomes

From: Nelson Estrada [<mailto:nelsonmestrada@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 4:04 PM

Subject: Bridgeback program

My name is Nelson Estrada, I am writing on behalf of the Bridge back program. I have attended several community meetings at the Ray of Light Church in Los Angeles. There is an overwhelming consensus during the community meetings that the Bridge back program was great for our community. I believe our community is in need of programs such as Bridge back that serve people who are looking to change their lives and get a second opportunity. I am in support of this program. Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Regina Spencer [mailto:spency1968@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 3:57 PM

To: angela moore

Subject:

Los Angeles City Council,

For many years, I have worked a few blocks from the Bridge Back Program on Western Avenue. During the time of its operation, it presented a positive presence in our community. I believe that reinstating a program of this nature would be an asset to the neighborhood as well as the community.

Thank You,
Regina Spencer

From: Renee Mifflin [<mailto:brmifflin@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 4:05 PM
Subject: Bridge Back Supporter

Dear City Council,

My name is Renee Mifflin and I live in the Western-Vernon neighborhood. I attend Crenshaw United Methodist church, where I run the Homeless Ministry. The plight of the homeless is something that I am very passionate about and always striving to find ways that our community can support such efforts.

I am in great support of re-opening Bridge Back, which in turns not only helps the those that are coming out of jail, but it also helps to keep them from adding to the already large growing homeless population in this city.

A facility that can help support the needs of these individuals, along with their family and the community can only be a positive thing. Anytime that the community can reach out and help to build up our fellow men, shows just what type of compassionate human beings that we are.

To know that a program like Bridge Back, that has been around for over 40 years, should show their commitment to this community, and now it is our chance to show them that we support all their efforts to keep something so positive and life changing moving forward in this neighborhood.

I feel that it would be a lost to the city and the community to keep this building on Vernon and Western vacant, and allow people to vandalize and loiter in the ally, instead of opening up a program that would be more beneficial to all of us that live around here. The property values in the area could be on the raise due to the re-opening of Bridge Back.

The city would be helping to create any where from 35-40 new jobs in the area, which entails is helps families be able to support themselves. With the added security at Bridge Back will also help bring down the crime rate that exist now because of a vacant building.

This area of town needs to have new life breathed back into it. I see Bridge Back doing that just because of the support from the neighborhood and the surrounding community. We have the chance to show people that their lives matter, and the community is here to support them by just simply re-opening Bridge Back and icon that has been in this community changing lives for the better for over 40 years, and chance do that again if just given a chance.

Thank you for taking the time to hear me out.

Sincerely,

Renee Mifflin

From: Cameron Moore [<mailto:kobys8@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 4:23 PM

Subject: City Counsel Email

Dear City Council,

Our section of Los Angeles is in serious need of the re-entry services that Bridge Back provides. I live and work in the area of Vernon and Western. Our community should have a place in which the people of our society who made bad choices are given a second chance and a place to start over. I believe Bridge Back is that place, and it continues to have a positive impact on the lives they touch. Please reinstate this vital program for our city.

Thank You

Cameron Moore

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 | <p>Area Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algie Lee, Area 1 • Leonard Delpit, Area 1 • Charletta Butler, Area 2 • Vacant • Hazel Dean, Area 3 • Vacant, Area 3 | <p>Members at Large</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gwendolyn Wood • Barbara Jones -Chikosi • Rita Banks <p>Stakeholder Associate Rep</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant <p>Youth Representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tyrone Lewis |
|--|--|--|

September 25, 2015

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

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

Dear Ms. Singh,

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

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

Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Development Council

Serving Chesterfield Square and Canterbury Knolls

Visit our website: www.eccandc.org

Email: secretary@eccandc.org

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

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

Sincerely,

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

From: Paula [<mailto:mrspeanut2u@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 4:38 PM
Subject: Bridge Back Program

Dear City Council:

Our community is in desperate need of our re-entry programs. On behalf of the Bridge Back program, I would like to say it was an asset to our community and had a positive impact. I have worked, for twelve years on Western Avenue, a few blocks from the program and have experienced no negative influences from the Bridge Back program. Please reinstate the Bridge Back Program.

