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November 20, 2017

Councilmember Joe Buscaino
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson
City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 17-0042 (Ban on developer campaign contributions)

Dear Councilmembers Buscaino and Harris-Dawson:

On November 14, 2017, our Board voted 11-0-0 to support Council File 17-0042 which would cause the City Ethics Commission to prepare an ordinance prohibiting contributions to City elected officials and candidates for City office from developers and their principals with development projects currently or recently being considered for discretionary approval by the City. We would like to see "recent" development projects defined as those having been completed at least three years prior to any campaign donation being made. Such an ordinance is needed to increase transparency in election financing as well as to restore residents' trust in an impartial election process which is not so dependent on contributions from non-voters.

We further support having the definition of a "developer" being as broadly defined as possible. We also support best practices for enforcement of this new ordinance, with examples being taken from other jurisdictions which have implemented such bans.

We also support the Ethics Commission providing a method for additional information on contributions from non-individual entities, including a category that denotes contributions derived from developers and their principals. And we support requiring a signed affidavit that requires the contributor to positively affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the contribution is being made by the contributor, that the contributor is not being reimbursed, and that the contributor does not have any open applications for discretionary approval of development projects before the City.

Sincerely,

Hannah Woods, Corresponding Secretary
Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council

cc: John Jones III, Field Deputy – Council District 15
Albizaal Delvalle, Field Deputy - Council District 8