CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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February 26, 2014

Carlos C. Martel, Director
Customs and Border Protection
Los Angeles / Long Beach Seaport
301 E. Ocean Blvd.,
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Director Martel,

The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council strongly opposes the detention of Filipino and Indonesian crew members aboard cruise line ships while they are docked in the Port of Los Angeles.

The detention of these workers has had a negative effect on our community. Our Port needs to be viewed as welcoming to foreign visitors and yet your department is discriminating against certain minorities who would normally enter. This action has caused significant damage to the businesses in San Pedro which were patronized by the crew members.

Added to this negative economic impact, other crew members are demonstrating their solidarity with the affected workers by staying on board while in port, thus exacerbating the loss of business.

The Council is also offended by the need for the detention order. Los Angeles is the only port where the detention is in effect. Do crew members only "jump" ship in one port? Also, the detention appears to be based on a very small number of crewmen who "jump" ship.

The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council is asking for:

1. An immediate end to this unfair and probably unconstitutional practice;
2. A response explaining the rationale behind the detention in only this one west coast port, and
3. An accurate tally of number of crewmembers who have "jumped" ship in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Linda Alexander

Linda Alexander, President
Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council

cc: Port of Los Angeles; Chamber of Commerce; CD15 Councilman; Congresswoman Hahn