

R-17 CORRESPONDENCE – Hugh Little

Hello,

This letter is to request the Long Beach City Council to not select any vendor to prepare the roughly \$350,000 Feasibility Study for a Federal Inspection Service Facility (Customs Facility) at the Long Beach Airport. Located underneath the flight path of the smaller runways, California Heights Neighborhood Association has expressed its opposition to the Customs Facility due to the negative impacts it could have on our noise ordinance (see attached June 19, 2015 letter). Although the roughly \$350,000 study would come out of the airport's budget, we believe that these funds would be best appropriated elsewhere.

According to the November 2015 crime statistics published by the Long Beach Police Department, violent crimes are up 21.4% and property crimes are up 14.9% as compared to November 2014 statistics. In fact, in EVERY month of 2015 (where statistics are available) the total crime rate was higher in 2015 when compared to 2014. Also, when compared to 2010, overall crimes in 2015 are up by 18.2%. According to figures included in the City's budget, the cost of the Feasibility Study could cover all expenses of two-average salary police officers – including all overhead and equipment. Considering that the starting salary of an officer is roughly \$63,500, the cost of the Feasibility Study could also cover the salary of 11 junior officers for six months.

Also, on March 24, 2015, the Director of Public Works indicated that the City of Long Beach has a "fair" rating, or a 60 out of a 100 "Pavement Condition Index" scale. This report also discloses that there is a "20 percent backlog" to repair our streets, which tends "to become unmanageable." The cost of the Feasibility Report could be used to repair about a one-half mile segment of a smaller asphalt street, including curb and sidewalk replacements.

With the crime rate rising in the city of Long Beach and our streets in disrepair, the cost of the Feasibility Study should be used for something beneficial. In fact, Mario Rodriguez, the former Long Beach Airport Director prepared a memo regarding the Federal Inspection Facility on November 13, 2013 (attached). In this memo, he states that "[f]uture revenues from [a Customs Facility] will only serve to mitigate the cost of the facility and not further enhance the Airport's financial position." With the City in need of funding for other departments, why waste nearly \$350,000 on a detailed study that will not produce an economic benefit for the airport?

The California Heights Neighborhood Association would like to urge the City Council of Long Beach to not select any vendor for Agenda Item No. 17 on the January 19th City Council Agenda.

Sincerely,

Hugh Little

President, CHNA