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HARBOR GATEWAY NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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January 12, 2022

Councilmember Joe Buscaino
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street – Room 410
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Pocket park at 809-813 W. 165th Place, Gardena, CA 90247

Dear Councilmember Joe Buscaino:

On January 11, 2022, our Board voted 9-0-0 to support the creation of a pocket park at 809-813 W. 165th Place across from the Environmental Charter Middle School. Both the current Harbor Gateway Community Plan and the Plan which is being updated stress the need for more open space. The location of the proposed pocket park is in a section of our internal District 1 which is already densely populated with duplexes and apartment buildings. The closest public park, Rosecrans Recreation Center, is located more than a mile away and across a busy major street.

The proposal was first presented to us at our December 14, 2021, Board meeting. At that time our Board and stakeholders expressed support for the concept of turning the two parcels into open space which the Environmental Charter Middle School would use during weekday hours in support of their environmental education program and that the public would have access to during the evening hours and on weekends with the provision of adequate security and supervision of the area. We envision the site as providing more trees for shade, carbon absorption, and habitat for wildlife, as well as garden-related community activities and education, such as classes on how to grow vegetables and how to compost, along with possible opportunities for exercise within the space.

Sincerely,

Miguel Vasquez, Chairperson
Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council

cc: Darryl Ford, Acting Superintendent for Planning – Department of Recreation and Parks
Michael Shull, General Manager – Department of Recreation and Parks
Teresa Batson, City Planner – Department of City Planning
Christopher Pina, City Planner - Department of City Planning
Environmental Charter Schools