



COUNCILWOMAN  
JEANNINE PEARCE

**R-14**

**Date:** March 12, 2019

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilwoman Jeannine Pearce, District 2 *JP*  
Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez, District 1 *LG*  
Councilwoman Suzie Price, District 3 *SP*  
Vice Mayor Dee Andrews, District 6 *DA*

**Subject:** Bob Foster Civic Chambers

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

To forward a request from community members to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee, and the Harbor Commission, to consider naming the new chambers at the Civic Center the Bob Foster Civic Chambers.

**DISCUSSION**

With the pending move of City Hall and the Port of Long Beach Headquarters approaching, nearly three dozen community members sent a letter to the Mayor and City Council members asking that the City and the Port name the new Civic Chambers after former Mayor Bob Foster.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact.

**SUGGESTED ACTION**

Approve recommendation.

February 28, 2019

Long Beach Mayor & City Council  
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, California 90802

Dear Mayor Garcia, Vice Mayor Andrews and Councilmembers:

The City of Long Beach is blessed to have outstanding community leaders. One person who fits that description is our friend Bob Foster. We are writing to ask you to honor the legacy and contributions of Mayor Bob Foster. We represent a wide range of people from across Long Beach and California and we all agree that Mayor Foster's leadership to our state deserve recognition in his adopted hometown. We ask that you consider naming the new council chamber in the Long Beach Civic Center the **Bob Foster Civic Chamber** to honor his lifetime of service.

Mayor Bob Foster was elected as the 27<sup>th</sup> Mayor of Long Beach in June 2006 and overwhelmingly reelected to a second term in 2010. He led the City of Long Beach through the tumultuous period of the great recession, making hard decisions to help the city cope with significant funding reductions and to make the city fiscally stable in the long run. He helped forge a path forward on pension reform by collaborating with employee groups to protect their pensions while also reducing pension obligations for the City.

Mayor Foster also helped lead innovative public private partnerships like the George Deukmejian Courthouse and developed the process to build the new Long Beach Civic Center, which will open later this year. When the seismic deficiencies of the current City Hall were discovered, he worked with staff to conduct an RFI and RFP process to build a new City Hall, Main Library, and Lincoln Park by leveraging existing dollars and using private capital to deliver public facilities. The Civic Center project would not have happened without his leadership and vision.

Before being elected Mayor, Bob served as president of Southern California Edison and retired in 2006 after more than 20 years with the company. As an Edison executive, he led California's largest electric company through the 1999 energy crisis. During his tenure, Edison developed the largest renewable, clean energy program (solar, geothermal, biomass and wind) in the United States.

Mayor Foster began his career in public service as a staffer in the California State Senate and California Energy Commission where he established statewide energy efficiency standards that are still enforced today. He was appointed as the Environment Committee chair in 2008, elected to the Advisory Board in 2009 and the Board of Trustees in 2010 for the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Mayor Foster also served on the Board of Governors for the California Independent Systems Operator (ISO) and as a trustee to the California State University System. The CSU System saw impressive gains in student achievement and growth during his time on the Board.

Mayor Foster is a graduate of San Jose State University in public administration and received an Honorary Doctorate in recognition of his significant contributions.

Our specific request is that the Council forward this letter to the Council's Housing and Neighborhoods Committee, as well as the Harbor Commission, for consideration. Few Californians can match Mayor Foster's achievements or the

breadth and depth of his service. We think naming the new chamber the **Bob Foster Civic Chamber** is a fitting tribute to his lifetime of service.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carmen O. Perez, Former Harbor Commissioner  
Gloria Deukmejian, Former First Lady of California  
Willie Brown, Former California Assembly Speaker  
Don Knabe, Former LA County Supervisor  
Dr. Jane Close Conoley, President, CSULB  
Christopher Steinhauser, Superintendent, LBUSD  
Gloria Cordero, Long Beach Water Commissioner  
Rick Zbur, Executive Director, Equality California  
Naomi Rainey-Pierson, President, NAACP Long Beach Chapter  
Jessica Quintana, Executive Director, Centro C.H.A.  
Ron Miller, Executive Secretary, LA/OC Building & Construction Trades Council  
Peter Santillan, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 1309  
Rex Pritchard, President, Long Beach Firefighters, IAFF Local 372  
Jim Foster, President, Long Beach Police Officers Association  
Skip Keesal, Founder & Shareholder, Keesal, Young & Logan  
John Molina, Founding Partner, Pacific6  
Pastor Wayne Chaney, Sr., Antioch Church  
William Rouse, General Manager, Yellow Cab of Long Beach  
John Morris, General Manager, Boathouse on the Bay  
Greg Bombard, President, Catalina Express  
Dan Zaharoni, Chief Development Officer, Urban Commons  
Dr. Mike Walter, Professor and Executive Assistant to the President, CSULB  
caryn desai, Artistic Director, ICT Long Beach  
Kelly Lucera, President, Long Beach Symphony  
Michael Dene, Proprietor, Michael on Naples  
LaVerne Duncan, Executive Director, Andy Street Community Association  
Blair Cohn, Executive Director, Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association  
Steve James, Long Beach Police Officers Association - Retired  
Kambiz Babaoff, Chairman, Ensemble Real Estate & Investments  
Steve Goodling, President & CEO, Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Judy Seal, Executive Director, Long Beach Education Foundation  
Terry Antonelli, Owner, L'Opera Restaurant  
Jim Michaelian, President & CEO, Grand Prix of Long Beach  
Jean Bixby Smith, Vice President and Director, Bixby Land Company  
Barbara Bixby Blackwell, Philanthropist & Community Leader  
John Thomas, Historic Preservation Consultant