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Long Beach, California

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April 16, 2019

Hon. Robert Garcia, Mayor
Members of the Long Beach City Council
333 West Ocean Blvd
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers:

I write in support of the naming of the Long Beach City Council Chambers at the Civic Center the "Bob Foster Civic Chambers."

I served as City Prosecutor during Mayor Foster's second term of office and believe this is a fitting honor for him. The Civic Chambers will be the site of many difficult decisions in the city's future, and Mayor Foster will forever be remembered, among other things, for the difficult decisions that needed to be made during his terms of office.

At the time of his election in 2006, Mayor Foster and the City Council faced a slowing economy, followed by a global recession in 2007. All budget forecasting models had to be tossed aside. A new, sobering reality hit all levels of government, the reality that the city budget would need to be slashed. Jobs would need to be cut.

Reducing budgets and employees is one of the most difficult things for any elected official. Long Beach needed Mayor Foster's skill set at this time. Business leader Jack Welch once said, "Strong managers who make tough decisions to cut jobs provide the only true job security in today's world. Weak managers are the problem. Weak managers destroy jobs." The tough decisions made by Mayor Foster and the City Council made Long Beach stronger.

I watched him captain the city through a difficult time, and I hope he receives this honor to recognize his efforts. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need additional information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Douglas P. Haubert
Long Beach City Prosecutor