

March 17, 2021

Councilmember Joe Buscaino  
Harbor District Office  
638 S. Beacon St., Rm 552  
San Pedro, CA 90731

Captain Jay Mastick  
LAPD Harbor Division  
2175 John S. Gibson Blvd.  
San Pedro, CA 90731

Dear: Councilmember Joe Buscaino, CD15 and Captain Jay Mastick, LAPD Harbor Division

The Harbor City Neighborhood Council has concerns regarding the quality of life of the stakeholders and feel that discrepancies may exist in the service we receive within Harbor City. Many residents have expressed that they have been ignored over the past few years and especially since the beginning of the COVID19 pandemic early 2020.

1. **COVID19 Emergency Relief:** When CD15 established their COVID19 relief plan, \$500K was used from CD15 discretionary funds, which was then matched by a private donor, making the total fund \$1M. These funds were used amongst the 6 cities within CD15. There were some decent provisions provided i.e. \$100 grocery gift cards (CD15 large purchase discounted 25% by grocery store), and senior meals 2 times a week for 7 weeks. Harbor City residents received a mere 25 grocery gift cards, which isn't even 1% of the city's population. As the pandemic continued, CD15 staff was approached in early summer to inquire if further assistance could be provided to seniors and other residents who continued to struggle. The answer by CD15 staff was that the funds were gone. In July 2020, CD15 staff was asked to provide a breakdown of the \$1M, categorized by City within CD15 of distribution of gift cards and senior meals; as of this date no definitive breakdown or answer has been received. We believe that transparency should be honored with regard to City funds.
2. **Dangerous Street Racers in Harbor City:** Over the past year, street racers have plagued our streets, rain or shine, and all hours of the day and night into wee hours. Numerous complaints have been filed @ LAPD Harbor division, calls & texts to Senior Lead Officer, and posted on social media sites. Streets primarily impacted are Vermont, Normandie, & Belle Porte, between Pacific Coast Hwy. & Lomita Blvd. Other streets have been impacted as well. High speeds and spinning are so very dangerous to homes and pedestrians. Because there has been no resolution to this dangerous activity, Harbor City Neighborhood Council has purchased "Slow Down" signs in the hope of curbing this criminal activity. It is unfortunate that we had to spend public funds on an issue that should be addressed by those who are in a position to protect and serve our community.
3. **Significant gang activity at encampment in Harbor City (Lomita Blvd., Vermont, McCoy, & 253rd):** Over the past year, there have been numerous shootings, stabbings, rapes, & fires specifically carried out by the criminal gang presence as retaliatory measures against others at that encampment. Several of the long time occupants at this site have been relocated to permanent housing, a Bridge Home, or Project RoomKey. Realizing that outreach by social services personnel has been limited over the past year, it is requested that a priority be placed

at this site because there are several residing there, living in fear, who deserve and desire to be provided an opportunity away from the dangerous environment of this site. A number of HOA residents adjacent to the encampment and community members have written to us and voiced significant concerns about their safety. We have continuously encouraged stakeholders to contact the council office to report safety issues and report criminal activity to LAPD. Sadly stakeholders are reluctant because of previous responses have been slow or not existent. For example and stakeholder reported that an issue was reported to LAPD about the influx of gang activity and what was being done to resolve, officers questioned the individual how they knew that there were gang members at the encampment? did they show a card? and what was LAPD supposed to do about it!? This is only one example however, it is quite concerning and reason why we are writing to you at this time.

We invite you to attend our next Harbor City Neighborhood Council Stakeholder and Governing Board Meeting in order to address the matters herein.