

NORTHWEST SAN PEDRO

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NW San Pedro Neighborhood Council
638 S. Beacon Street, Box 688
San Pedro, CA 90731

November 29, 2017

Councilman Joe Buscaino, 15th District
638 S. Beacon St., Room 552
San Pedro, CA 90731

Deanne A. Dedmon
Department of Recreation and Parks
1670 Palos Verdes Drive North
Harbor City, CA 90710

Re: Request Funding be Made Available for Harbor Highlands Park

Dear Councilman Buscaino and Ms. Dedmon:

On November 13, 2017, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council passed the following motion:

Whereas, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council worked hard to gain community benefit from, and mitigation for, the impact of the increased density resulting from construction of 134 homes at Harbor Highlands, and a per unit assessment for improvements at Harbor Highlands Park was a part of the development agreement, and

Whereas, in June 2016, with the development reaching completion, and, presumably funds becoming available, the NWSPNC sent the council office a letter requesting that the community be engaged in discussions and planning for the improvement of the park, and

Whereas, the point of this engagement was to create a *comprehensive* approach to these improvements, and

Whereas, no response to that letter was ever received, and

Whereas, the council office took a decision to purchase and install a prefab restroom manufactured in another state, in the park, without any public notice or opportunity for comment, and

NORTHWEST SAN PEDRO

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Whereas, the NWSPNC held a special public meeting in September 2017, for stakeholders to share their concerns, in addition to taking comments at its most recent monthly board meeting in October, and

Whereas, the preponderance of these public comments firmly opposed the installation of restrooms, for reasons ranging from changing the nature of this local neighborhood park to an array of security and health concerns, and

Whereas, the City has offered no assurance to the community that if the restrooms are installed there will be sufficient funding to maintain the restrooms, and staff the park to allay these stakeholders' concerns, nor has the City indicated what funds are left from all sources of one time revenue for further park improvements,

Now, therefore, let it be known that the NWSPNC has approved initial funding for a community forum, now being scheduled, to fully discuss the future of the park, its role as a public space and to specifically address concerns, including but not limited to:

- The specific amount of funds available from the Harbor Highlands Homes assessment, Quimby monies, and other funds which the Council Office has hinted at, but never explained or defined
- The formation of a Park Advisory Board, which we understand is connected to Peck Park, to closely monitor and help manage the uses, challenges and opportunities presented by Harbor Highlands Park
- Security and maintenance of any restroom, drinking fountain, playground equipment, or other park amenities
- Targeted security lighting
- Gates to prevent private vehicles from driving in the park,
- Controlling the size of private parties on weekends, and what party structures are allowable
- Advising park users that the park is a public space at all times, and no intimidation or presumption of use should discourage neighborhood residents from using playground equipment or other park amenities, except in spaces defined by City permit, **and, furthermore**

That the Council Office, Dept. of Recreation and Parks, LAPD, Bureau of Sanitation, homeowners' associations and all individual stakeholders will be encouraged and expected to participate in this Community Forum and any additional forums, **and, finally**,

That the Council Office provide to the community, through NWSPNC, a list of funds available for improving Harbor Highlands Park within 10 business days of this motion, and that *no further available funds be committed without public input.*"

The key points from the motion for your consideration are as follows:

1. The majority of stakeholders speaking at our two public meetings are opposed to the installation of a restroom in the park, and you have received two sets of signed petitions whose signers oppose the restrooms in Harbor Highlands Park.
2. That our board continues to request stakeholder input regarding any improvements or alterations to Harbor Highlands Park, and that this input be used to create a comprehensive plan for the future of the park.
3. That all relevant City agencies be called on to participate in a community forum to be held by our Neighborhood Council, and,

NORTHWEST SAN PEDRO

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

4. For purposes of planning for the future of the park that our Neighborhood Council be furnished with detailed information concerning available funding for the improvement of the park, including monies from the Development Agreement for Harbor Highlands Homes, Quimby funds, and other funding sources which City Council staff has indicated may be available. **We ask that the funding sources and amounts be made available to our Neighborhood Council by December 15, 2017.**

We stand ready to be of assistance to you and your offices and agencies in helping deliver quality information and participation to the community concerning the future of the Harbor Highlands Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Regalado". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "R" at the beginning.

Ray Regalado, President

On behalf of the **Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council**