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## **HARBOR GATEWAY NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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September 14, 2022

Councilmember Joe Buscaino  
City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Use of space in the Harbor Gateway Community Center, 802 W. Gardena Blvd.

Dear Councilmember Buscaino:

On August 9, 2022, our Board voted x-x-x to put into writing a request that when space is available in the Harbor Gateway Community Center, 802 W. Gardena Blvd., our Neighborhood Council be given priority to use it. Specifically this would mean use of a small office space and also use of the larger space in the evenings and on weekends for Committee meetings and possibly occasional Board meetings.

For many years a community resident, Betty Trull, had worked to see that a community center was built along Gardena Blvd. Finally funds were secured for the construction of the building under the Targeted Neighborhood Initiative, using community development block grant funding. The building was constructed by the General Services Department and was one of the first “green” buildings in the City of Los Angeles. Besides being leased for use by the Boys and Girls Club, exercise classes and English language learning classes were offered in the building during the morning hours, before the Boys and Girls Club began its afternoon operations.

From the building opening in 2002, the Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council was granted use of an office space and the ability to hold meetings in the building after hours. The Neighborhood Council was issued its own set of front door keys and a dedicated code for the security alarm system. Our Neighborhood Council coordinated our use of the building for Committee meetings and other outreach activities with the staff of the Boys and Girls Club and also shared use of the storage shed. However, after the retirement of Mike Herrera who had headed the Harbor City Boys and Girls Clubs and consolidation of those Clubs with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the LA Harbor, in February 2020 we were asked to give up our office space

so that the Gardena Blvd. Club could expand into our space. We reluctantly moved out in July 2020, used storage space on City of Los Angeles property at 103<sup>rd</sup> Street and finally in 2021 moved into office space at 555 W. Redondo Beach Blvd.

However, the cost of paying for our current office, which has also has space for Committee meetings when we are again authorized to meet in person, is taking up a very big percentage of our annual budget. We are in the process of moving to a smaller, cheaper office, but that will not have space for any meetings and we are not guaranteed use of other space in the building for meetings. There are no other City buildings located within our boundaries and very few office spaces. Therefore, we want to go on record to ask that when space is again available in the Harbor Gateway Community Center, we be given first priority for its use.

Sincerely,

Miguel Vazquez, Chairperson  
Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council

cc: Mike Lansing, Chief Executive Officer – Boys and Girls Clubs LA Harbor  
Hilda Herrera, Harbor City Regional Director – Boys and Girls Clubs LA Harbor  
Jacob Haik, Deputy Chief of Staff – Council District 15  
Gabriela Medina, District Director – Council District 15  
Caitlin Muldoon, Field Deputy – Council District 15