

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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October 18, 2019

Honorable Lula Davis-Holmes
City of Carson, City Council
701 E. Carson Street
Carson, CA 90745

Dear Councilwoman Davis-Holmes,

Thank you for your leadership in coordinating last week's meeting between the City and the University. I believe the meeting was highly productive in helping to crystalize the scope and purpose of the master plan, clarify issues of concern as well as many areas of agreement, between the City and University. As we have identified, by working together, the Dominguez Hills campus and City have the potential to achieve great things that can be unprecedented, including collaborative projects that will benefit our community. This is a very special time for the City and University as we are both evolving for the betterment of our community, and I look forward to continuing shared dialogue.

As discussed in the meeting, California State University, Dominguez Hills has absolutely zero interest in and will not be bringing trucking or any form of logistics or warehousing to our campus. To be absolutely clear, the Campus Master Plan addressed in the final EIR does not include or contemplate the construction of any trucking/logistical facilities as part of the project, nor will CSUDH construct or have constructed any trucking/logistical facilities on its campus. Our goal is to develop opportunities for students and residents to learn from emerging industries through research, innovation workforce development and internship opportunities. As an educational entity, our focal point is to prepare the citizens of our region to increase their social mobility through innovation, critical thinking and analysis, the pursuit of knowledge, and the creation of valuable skills that can be used as transferable assets in various domains of workforce engagement.

I have also asked my team to work with City staff on the traffic issues discussed in the meeting. Our proposed MOU indicates the University's intention to address the traffic impacts that arise as a result of the Master Plan. I also want to reiterate that the University is fully committed to addressing the traffic impacts identified in the FEIR that will arise as a result of the Master Plan.

The University is prepared to cover 100% of all impacts, direct and cumulative, in our EIR document. We understand that the city may not wish to assume responsibility for the work on some or all these impacts. Consequently, the City will provide authorization to the campus to perform the necessary work. Considering this preference, we are willing to discuss alternative ways of completing the traffic mitigation projects, subject to the execution of appropriate right of way agreements.

Finally, and most importantly, an active collaborative taskforce between the City of Carson and CSU Dominguez Hills should be established as soon as feasible to begin meeting quarterly in 2020. We propose that the taskforce be co-chaired between the City of Carson City Manager and the Vice President of Administration and Finance and that each organization have up to five professional staff members on the taskforce.

The taskforce would be expected to discuss and implement mutually benefiting projects, programs and initiatives for the enhancement, enrichment and betterment of the Carson community and University. This collaboration will be a partnership that focuses on mutual interests, towards growth and prosperity, while also identifying positive outcomes to issues that may arise.

We trust that with the understanding there will be no logistics facilities, we will pursue mutually beneficial partnerships, will work in good faith to resolve traffic-related concerns, and continue to forge an enduring working relationship in lieu of litigation on the environmental impact report or the implementation of the university's Master Plan.

Thank you, again.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Parham, Ph.D.
President

cc: Sharon L. Sanders, City Manager, City of Carson
Sunny Soltani, City Attorney, City of Carson
Albert Robles, Mayor, City of Carson
Cedric L. Hicks, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Carson
Jawane Hilton, City Council, City of Carson
Jim Dear, City Council, City of Carson
Ron Coley, Interim Vice President, Administration and Finance, CSUDH
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