Paula Green
mrspeanut2u@yahoo.com

January 25, 2016

Dear City Council:

I am writing this letter as encouragement to green light the re-entry programs back into our community. On behalf of the Bridge Back program, it was an asset to our community. I am a licensed psychotherapist who has worked in our community for over 15 years. Our community is in desperate need of re-entry programs to provide treatment and training to those who need rehabilitation and want to better their lives, so they can re-enter the community as productive citizens contributing to our society. The Bridge Back Program had a positive impact. Please reinstate Bridge Back Program.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lichtenstein, MFT
lisalich@me.com

January 11, 2016

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

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

Dear Committee Members ,

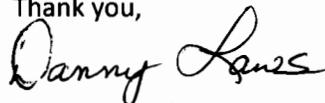
My name is Danny Laws and I am writing to express my support for the reopening of the Bridge Back Residential Reentry facility. The Bridge Back property served as an integral part of the community during its years in operation. It helped rehabilitate ex-inmates to transition back into our community's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

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

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

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

Thank you,



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

dannyplaws@sbcglobal.net

Office # 310-350-0852

**EULA'S HOUSE**

Transitional Housing, Sober Living & Recovery Model

January 11, 2016

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

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

Dear Planning & Land Use Management Committee:

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

Bridge Back has been a 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.

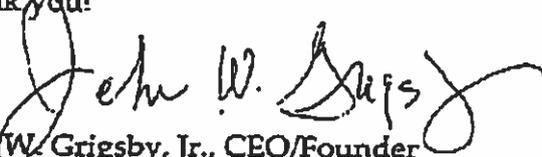
Bridge Back gave me the strength and tools to take control of my life and the desire to want to become a real contributing part of society. 7 years after leaving Bridge Back, I was fortunate enough to open my own sober living facility, which I model after Bridge Back. Eula's House is a 501©3 which currently 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 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.

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:

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.



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)

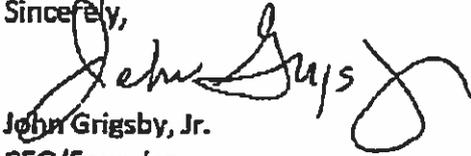
Dear Committee Members:

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

IT TAKES A VILLAGE



January 25, 2016

LA City Council
Regarding- (Bridge Back)

I have worked in this community for over 26 years and have seen the positive impact of having a re-entry program in the area. A number of re-entry studies have found that returning prisoners have many barriers to achieving successful re-integration into society. Over the past 30 years Bridge Back has helped former prisoners overcome these barriers and has served as a beacon of light for thousands of individuals.

Bridge Back's location on Vernon and Western has been vital to the safety and security of our community. The organizations active staff and security discouraged crime. However as a result of the building being vacant, the loitering and vandalism has increase and the hope of recovery for those individuals waiting for a bed is being delayed and or denied. Please re-instate Bridge Back Program to its previous location, so that the overall positive outcomes that our community has benefitted from for the past 26 years can continue.

Sincerely,
Schuyler Dunk

January 25, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I met Roy Evans the owner of Bridge Back in the late eighties through his niece, a dear friend of mine. I was a young girl at the time and over the course of twenty five years Roy Evans provided me and several other young people with encouragement and support to make a difference in the lives of others. His business Bridge Back, serves as a source of hope to low risk offenders who need assistance with drug addiction, housing, and employment. It serves as a place of hope for them to gain the resources that they need to become productive citizens. Roy was a trail blazer of his time leading the initiative to keep low level offenders, mostly African American and Latino males, out of prison and in school and jobs, once they received the mental health services needed. As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for Los Angeles County, I see firsthand the devastating impact that poverty, addiction, homelessness and the lack of proper mental health services has on our communities. If the conditional use permit for Bridge Back is not approved it could have detrimental effects on the community including the loss of 144 re-entry beds for low level offenders, the loss of 35-40 local jobs in the community, the building would remain vacant, which will lead to loitering and vandalism. Most importantly, continued incarceration of 144 men will devastate families and hurt these men's futures for generations to come. Please allow the sale of Bridge Back as it currently exists to honor the legacy of Mr. Roy Evans and to provide a chance for reduced recidivism in our community amongst men of color.

