



**DOWNTOWN  
LONG BEACH  
ALLIANCE**

May 23, 2017

Long Beach City Council  
333 West Ocean Blvd, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: AGENDA ITEM 1 – 17-0380 Uphold the Planning Commission's decision to approve a Conditional Use Permit for a behavioral health urgent care center located at 3200-3220 Long Beach Boulevard (Application No. 1611-08).

Dear Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Downtown Long Beach Alliance's 5,000 stakeholders which includes tenants, and commercial and residential property owners, please accept this letter of support to approve a Conditional Use Permit for a behavioral health urgent care center located at 3200-3220 Long Beach Boulevard operated by Stars Behavioral Health Group (Stars).

The Stars Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center (BHUCC) is proposed as an 8,800-square foot facility with 47 full-time staff for specialized, out-patient care of adolescents (ages 13-17) and adults (ages 18-65) who are experiencing a mental health episode requiring immediate attention. Stars would operate a "Crisis Walk-In" Center from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm, seven days per week and a separate 24-hour psychiatric urgent care center, staffed with psychiatrists, nurses, mental health clinicians and support staff. Stars BHUCC will be fully funded by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, which has contracted with Stars for more than 20 years.

In addition to serving mostly walk-in patients in the same manner as a medical urgent care facility, the Stars BHUCC will offer the Long Beach Police Department Mental Evaluation and Quality of Life Teams, LBPD beat officers, paramedics and the Long Beach Unified School District a safe and secure location to bring patients for immediate outpatient treatment. While these transported patients are anticipated to account for less than 10% of those served at the urgent care center, the care offered by Stars will significantly decrease the time Police and Fire personnel will spend with persons experiencing a mental health crisis, from three to four hours at an emergency room to several minutes. Just as with a Medical Urgent Care Center, the individual will be assessed, seen by a doctor and will follow a course of treatment to get them back to their life as soon as possible. Without this critical health component in our community, we will see more persons who need assistance at our emergency rooms, which is not appropriate for the vast majority of individuals experiencing a mental health emergency.

We are very optimistic about the potential for the Stars BHUCC to make a positive impact on stakeholders in Downtown and the entire city of Long Beach. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions related to this endorsement.

Sincerely,

Kraig Kojian  
President & Chief Executive Office

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