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CAMBODIAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
A Nonprofit Human Services Organization

May 9, 2023

Dear Honorable Long Beach Mayor and City Councilmembers,

On Behalf of the Cambodian Association of America, I am writing this letter to support the proposed Cambodian American Cultural Center Vision and Feasibility Plan (Plan) for the City of Long Beach; and urges you to support and approve by voting "Yes" on May 9, 2023 City Council Meeting Agenda Item 17 for a Long Beach Cambodian American Culture Center as recommended by the City Manager.

Cambodian Association of America was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1975 to help resettle the first wave of Cambodian refugees and immigrants in the City of Long Beach and subsequently the second and third wave of Cambodian refugees and immigrants in 13 other states across America.

Now, after 48 years, Long Beach is the home to the largest Cambodian community outside of Cambodia and anywhere in the United States. Cambodian refugees and immigrants are among the most traumatized populations in the United States. Cambodian refugees who are now older adults experienced the genocide "Killing Fields" firsthand from 1975-1979 during which more than 2 million lives were lost and the Khmer art and culture were almost obliterate forever.

The City of Long Beach is home to many cultural sites, including the Museum of Latin American Art, the Pacific Island Ethnic Museum, the Homeland Cultural Center and the Long Beach Japanese Cultural Center. The establishment of the Cambodian American Cultural Center will continue the ongoing tradition of celebrating the diverse art and cultures in Long Beach.

Therefore, it is a crucial time now to establish the Cambodian American Cultural Center in order to foster Cambodian American friendship, to celebrate and share the achievements and resiliency of Cambodian American refugee experiences, and preserve the Cambodian culture and heritage for the generations to come.

Thank you for your support and consideration. If you have any further questions, please contact me at my email "kimthai988@gmail.com".

Sincerely,

Kimthai Kuoch, MPA
Chief Executive Officer

California State Senate

STANDING COMMITTEES
ENERGY, UTILITIES
& COMMUNICATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
HEALTH

JOINT COMMITTEES
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
RULES



SENATOR LENA A. GONZALEZ
THIRTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT
SENATE MAJORITY WHIP
CHAIR, SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

May 9, 2023

City of Long Beach
411 W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Support Item 17 – Presentation of Proposed Cambodian American Cultural Center Vision and Feasibility Plan.

Dear Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,

As the State Senator representing California's 33rd District, I'm writing to support item 17 to receive and file a presentation on the City of Long Beach Proposed Cambodian American Cultural Center Vision and Feasibility Plan.

Long Beach is one of the most diverse and culturally rich cities in the country. After the Cambodian genocide, which is characterized as one of the most horrific events in human history, more than 140,000 Cambodians took refuge in the United States. Many of them made the City of Long Beach their new home, making it the largest Cambodian population outside the country of Cambodia. During this time, Cambodian art and culture were nearly lost forever. Therefore, it is imperative to have a Cambodian Cultural Center that promotes, preserves, and celebrates Cambodian art, culture, and history.

For these reasons, I express my support for item 17. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at (562) 256-7921 with any questions regarding my support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lena Gonzalez".

Lena Gonzalez
Senator, Senate District 33

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