Sincerely,

Lori Franklin-Williams

Lori Franklin-Williams, MSW, LCSW

6119 Flores Avenue

Los Angeles, California 90056

Williams_lori@sbcglobal.net

(323) 296-6267

January 19, 201

Los Angeles City Council Members

200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, Ca 90012

Subject: APPEAL OF CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (cup) GEO- Bridge Back-Re-Entry Program CPC-2015-3119-CU:

Dear Council Members,

My name is Carolyn Evans, I am writing to ALL of you asking for your support for the GEO Re-entry, request for a conditional use permit ("CUP") to reinstate the re-entry program at 1730 West Vernon Ave. Los Angeles, Ca 90062.

In 1979, my late husband Roy Evans, purchased the building at 1718-1730 West Vernon. Roy opened the doors to the Bridge Back Drug program the first residential drug program in South Los Angeles. At that time the building was occupied by drug addicts, alcoholics, pimps and prostitutes. Roy had lived the life of a drug addict for over 17yrs and knew what was needed to clean up the building and the entire area at Vernon/ Western. While incarcerated Roy worked in the prison library educating himself, helping other inmates writing letters and filing court documents. Upon his parole Roy went through a drug program and had a spiritual awakening. Roy credits God and the 12 Steps for his recovery. Roy worked day and night to create the Bridge BACK program and became a brilliant expert in brain activity and perceptual processing. Do to his hard work Roy founded Bridge Back and ran the program for 40 years. Nationally, recognized for his work In 1967, under the Model Cities Program Roy first opened the Bridge Back Drug Program on 51st and Central Ave. He was hand-selected 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. At the end of the Nixon Administration, Roy was offered several executive positions in Washington, DC instead, he chose to return to Los Angeles to run Bridge Back.

In 1982, with the support of the West-Vernon Business Association, The Neighborhood Council, the Councilman of the 8th District and a CUP approved by the City of Los Angeles, Bridge Back won its first California Department of Correction's and Rehabilitation (CDCR) contract for 77 beds to provide a Re-entry program. As you know the CUPs are granted in 5 year increments, since 1982 Bridge Back has secured 4 CUPs without any major incidents.

The Re-Entry, programs offer formally incarcerated parolee (non-violent/low risk) housing, medical/mental health services, reunification with family members, employment development, and computer supported education, AA/NA 12 Step meeting, both individual and group therapy and most importantly a safe place to live.

In 2006, Roy leased the property to Human Potential Solutions (HPS) under the leadership of Garnett Newcome PHD. HPS, was awarded a CDCR Re-entry contract .In 2009, The California Budget Financial crisis caused HPS to lose the CDCR contract and my husband was also diagnosed with cancer and kidney failure. Bridge Back's doors had never been closed prior to 2009. In November 2013, MJB Transitional

Housing leased the building for 1 yr. MJB provided a Year Around Homeless Program but lost their contract which ended Nov 2014. In February 2015, VOA leased the building also providing services for the Homeless. VOA relocated June, 2015 and the building (17,000 SF) has remained vacant. Due to the community opposing the homeless shelter we are not able to offer the building as a homeless shelter.

As a family we have worked very hard to lease, sell, and / or rent the property. Whenever, Roy received a request from a person/organization to tour the property he respected and treated each person equally; all promising to call Roy back and make offers to purchase the building. We never heard back from most of the people/organizations. It was then when we moved into the Escrow process with GEO. Then on December 3, 2014, Roy passed away. Prior to Roy's transition GEO made a commitment to honor Roy's vision, and agreed to carry on the name Bridge Back. Roy made it very clear that GEO could carry out his legacy. In 2011, Weingart attempted to purchase the building but could not locate funding for staffing. We worked with Weingart for over 2 yrs. As outlined except for a 16 month period the building has remained vacant since 2009.

Why GEO? Roy and GEO began Talking in 2011, however, because he had an agreement with Weingart to Purchase the property we could not accept another offer. Once agreeably freed up from Weingart, in November 2014 Roy selected Geo to lead the organization to move his vision forward. Prior to Roy's death he made it very clear that Geo could carry out his legacy and he outlined why.

