

August 6, 2019

Mayor Robert Garcia & Long Beach City Council
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

It is with great pleasure that we submit this letter of support for the nomination of **Steven Neal** to the **Board of Harbor Commissioners**.

Mr. Neal is a well-qualified candidate who has dedicated his life to the service of others as a City Councilmember, Commissioner on many City boards, activist, faith leader, and advocate of working families. In these capacities, he has championed policies and programs that improve the community's quality of life and expand access to opportunities, not only in Long Beach but across the Greater Los Angeles region.

This nomination is historic, as Steven Neal has the unique opportunity to become the first person from the North Long Beach community and second African American man to be appointed to the Board of Harbor Commissioners in its history. He is uniquely qualified for this position, that guides one of the nation's busiest container seaports and one of the City's most vital economic engines.

While the Port of Long Beach is lauded for being a trailblazer in sustainability, goods movement, and its generous support for community organizations, these bold strides would not be possible without the leadership of an innovative Board of Commissioners. For this reason, the Port is undergoing a significant capital improvement program that will modernize infrastructure to secure a green future and generate thousands of new jobs. As the former Ninth District Councilmember and an active board member to several agencies and local non-profits, Neal offers a perspective that is sure to strengthen the Port's commitment to our local neighborhoods as an industry leader and a pillar in the community.

Finally, Mr. Neal has been a tireless voice for labor throughout his career. In his new role, he is committed to safeguarding the economic benefits that are enjoyed by the women and men who work on our waterfront, and the local businesses that benefit from the Port's infusion into the local economy. He is committed to making sure that these men and women have the training they need to keep themselves safe, and to aide in protecting against threats and suspicious activity in one of the nation's most attractive terrorism targets. Their eyes, ears, and response can never be matched by robots.

We thank you for supporting Steven Neal's appointment to the Board of Harbor Commissioners.

Respectfully,

Hon. Doris Topsy Elvord
Ret. Vice Mayor and Harbor Commissioner

Hon. Ed Wilson
Signal Hill City Council

Lori Ann Farrell
Ret. Harbor Commissioner

Darrell Alexander
Realtor

Samara Ashley
Community Leader

Nicole Ballard
African American Historical Society of Long Beach

Ryan Ballard
African American Historical Society of Long Beach

Charlyn Bender
Attorney

LaDawn Best
President, East Village Neighborhood Association

Aaron Blackburn
Ret. Los Angeles Police Department

Bobby Blake
Insurance Executive

Byron Bolton
Global Business Solutions

Zina Bourda-Foe
Community Advocate, National Council of Negro Women

Gloria Bradley
Country Club Manor Neighborhood Association

Ralph Brooks
Board member, Health & Human Services, Houghton Park Neighborhood Association

Darlene Broom
Deforest Park Neighborhood Association

Eric Burroughs
100 Black Men, Long Beach

Dr. Gregory Canillas
Business Owner, Associate Professor of Psychology

Tina Carter
African American Historical Society of Long Beach

Hakim Chambers
Community Advocate

Wayne Chaney, Jr.
Lead Pastor, Antioch Church

Wayne Chaney, Sr.
Commissioner, Airport Advisory Commission
Long Beach Fireman

Ludlow B. Creary II, Esq.
Community Leader

Anitra Dempsey
Community Leader

Patricia Dixon
Executive Director, Pools of Hope

Laverne Duncan
Executive Director, Andy Street Community Association

Davian Freeman
Vice President, NAACP Long Beach Branch

Sumire Gant
Consultant, Community Advocate

Tony Gales
Accountant

Duke Givens
Filmmaker

Ivy Goolsby
Real Estate Executive

Dr. Arthur Gray
Community Leader

Melissa Guy
Business Owner, Community Advocate

Cecile Harris Walters

Community Leader

Jordan Hinshaw

Engineer, Ret. Professional Baseball Player

Otis Hogan

Human Relations Commissioner
Co-Chair, Houghton Park Neighborhood
Association

Dr. Crystal Howard-Johnson

Community Leader

Roberta Jenkins

Business Owner, Philanthropist

Matthew Jenkins

Ret. University President, Ret. Veterinarian

Gregory Johnson

Co-Managing Director, DreamKreator Studio

Jesse Johnson

Vice President, NAACP Long Beach Branch

Dr. Kimberly Johnson

Educator

Carl Kemp

Community Leader

Evelyn Knight

Civil Rights Leader

Walter Larkins

Economic Development Commissioner

Jordan Le Blanc

Clinical Therapist

Shelia LeFridge

Community Advocate

Pam Lewis

Director of Community Partnerships & Success
Initiatives

Rhonda Love

Co-Managing Director, DreamKreator Studio

Deaka McClain

Community Advocate

Sharon McLucas

Forgotten Images Travelling Museum

Erik Miller

Executive Director, PV JOBS

Ennette Morton

Youth and Families Commissioner

Jimmy Murray

Board member, Starr King Neighborhood
Association

Alex Norman

Community Advocate, Ret. Professor

Deidre Norville

Business Owner

Uduak-Joe Ntuk

Long Beach Community College Trustee

Charles Parks

Ret. Commander, Long Beach Police
Department and Former Water Commissioner

Howard Perry

Realtor

Robin Perry

Attorney, Former Civil Service Commissioner

Brandon Price

Educator

Naomi Rainey-Pierson

President, NAACP Long Beach Branch

Nina Richardson

USC Marshall, School of Business

Joni Ricks-Odie

Citizen Police Complaint Commissioner,
Deforest Park Neighborhood Association

Dr. Lance Roberts

President, 100 Black Men Long Beach

Ace Robinson, MHL MPH

Acting CEO, Avielle Foundation

Doris Robinson

Ret. Educator, Non-Profit Executive

Ahmed Saafir

Business Owner, Former Civil Service
Commissioner

Pastor Gregory Sanders

Lead Pastor, The ROCK, Long Beach
President, Long Beach Ministers Alliance

Sabrina Sanders

Educator, University Administrator

Adrienne Sears

Educator

Darick Simpson

Executive Director, Long Beach Community
Action Partnership
Community Advocate

Dr. Charles Smith

Youth and Families Commissioner

Barbara Sullivan

Business Owner

Tunua Thrash-Ntuk

Executive Director, LA Local Initiatives Support
Corporation

Robin Thorne

Engineer, Business Owner
Former Sustainability Commissioner

Marcus Tyson

Private Investor and Philanthropist

Dr. Sharon Valear Robinson

Ret. Educator

Phyllis Venable

Ret. City of Long Beach Employee

Max Viltz

Co-Chair, African American Cultural Center and
Business Owner

Nevon Watson

Maurice Maynard Foundation

Yvonne Wheeler

Community Leader

Dr. Eric Williams

Business Owner and Professor

Vivian Williams-Malauulu

Long Beach Community College Trustee
Youth and Families Commissioner

Dr. Gloria Willingham-Toure

University Provost Emerita
Founder, Village Projects

Linda Wilson

Homeless Services Advisory Committee
Member
College Square Neighborhood Association

Rev. Leon O. Wood, Jr.

Ret. Pastor
Founder, Success in Challenges

Paula Wood

Executive Director, Success in Challenges