



DATE: MAY 7, 2025

FROM: WATERFRONT & COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ - APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH SAN PEDRO PENINSULA HOMEOWNERS UNITED FOR THE CHUCK HART MEMORIAL PLAQUE AT NORTH GAFFEY STREET IN SAN PEDRO

SUMMARY:

Staff requests that the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board) approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with San Pedro Peninsula Homeowners United, Inc. (SPPHU) to authorize the installation of a memorial tree and plaque on Harbor Department property commemorating the late Chuck Hart, and set forth the obligations of the parties regarding the Project, pursuant to the Harbor Department Commemorative Art Policy. On October 29, 2024, a Jacaranda Tree was planted on the grass area of the North Gaffey Street Green Belt, in San Pedro, which SPPHU dedicated in memory of the late Chuck Hart, with Harbor Department approval under Revocable License No. 24-15. SPPHU is responsible for all costs related to the tree planting, plaque fabrication and installation. If approved, the Harbor Department would be financially and operationally responsible for ongoing maintenance of the tree and plaque after the first year of installation of the plaque.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners:

1. Find that the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is administratively and categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Article II Section 2(f) and Article III Class 4(3) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines;
2. Approve the MOU with San Pedro Peninsula Homeowners United, Inc.;
3. Find that the proposed Plaque complies with the Harbor Department Commemorative Art Policy;
4. Find that the proposed action is in the best interest of the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department and that the value of the Tree and Plaque delivered and donated to Port property at SPPHU costs justify their continued maintenance by the Harbor Department after one year;

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5. Authorize the Executive Director to execute and the Board Secretary to attest to the MOU; and
6. Adopt Resolution No. _____.

BACKGROUND:

Background - SPPHU submitted to the Harbor Department an Application for Port Permit (APP) No. 240513-067 on May 9, 2024, for the planting of a Jacaranda Tree on Port of Los Angeles property, in commemoration of the late Chuck Hart. Chuck Hart, a retired San Pedro LAPD officer, was the President of SPPHU for 15 years. Chuck Hart was a long-term resident of San Pedro and dedicated his time volunteering to work on air quality and various community issues affecting homeowners in the area. SPPHU currently represents over 1,300 homeowners in the Northwest San Pedro area.

Chuck Hart's societal contributions and support for homeowners made him a community icon. SPPHU wishes to honor his efforts on their behalf with a Jacaranda Tree and a plaque on Port of Los Angeles property.

Proposal - APP No. 240513-067 proposed the planting of a Jacaranda Tree to commemorate the life of Chuck Hart on the grass area of the North Gaffey Street Green Belt, in San Pedro. In September 2024, SPPHU modified the APP No. 240513-067 to include the installation of a plaque underneath the Jacaranda Tree. The proposed plaque measures 12" L X 8" W X 2" D and weighs 20 pounds. It is proposed to install the plaque on a Palos Verdes stone at the base of the Jacaranda Tree.

Commemorative Art Policy - In accordance with Resolution No. 16-7898 - Commemorative Art Policy (Transmittal 1), applications for commemorative art installation on Port property require: (1) Cost estimates and Applicant funding plan disclosing how costs will be paid by the Applicant, including installation and maintenance, and if Harbor Department funds are requested; (2) Design plans, proposed location, historical information about the subject; (3) Applications must be reviewed by a panel of three or more members selected based on type of memorial to give it meaningful review, including a trained individual with expertise related to the type of memorial and a community representative; and (4) Evaluation of potential controversy regarding the memorial subject.

- Funding Plan and Cost – SPPHU is responsible for all fabrication and installation costs associated with the plaque. After installation, the Harbor Department will be responsible for annual maintenance fees associated with the plaque. Currently, maintenance fees are estimated at \$500 per year.
- Design and Location – The plaque made of granite stone weighing 20 pounds and measuring 12" L X 8" W X 2" D will be installed in the North Gaffey Green Belt on natural Palos Verdes stone weighing 250 pounds and measuring 18 ¾" L X 15 ¾" W x 10 ¾" D.

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- Advisory Panel Review - The SPPHU APP was reviewed by an advisory panel, consisting of three members: a Harbor Department Community Affairs Advocate, Harbor Department Construction and Maintenance Supervisor/Director and a local architect and board member of the local property and business improvement district.
 - Plaque: The advisory panel reviewed and approved the plaque installation and asked that the following conditions are met:
 - 1) Plaque must be installed on an angled base or recessed foundation which is no larger than the plaque; and
 - 2) Plaque must be attached to the base/foundation with concealed fasteners.

SPPHU MOU – Staff recommends the Board approve the MOU (Transmittal 2) between the Harbor Department and SPPHU. Under the proposed MOU, SPPHU is solely responsible for the work and all costs related to the Tree purchase, planting, and Plaque fabrication and installation in accordance with the Commemorative Art Advisory Panel’s final specifications, and shall donate the Tree and Plaque to the City at the end of the MOU term. After one year following the Plaque installation, the Harbor Department will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the Tree and Plaque following installation of the Plaque at an annual cost of \$500. The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) maintains the Project Site, pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding dated December 18, 2012, between the Harbor Department and the RAP, for RAP’s performance of the maintenance and landscape obligations for the Gaffey Street Greenbelt. Under the MOU, SPPHU will retain the right to take possession of the plaque if the Harbor Department chooses to move or remove the Chuck Hart Memorial from the premises. The procedures and standards used to review the proposal are consistent with the Commemorative Art Policy and approved by the advisory panel.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The proposed action is the approval of an MOU with SPPHU for installation of the Chuck Hart Memorial Plaque, which is an administrative activity involving new gardening, tree planting, or landscaping. Therefore, the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is administratively and categorically exempt from the requirements of CEQA in accordance with Article II Section 2(f) and Article III Class 4(3) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of the proposed action will authorize SPPHU to install a Chuck Hart Memorial Plaque near the Jacaranda Tree which was planted on the grass area of the North Gaffey Street Green Belt. SPPHU will be responsible for all costs related to the plaque fabrication and installation. After the MOU term expires, the Harbor Department will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the plaque as well as the memorial as required under Revocable License No. 2024-15. An estimated annual cost of \$500 to maintain the Chuck

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Hart memorial will be accounted for under the annual maintenance budget for the Construction & Maintenance Division within Account 552000 (General Office Supplies), Division 32220 (C&M - Water and Land Cleanup A).

CITY ATTORNEY:

The MOU has been reviewed and approved as to form and legality by the Office of the City Attorney.

TRANSMITTALS:

1. Resolution No.16-7898
2. Memorandum of Understanding

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