



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

2175 Cherry Avenue • Signal Hill, California 90755-3799

General Plan Amendment and Zone Change for the KROC Center 1900 Walnut Avenue

LUD#10 & LUD# 11

Statement by Mayor Ellen Ward Before the City of Long Beach City Council

July 21, 2009

The City of Signal Hill wishes to express our support for the Ray & Joan Kroc Corp Community Center. We want to thank the Salvation Army and your staff for working closely with the City of Signal Hill to mitigate the impacts of the center. This 170,000 square foot center, located on the 19 acre Chittick Field, will provide much needed community services to Long Beach and Signal Hill individuals and families.

Signal Hill has provided comments as the project has moved forward through the planning stages. We appreciate the willingness of the Salvation Army and your planners to work to resolve the project's issues. Most notably, the project engineers have worked hard to address the storm water issues, including maintaining the storm water capacity of the Hamilton Bowl and adding devices to improve the storm water quality as well. We thank you for these important modifications.

Most recently your Planning Commission adopted a series of mitigation measures designed to deal with overflow parking and traffic congestion on Walnut Avenue. Since the lower parking structure, with its 530 car parking area, is designed to retain flood waters during winter rain storms, Signal Hill is concerned about overflow parking north of the Center. A parking requirement has been added to prevent overflow parking problems.

The Planning Commission also adopted mitigations to assist traffic entering the main entrance of the facility on Walnut Avenue, including a dedicated left-turn lane into the Center, with restricted parking on Walnut Avenue. We also expressed concern that the intersection of Walnut Avenue and Pacific Coast Highway requires widening and a southbound right-turn lane on Walnut Avenue, into Pacific Coast Highway.

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The intersection is currently substandard and Kroc Center and Long Beach Community College projects in the area will worsen the situation. We are pleased to learn that the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency has included the project in their capital improvement plan and that they have budgeted funds for offsite improvements, including the widening of this intersection to include the right turn lane. We understand that preliminary design is underway on the right turn lane and that Long Beach Community College is working closely with the City of Long Beach on the widening. This improvement will not only relieve existing traffic congestion, but will provide much need mitigation when the Kroc Center is completed.

We want to express our thanks to the City of Long Beach staff and to the Salvation Army for working to resolve our concerns. We also want to express our support for the project and will assist you as the project moves forward.