Roy's Outline:

1. Geo has a good Re-Entry track record and has programs across the country. The GEO Re-Entry programs are NOT Private Prisons.
2. Geo took action and entered into escrow to purchase the building and has spent thousands of dollars in preparation for the program.
3. GEO Has agreed to honored Roy's legacy and keep the name Bridge Back.
4. Geo has the funds to remodel the building which needs over \$100.000 in repairs and will improve the Economic Development in the Western Vernon community.
5. GEO received the support of the Empowerment Congress Area Neighborhood Development (ECCANDC) Council, The Chesterfield Neighborhood council, The Area One Leadership council.
6. Geo will provide 35-40 jobs to the locate community.
7. Geo can keep the area safe and clean.
8. Geo will have 24/7 peace officer staff on duty. Cameras will be installed on both the inside/outside of the building to provide additional security.
9. Geo will create a community advisory board to unsure that the program is a good partner for the locate Stake holder.
10. Geo will keep the alleys the streets and surrounding community clean using the parolees to meet this much needed Problem.

On November 12, 2015 at approximately 1645 hours an Appeal to the already approved Cup was filed by Cheryl Branch.

In the Appeal Ms. Branch states the following:

1. She stated the following: The community does not support the program: Response: As outlined The PLUM Committee Members received copies of Letters of support from All of the Neighborhood Leadership councils, ECCANDC, Area One Neighborhood voted for Geo to purchased and open the Re -entry programs well as given the nod of approval from my husband Roy Evans.
2. She stated the following: Bridge Back does not meet The South Central Los Angeles Community Plan (SCLACP) Adopted in 2000:Response- Bridge Back has been at the same location since 1979, and therefore is grandfathered into the (SCLACP) and has had 4 CUP approval. Bridge Back has been vacant since 2009(leased for ONLY 16 mons since the building was closed. GEO will spend over \$100.000 to improve the property.
3. She stated the following: The area has too many liquor stores. Response: There is one liquor store in the immediately area. The facts are as follows, most drug, alcohol program and Re-entry programs are located in underserved community like Vernon and Western. Yes, Crime and loitering has also increased in the area because the Bridge Back property is vacant. Some of the homeless people who were enroll in the MJB/VOA shelters have remained in the area contributing to the loitering problems now in front of the building and at the bus stop; and they frequently use the door ways and alley as their bathroom.

In November 2014, we received a telephone call from Cheryl Branch asking" what is the status of the building". We told Ms. Branch that we had accepted and offer on the property. I'll get back to you" We never heard from Ms. Branch again until we saw the Appeal.

What will happen if CUP is not approved?

1. The building will remain vacant and the loitering and vandalism of the property will increase.
2. The loss of 35-40 local jobs.
3. The loss of 144 Re- entry beds in the South LA Community.
4. The opportunity to rehab the building.
5. Will lose the opportunity to help change the lives of 144 men and help reduce recidivism. Incarceration hurts families for many generations.
6. Our family will lose an opportunity to sell a building that has been vacant since 2009.
7. The Sale of the property is also needed to help provide funds for our son's long term care. He is 45 years old and was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis approximately 5 years ago.

I worked for 27 years as a Parole Agent with CDCR. I first worked as a Group Supervisor, California Youth Authority at Fred C. Nelles.

School in Whittier, Ca. In1983, I promoted to the position of Parole Agent I working the skid Row community of Los Angeles, I also worked the cities of Long Beach, Lakewood, San Pedro, Hawaiian

Gardens and Inglewood. I retired as a Parole Agent 3, Unit Supervisor in 2007. As a Parole Agent I learned about the pain and suffering recidivism has on the person, his/her family and the community.

