

LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SERVING LONG BEACH, LAKEWOOD, SIGNAL HILL AND AVALON

BOARD OF EDUCATION
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December 22, 2015

The Honorable Roberto Uranga
City of Long Beach
333 West Ocean Blvd, 14th Floor
Long Beach, California 90802

Dear Mr. Uranga,

I am writing today in support of the proposal from Councilmember Richardson to name the new North Branch Library, currently under construction, in honor of our First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama.

This library is a symbol of dedication and perseverance with a focus on the future of our entire community—especially our young people. The life and work of Mrs. Obama is a testament to exactly those things. Her dedication to her own education, her family, our country, and children across the world is something that resonates very strongly for me personally and is a tremendous example for us all.

Councilmember Richardson has stated that he was approached by a student from Jordan High School to share the idea before you today. I applaud that he not only listened, but acted on this wonderful idea. The young people of today are engaged, thoughtful, and eager to be involved in our community. By valuing their voice and opinions, we help to make real the very things we hope that our new library will come to symbolize.

The naming of public spaces and buildings is a matter that requires much research and thoughtful reflection; even more so when we recognize and honor individual people. By the nature of our humanity, not one of us is perfect and critics will find flaws in any potential honoree. In this process, we must consider not only the contributions made by the individual, but the context of their achievements. The agenda item before you will allow this important conversation to continue and create opportunities for future community engagement.

Each generation will define those whom they feel are worthy of an honor such as this. We cannot fully understand the impact one leader has on each and every generation. While building a consensus on these decisions can be a challenge, I personally believe that honoring First Lady Obama is the right thing for North Long Beach—both for our community of today and for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Megan M. Kerr
Board of Education