



# CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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February 29, 2016

Chief of Police, Charlie Beck  
LAPD Headquarters  
100 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Mayor Eric Garcetti  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilman Joe Buscaino  
Harbor District Office  
638 S. Beacon Street, Suite 552  
San Pedro, CA 90731

Re: Harbor Division Jail

Gentlemen,

It has been nearly two years since our neighborhood council corresponded with all of you regarding the still closed Harbor Division Jail and we are writing you again to remind you of both the need and urgency for the opening of this facility. The continued use of the 77<sup>th</sup> street jail is not only a waste of time and resources but it is also an abridgement of our rights as citizens of the City of Los Angeles.

Back in June of 1909 the Los Angeles City Council “filed and approved” The Report of the Consolidation Committee of the City of Los Angeles, in which it states in the 7<sup>th</sup> item on page 5 of Exhibit 1 that “*a police station, with a sufficient number of officers and men, be at once established in that portion of the consolidated city, now known as San Pedro, to safely guard and protect the interests of said portion of the consolidated city and that a department of the Police Court, properly officered, be established therein.*”

We submit to you that having a fully functioning jail was understood at the time of the passage of this council action as related to “a department of the Police Court” and that the promise of “a sufficient number of officers” would include jailors for such a facility. The failure to fully staff Harbor Division with both officers and jailors is a breach of the original contract with both San Pedro and Wilmington made during the consolidation with us into the City of Los Angeles.

Furthermore, we submit that not only is the remote distance of the current jail at 77<sup>th</sup> Division from our community a burden on the police but it is also an abridgment of our rights to access to the legal system for both the relatives of the detainees, their legal counsels as it is for the public in general. This is a significantly bigger issue that might lead some to seek legal redress and become yet another liability for both LAPD and the City.

**James P. Allen**  
President

**Donald Galaz**  
Vice President

**Khixaan Obioma-Sakhu**  
Secretary

**Danielle Sandoval**  
Treasurer

**Donald Galaz**  
Communications/Outreach

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We heard your commitment from the Public Safety/Crime forum held on February 4, 2016 that Chief Beck promises to open the jail within the next 36 months; however, we find that goal insufficient at best. We have directed our Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates to recommend budget items in the 2015-16 budget for the hiring of sufficient personnel to fully staff the Harbor Division jail within the next year so that the sworn LAPD officers can have more time to respond to constituency calls rather than being chauffeurs for arrestees.

Sincerely,



James P. Allen, President  
On behalf of the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council  
(Letter approved by the Board on February 9, 2016)

cc: Councilman Joe Buscaino c/o Ryan Ferguson  
Office of Mayor Garcetti c/o Manny Lopez