



Councilmember Steven Neal, Ninth District  
Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell, Fourth District  
Councilmember Al Austin, Eighth District  
City of Long Beach  
333 West Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, CA 90802

July 23, 2013

Dear Councilmembers Neal, O'Donnell, and Austin,

This letter is in regard to the resolution recommended in item #22 in the July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, Long Beach City Council Agenda.

La Casa Mental Health Rehabilitation Center has operated in partnership with Los Angeles County for 25 years and has a long-standing reputation for delivering high quality services. We are at present engaged in active, good faith bargaining with SEIU-UHW for our first contract. We have agreed upon a number of items in the contract, and are continuing to exchange proposals around the outstanding details.

Telecare has a record of bargaining in good faith with union organizations. In San Mateo, we work in partnership with the AFSCME union at Telecare's Cordilleras MHRC and Suites program, where we recently signed a 5-year contract with the union. We have enjoyed a great relationship with AFSCME and the represented employees at Cordilleras since 1982 (31 years). We also recently signed a 3-year contract with SEIU-UHW in Northern California for Telecare's Gladman MHRC and Villa Fairmont MHRC.

There have been some allegations of unsafe conditions at La Casa, which are untrue. In fact, this week, La Casa MHRC is celebrating their achievement of reducing reportable injuries by 50% in 2013. We are regularly surveyed by national and state accrediting agencies and have an outstanding record, which is reflected in our most recent survey. Surveyors for our State DSS licensing review commented that La Casa is "an excellent program", "clients are active and engaged" and there were no client complaints.

Our next negotiation date with SEIU-UHW is July 29<sup>th</sup>. We continue to bargain in good faith with SEIU-UHW and are fully committed to negotiating an agreement around the outstanding contract items. Please do not hesitate to call me directly if I can answer any questions or provide further information.

Thank you,

Faith Richie  
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