



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

February 12, 2015

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3152
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Sponsorship and Support for AB 204 (O'Donnell) – Los Angeles County Oversight Board Extension

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell:

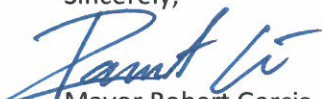
On behalf of the City of Long Beach, thank you for introducing AB 204 (O'Donnell). We are especially excited to have this be the first bill you introduced in the California State Legislature. During your tenure on the Long Beach City Council, we had the opportunity to work together through the difficult process of dissolving the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency. Thank you for your continued support for our City, and for understanding the need to extend Oversight Boards in the County of Los Angeles. We look forward to working with you on this bill so that cities can expeditiously wind-down former redevelopment activities and move forward with future economic development.

AB 204 is necessary, as existing law requires all 71 Oversight Boards in the County to dissolve and transfer all fiduciary oversight duties to a single County Oversight Board by July 1, 2016. Long Beach is concerned that funneling the workload of 71 Successor Agencies into a single County Oversight Board will cause substantial gridlock in the redevelopment dissolution process, and cause the dissolution of the former Long Beach Redevelopment Agency to slow down.

By extending the authority of individual Oversight Boards in the County, AB 204 allows the institutional knowledge that has been cultivated since the establishment of the Oversight Board to continue assisting Successor Agencies in the County through the dissolution process. This institutional knowledge is key to ensuring that financial transactions and tax distribution occurs smoothly, and without delay because of a lack of experience with the matter. AB 204 also shields the single County Oversight Board from having to immediately tackle workload that would have otherwise been spread across 71 Oversight Boards.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach is proud to sponsor and support AB 204. Thank you for introducing this legislation, and for your continued support for the City.

Sincerely,


Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach