

September 10, 2008

Larry Herrera
City Clerk of Long Beach
333 W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Opposition to Proposed Amendment for Extension of Eminent Domain
Power for Long Beach Redevelopment Agency.

Dear Mr. Herrera:

I am a long time resident of North Long Beach. I attended Long Beach schools as a child and teenager. I received training as a registered nurse at Long Beach City College and at California State University, Long Beach. I have spent most of my professional career working in Long Beach hospitals and medical centers. I have seen first hand what gangs, crime, and drugs can do to individuals, families, and communities.

While I applaud the efforts and mission of the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency in the North Long Beach Redevelopment Project, I am philosophically, morally, ethically, and economically opposed to extending eminent domain powers for twelve more years to the Redevelopment Agency. Living in a neighborhood of diverse ethnicities and cultural mores has enriched my life. Most of the individuals and families in the North Long Beach area are just trying to live their lives the best they can. They work hard, attend school, worship in their chosen places, pay their taxes, vote in elections, maintain their houses/properties and try to be good neighbors to each other. Yet the North Long Beach area is constantly besmirched as a blighted neighborhood as a whole.

By extending eminent domain powers, all residents (not just criminals, drug traffickers, gang members) are under the threat of losing their homes or having their homes devalued. If others are like me, their main financial investment and security is in their homes. I understand that eminent domain cannot be used to convey property to a private person. However, the letter that I received from the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency clearly stated "with that exception, all property in the Project Area is therefore subject to the possibility of acquisition by purchase or condemnation by the Agency....".

I worked hard to pay off my mortgage and improve my home and property. I always thought that if there was a life emergency, I could use my home as collateral or sell it for whatever the market would allow. Now, my property and others could potentially be "acquired" under the guise of eminent domain whenever any governmental agency or corporate entity desired it.

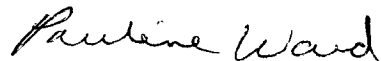
Eminent domain is wrong. I have always been opposed to eminent domain practices. I grew up in the fifties, when people were forced from their homes by the use of eminent domain to supposedly build freeways or shopping malls "for the public good". Yet, many of the acquired properties were never utilized by the cities that acquired them. The quality of life for many was ruined. Recent news has shown that not even churches are immune to the threat of eminent domain. Historically, property owners have been forced to relocate to areas not of their choosing and accept less than what the market will allow for compensation for their properties, even though they owned the property! How would the Redevelopment Agency staff, Major, and City Council feel if eminent domain was used to acquire their homes?

It does not take eminent domain to repair streets and sidewalks, to provide after-hour programs for children and youth, to enforce current building, health, and safety codes, drug trafficking laws and other gang and criminal ordinances or to encourage the participation of citizens to improve their neighborhoods. It takes all of us working together, not threatening citizens with the potential loss or devaluation of their homes. I say YES to redevelopment and improvement, but an adamant NO to the extension of eminent domain powers.

I had previously expressed my views by phone to staff members in the offices of Mayor Foster, Rae Gabelich, and Craig Beck. I recently underwent surgery and am recuperating, so I will not be attending the public hearings on September 15, 2008 and September 16, 2008 on this issue. According to the Notice of Public Hearings letter that I received, "any person may file in writing with the City Clerk of the City of Long Beach a statement of objections to the proposed Amendment." This is the intent of my letter. I was told by the Redevelopment Agency to send the letter to you. I received a message from you stating that I should send the letter to Craig Beck. Therefore, I am sending it to both of you.

I thank you, in advance, for your assistance in having my opposition to the amendment noted at the public hearings. I trust that thoughtful consideration on this issue by the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency and the City Council will result in a denial of the proposed amendment to extend eminent domain authority. I have enclosed copies of the letters that I received from the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency.

Sincerely,



Pauline Ward
258 East 52nd Street
Long Beach, CA 90805

Cc: Craig Beck, Executive Director, Long Beach Redevelopment Agency



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

333 West Ocean Blvd., 4th Floor Long Beach, CA 90802 Phone: 570.6428 Fax: 570.6205

August 14, 2008

Dear Property Owner:

Since 1996, the City of Long Beach and its Redevelopment Agency have acted aggressively to eliminate blighting conditions and improve neighborhoods and business districts within the northern part of Long Beach. These efforts have been coordinated with the community through the Redevelopment Agency's North Long Beach Redevelopment Project Area. The Redevelopment Agency (Agency) is considering an amendment (Amendment) to the Redevelopment Plan for the North Long Beach Redevelopment Project (Project) and invites you to attend two public hearings.

