March 13, 2019

Mayor Eric Garcetti
200 N Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Use of Port of Los Angeles Warehouses for Special Events
Council File 16-1433-S1

Attached please find a resolution passed by the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council at its meeting on March 11, 2019. This resolution requests the Mayor to direct the Departments of Building and Safety and Fire to develop a clear process and checklist within 45 days that can be used to determine safety compliance for temporary special event permits in warehouses and to direct that the responsibility for issuing temporary event permits on Port of Los Angeles property be transferred to the Harbor Department.

It is our understanding that subsequent to the Ghost Fire, all requests for permits for special events in warehouses have been withheld. This policy has resulted in a loss of revenue for the City of Los Angeles and in the loss of opportunities to participate in events, including the recent loss of the opportunity to host over 60 high tech companies. Unfortunately, once lost these events may never return to San Pedro.

The current situation is disruptive to the goals of improving access to the waterfront, including more multi-day events for local residents and visitors from other areas of the City and from a much wider area. There is an urgent need to rectify this situation.

The requested action by the Mayor would protect the safety of our citizens while enabling the local community and the City to benefit from the use of the warehouses for special events.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Ray Regalado, President
On behalf of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council Board

Cc: William Chung, Deputy Mayor, Economic Development
    Brenda Shockley, Deputy Mayor, Economic Opportunities
    Joanna Rodriguez, Harbor Area Deputy
RESOLUTION RE USE OF WAREHOUSE SPACE

Whereas there is a shortage of special event space in the Harbor Area; and

Whereas some of the warehouses in the Port of Los Angeles have been traditionally used for special events; and

Whereas the “Ghost Shop” fire raised concerns about the safety of warehouses; and

Whereas the unique conditions that led to the Ghost Ship disaster do not exist in the Port of Los Angeles; and

Whereas the current policy regarding the use of warehouses for special events has resulted in a loss of revenue for the City of Los Angeles and in the loss of opportunities to participate in events, including the recent loss of the opportunity to host over 60 high tech companies; and

Whereas once lost, these events may never return to the Harbor; and

Whereas the current situation is disruptive to the goals of improving access to the waterfront, including more multi-day events for local residents and visitors from other areas of the City and from a much wider area; and

Whereas there is an urgent need to rectify this situation;

NOW THEREFORE the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council:

1. Supports CF 16-1433-S1 and requests that it be amended to do the following:
   a. Direct the Department of Building and Safety and the Fire Department to create a clear process for issuing temporary event permits for warehouses along with a simple checklist that can be used to determine safety compliance and to report pack with such a checklist and process in 45 days;
   b. Return the responsibility for issuing temporary event permits on Port of LA property to the Harbor Department.

2. Requests that the Mayor direct the Departments to develop a clear process and checklist within 45 days that can be used to determine safety compliance for temporary special event permits in warehouses and direct that the responsibility for issuing temporary event permits on Port of Los Angeles property be transferred to the Harbor Department.