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*Councilman Greig Smith  
Twelfth District*

May 11, 2009

Sent via Email and US Mail

Tony Reinis  
Executive Director  
New Directions  
11303 Wilshire Blvd., VA Bldg. #116  
Los Angeles, CA 90073-1003

Dora Leong Gallo  
Chief Executive Officer  
A Community of Friends  
3345 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1000  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Dear Ms. Reinis & Ms. Gallo:

As you are well aware, your proposal for homeless housing at the Veteran's facility in my district has received a lot of attention. I felt it was important to allow you the necessary time to work with the community to answer their questions and concerns. This process is a critical time for an applicant to go door-to-door, meet with key stakeholders, disseminate information, and address residents' concerns. Because of the sensitivity of this project, and the fact that this is on Federal Veterans land, could benefit United States Military Veterans, and could directly benefit local Veterans, I decided to remain neutral until I felt that all of the facts were presented. During that time I heard from the key stakeholders in the community on their concerns and a public hearing was held.

After the February 20, 2009 Zoning Administrator's (ZA) hearing in which over 200 people attended that lasted four hours, I sent you a letter challenging you to obtain local support. I was deeply concerned that you had not done a good job of winning the support of local Neighborhood Councils and other community stakeholders and, most importantly, the local Veterans' groups as we expected.

I explained clearly in my letter that there are a number of concerns and questions that have been brought to the surface by key stakeholders from throughout the community. My office has also

received numerous letters, emails and phone calls of opposition to this project but very few letters of support and virtually no support from local Veteran organizations. I left the door open and gave you the time and opportunity to earn their support. Unfortunately, you have failed to do this.

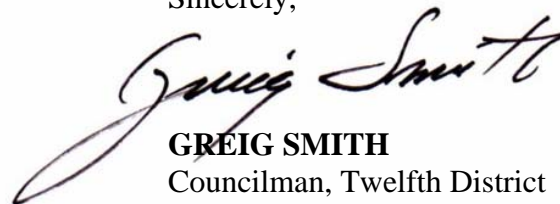
Based on the ZA's opinion released this past Friday, I feel that it is incumbent upon me to make my opinion in opposition public.

As a Veteran myself and father of a young man currently serving active duty in the United States Navy, and as a patriot, I take the matter of caring for our Veterans extremely seriously. My Chief of Staff, Mitchell Englander, who has also been working very closely with the local community on this issue, truly cares about fighting to protect our Veterans. In fact, his father who passed away recently was a 100% disabled Veteran.

There are numerous concerns from the local community; however, there is one constant argument – the “Veterans preference” language. As I have previously stated and understand that this language was used out of concern for federal housing laws to satisfy federal funding requirements, I have always had the concern that this does not go far enough to protect the men and women of our United States military, and their families, who have suffered and gave their lives to protect our Country and our freedom.

In order for me to even look at this project again, it would be with the condition of a newly signed agreement by all parties that this will be used solely and exclusively for our United States Veterans. Further, I would also require that with this new written agreement, you obtain support from local Veterans and other key local organizations. Therefore, unless you can modify the agreements as such, and obtain local support, I urge you not to appeal the ZA's opinion.

Sincerely,



**GREIG SMITH**  
Councilman, Twelfth District

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