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Chair

Innovation, Technology and
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Member

MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember
Thirteenth Council District

Personnel and Animal
Welfare
Vice-Chair

Public Safety
Member

Education and Neighborhoods
Member

July 30, 2013

Hon. Miguel Santiago, President
Board of Trustees
Los Angeles Community College District
770 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Returning the Van de Kamps Satellite Campus to Community College Use

Dear Mr. Santiago and Board Members:

As the District 13 representative on the Los Angeles City Council, I urge you and your fellow board members to look at the original operational plan for the Van de Kamps Campus regarding its future use. The original operational plan and its associated economic feasibility study from over ten years ago concluded that LACCD staff was uniquely positioned and well-qualified to successfully market and provide a variety of adult educational opportunities to residents of Northeast Los Angeles - a great portion of which lies within my Council District.

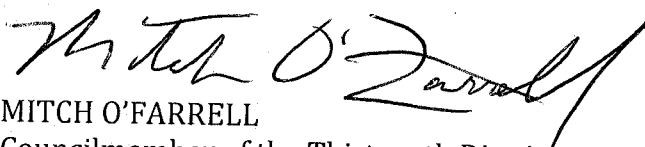
My history on this issue goes back to 2001, first as a community member, and later as a Field Deputy for then Councilmember Eric Garcetti. While working on behalf of my predecessor, I began convening a working group made up of community leaders, the Save Van de Kamps coalition, and decision makers at LACC, including then-president Steve Maradian and his staff. Our focus was to help get the construction project back on track in anticipation of the opening of Van de Kamps as a satellite campus for LACC in Hollywood. I participated in many years of meetings to help with the construction plans, the educational program, and funding feasibility issues. We did this hand-in-hand with a coalition of community members who provided valuable input into this planning process.



Van de Kamps was constructed with voter approved, community college bond funds, with the publicly stated commitment of opening an LACC satellite within the LACCD system. Since that time, Van de Kamps has been uncoupled from LACC as a satellite campus and is now a direct part of the LACCD system. I offer the assistance, support, and direct involvement of my office to help plan a transition of Van de Kamps from its temporary leasing activity back to an innovative mix of community service courses, workforce training, and academic core courses. K-12 bond funds exist and are available to the Alliance Charter School and again, my office will do whatever it can to assist in any transition to a permanent location.

I urge the Board of Trustees to work with the community in the planning and execution to open the Van de Kamps site to fulfill its original intent, as a center for higher education in Northeast Los Angeles where it is badly needed, as soon as feasible. I know we can do this together and I am here to support you in this effort.

Most sincerely,



MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember of the Thirteenth District

cc: *Scott J. Svonkin, Vice President of the LACCD Board of Trustees*
Steve Veres, LACCD Board Member
Mike Eng, LACCD Board Member
Mona Field, LACCD Board Member
Ernest H. Moreno, LACCD Board Member
Nancy Pearlma, LACCD Board Member
Michael J. Grigg, LACCD Board Member
Eric Garcetti, Mayor
Gil Cedillo, Councilmember
Gloria Molina, County Supervisor
Atwater Village Neighborhood Council (via e-mail)
Glassell Park Neighborhood Council (via e-mail)
Coalition to Save Van de Kamps (via e-mail)