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Councilmember

January 20, 2017

Ms. Veronica Zendejas, District Director
Office of the Speaker of the Assembly, Anthony Rendon
12132 South Garfield Avenue
South Gate, CA 90280

Dear Ms. Zendejas:

It's been about two weeks since we last met so I wanted to update you on a couple of items and assure you and the Speaker that the health of our community is of the utmost importance to the City of Paramount.

We are thankful to the Speaker for representing the interests of our community and we value his input as a resident of Paramount. We appreciate, in the Speaker's recent Op Ed piece, his recognition of the proactive efforts made by the City to address the immediate environmental concerns that have been raised by South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The City Council and City staff have been working tirelessly on this issue over the last 3 months, making it priority #1. The following are some proactive ways we will continue to address the situation.

As the Speaker pointed out, the data from the monitors we purchased can be a powerful tool in educating and protecting our residents and safeguarding the environment, as well as impacting land use decisions. We, of course, concur. The City Council's approval of \$50,000 for the purchase of monitors is the first step in generating that crucial data. While it was important to quickly allocate funds for that effort, the City's newly formed City Council Air Quality Sub Committee will be reviewing additional policy options for a long-term approach to informing our community and aiding SCAQMD in its investigations. As part of those policies, we have been looking at ways in which businesses that impact air quality can be a source of funding for the ongoing monitoring costs. We will make sure to keep you updated on this as it evolves.

We are putting our best effort forward when it comes to providing information for the community on this issue. We have created a website that is updated regularly with current news and important events: www.paramountenvironment.org. We will be making presentations to community groups. One example is our work with the Paramount Youth Commission and the School District. We are building the technical capacity of commission members so that they can update other youth from a peer-to-peer perspective.

As mentioned above, the City now has a City Council Air Quality Sub Committee that was formed at the end of last year. Starting this month, the City has expanded the participation in the Subcommittee to include 5 community members: three residents, one representative from the School District and one local clergy member. The role of the Sub Committee is to gather and study information relevant to the environmental issues at hand and offer recommendations to the full City Council for their consideration and action, particularly providing their input on the current hexavalent chromium issue. The committee includes the Mayor, one Councilmember, two Public Works Commissioners and the City Manager.

We agree with the Speaker that Rule 1430 is a good start toward improving overall air quality and quality of life for our shared constituents. We further acknowledge that more can be done and that is why our air quality consultant evaluated and suggested to SCAQMD other options that can build on the foundation of Rule 1430. We are pleased to tell you that, at our City Council meeting on January 10th, the City Council announced that it was drafting a letter in support of Rule 1430. Attached is a copy of the letter; it was delivered to AQMD this week.

Lastly, I'd like to point out that the City has used zoning in an effort to ensure that land uses are not in conflict with one another. Since the Paramount zoning map was instituted in 1962, no residential use has been approved in the City industrial core. More recently, when the hexavalent chromium issue came to our attention, the City Council adopted a moratorium on all new metal-related businesses and any expansion of such existing businesses. This moratorium will very likely be extended for another 6 months at the City Council meeting next Tuesday.

Paramount has come a long way since the Rand Report declared it a "disaster area" in 1982. Our community and the City family have worked hard to improve the lives of our residents and rid us of that label. We've fine-tuned our planning efforts and strengthened our code enforcement, and improved public safety and educational attainment. The City Council has laid down a vision to make Paramount a shining example of a city. Now we've partnered with regulators and hired professional consultants to elevate environmental monitoring and oversight with a hope that the application of technology, regulatory muscle, and transparency can create a city where we protect the health of our residents and the environment while retaining local jobs and creating a clean manufacturing industry for our region.

We look forward to working with the Speaker's office to ensure that the health of our residents is priority number one and we welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can work together towards our shared goals for the betterment of our City.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT



John Moreno
City Manager

Please be sure to visit our new website for up-to-date data and information regarding environmental issues in the city: www.paramountenvironment.org.