At this time, and throughout our country, and at all levels of government there appears to be a growing desire to change our justice and correctional systems. California is leading the way by addressing the overcrowding issues in the 33 State prisons. Community Coalition, has done an outstanding job on Prop 47. AB 109 appears to be providing second chance opportunities. However, releasing parolees from prison without the opportunity to get self-help services means that within 90 days to 6 months they will return to the criminal lifestyle putting themselves and the community at risk. The Los Angeles Mayor's office just opened and hired a woman to head up his Re-Entry program. The California State Attorney General, Kamala Harris, is working at the Los Angeles County Jail Pitches facility to help inmate(s) get and stay on track. On January 17, 2016, I attended the Empowerment Congress at USC and it was an excellent opportunity for me to appreciate what we are doing in Los Angeles. Councilman Bernard Parks who termed out on June 30, 2015 supported the GEO/ Bridge Back purchased." You, have my support as long as GEO gets the support from the community of Vernon and Western." Geo has gained the support of the residents in the Vernon/ Western Community they are looking forward to creating a working partnership.

On January 12, 2016, our family, staff members from Geo, and members of The West Vernon community attempted to defend the CUP unanimously approved by the City Planning Commissioners on October 8, 2015. We were met by Cheryl Branch at the Hearing. Ms. Branch loaded a bus load of screaming juveniles wearing First TO Serve T shirts yelling at us and into the microphone regarding the CUP. Their opposition against GEO purchasing our property appears to be that The GEO Corporation is a private prison Corporation. Yes that is factual however, the Reentry programs are a separate division, and are a community base division that delivers re-entry services. Our family was deeply hurt. We were treated like trash AND GROSSLY DISRESPECTED. Our family has worked and lived in Los Angeles for generations. We own and run two of the major businesses within 200 feet of Bridge Back. I feel my husband Roy worked very hard to keep the doors of Bridge Back open please help me keep Roy's legacy alive. I CAN only imagine the 8th district walking WITH GEO to provide much needed services at Bridge Back.

In closing:

Let's not lose 144 beds, loss of 30-35 jobs, an opportunity to redevelop the property and improve the Vernon and Western community, reduce recidivism. You may say I'm a dreamer are you? Thank you.

Should you have any questions please call me at 310-938-8911 or Email me at carolynhevans@verizon.net.

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.

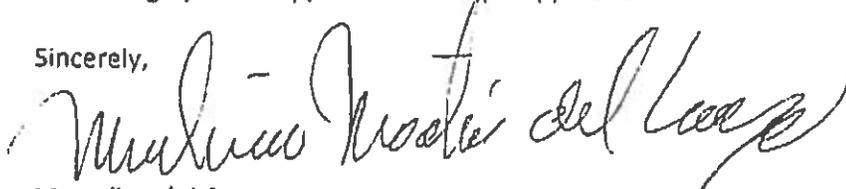
My family and I have lived directly adjacent to the property for several years. During this time, we have not experienced any safety issues or concerns resulting from the property or its operation.

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

411 W. Fairview Blvd.
Inglewood, Ca 90302

January 24, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept my letter of support for GEO Re-entry request for a conditional use permit ("CUP") to reinstate the re-entry program at 1730 West Vernon Ave. Los Angeles, Ca 90062. Founded by my late uncle, Roy Evans, Bridge Back has been a staple of that community since 1979. It has had one singular goal and that was to reduce recidivism of parolees and stem the collateral damage of re-incarceration on families, the local economy, tax paying citizens and collective morale experienced by low-income neighborhoods.

In 30+ years of its existence, Bridge Back has changed the lives of many men, reunited families, provided mental health services, offered 12-step classes to end drug/cigarette addictions and given those society had written off, a chance to start over. Then, as now, if the CUP is not approved, three dozen local jobs will be lost; 144 re-entry beds in South Los Angeles will disappear, GEO will be denied an opportunity to carry my uncle's legacy forward and the cycle of crime, despair, incarceration and hurt will once again claim the area.

Bridge Back was my uncle's life and it would be a shame to see it quietly dismantled over political gains.

Yours truly,

Nefertiti Austin

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.

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

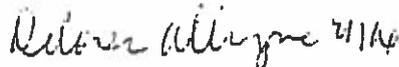
Los Angeles, California 90012

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

August 14, 2015

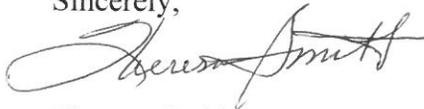
To whom it may concern:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

Theresa Smith

October 2, 2015

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

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

Dear Ms. Singh:

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

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

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

I encourage you approve GEO Group's application.

Sincerely,

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

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