The Agency will hold a public hearing on September 15, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers located at City Hall, 333 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, California, to consider and act upon the proposed Amendment and to consider all evidence and testimony for or against the approval and adoption of the proposed Amendment. The City Council will hold a public hearing the following night, on September 16, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at City Hall, 333 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, California, to consider and act upon the proposed Amendment and to consider all evidence and testimony for or against the approval and adoption of the proposed Amendment. Enclosed with this letter are the official notices of the public hearings.

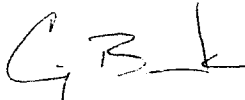
The purpose of the proposed Amendment is to extend the Agency's ability to exercise eminent domain to acquire properties in the Project Area, excluding certain portions of Sub-Area 5, for twelve (12) years from the date of the adoption of the Amendment. A map is provided for reference (Exhibit A) and a legal description of the boundaries of the Project Area is contained in Instrument Number 96 1152104 of the Official Records of the County of Los Angeles.

The latest equalized assessment roll indicates that you own property in the proposed Project Area. The proposed Amendment, if approved, will allow the Agency to continue with the power to acquire property by purchase or condemnation in order to eliminate blight, provide public improvements and facilities and permit development in accordance with the Redevelopment Plan for an additional twelve (12) years. However, the Agency will not have any power to acquire by eminent domain any owner-occupied residence, which has been the owner's principal place of residence (for at least one year), for the purpose of conveying it to a private person. With that exception, all property in the Project Area is therefore subject to the possibility of acquisition by purchase or condemnation by the Agency under the circumstances set forth in the Redevelopment Plan.

You may inspect and upon the payment of the costs of reproduction, obtain copies of the text of the proposed Amendment and all related documents at the office of the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Long Beach, 333 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, California, and at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 333 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach California. Your further inquiries and attendance at the public hearing are, of course, welcome.

If you have any questions, please call Lisa A. Fall at (562) 570-6853 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,



Craig Beck
Executive Director
Long Beach Redevelopment Agency

Attachments: Legal Notice and Project Area Map

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE NORTH LONG BEACH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE NORTH LONG BEACH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Long Beach (Agency) will hold a public hearing on September 15, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., in the City Council Chambers, located at City Hall, 333 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, California, to consider and act upon the proposed amendment (Amendment) to the Redevelopment Plan for the North Long Beach Redevelopment Project (Project) and to consider all evidence and testimony for or against the approval and adoption of the proposed Amendment. The City Council of the City of Long Beach (City Council) will also hold a public hearing on the same subject on September 16, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. At any time not later than the hours set forth above for the hearing of objections to the proposed Amendment, any person may file in writing with the City Clerk of the City of Long Beach a statement of objections to the proposed Amendment. At the day, hour and place of the hearing, any and all persons having any objections to the proposed Amendment, or the regularity of any of the prior proceedings, may appear before the Agency and show cause why the Amendment should not be adopted. At the hour set forth above for the hearing of objections, the Agency and City Council shall proceed to hear and pass upon all written and oral objections to the proposed Amendment.

In addition, the Agency and City Council will, at same time and place, consider the Negative Declaration on the proposed Amendment and consider all evidence and testimony for or against the approval of the Negative Declaration. At the day, hour and place of the hearing, any and all persons desiring to comment on, or having objections to, the adequacy of the Negative Declaration may appear before the Agency or City Council and be heard.

The purpose of the proposed Amendment is to extend the Agency's ability to exercise eminent domain to acquire properties in the Project Area, excluding certain portions of Sub-Area 5, for twelve (12) years from the date of the adoption of the Amendment. In addition, the Agency will not have any power to acquire by eminent domain any owner-occupied residence, which has been the owner's principal place of residence for at least one year, for the purpose of conveying it to a private person. A legal description of the boundaries of the Project Area is contained in Instrument Number 96 1152104 of the Official Records of the County of Los Angeles.

Interested persons may inspect and upon the payment of the costs of reproduction, obtain copies of the text of the proposed Amendment, the Report of the Agency to the City Council concerning the proposed Amendment, the Negative Declaration and any other information pertaining thereto, at the office of the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Long Beach, 333 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, California, and at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 333 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach California.