

-----Original Message-----

From: Lori Acalin

Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2020 3:34 PM

To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>

Subject: Rent increase for Crafted and Brewery

CAUTION: External email.

I am writing to oppose any rent increases to the properties where Crafted and Brouwerij West are located.

With the unprecedented situation caused by the pandemic, most businesses are struggling to stay open. Both of these ventures have already faced extended closures due to social distancing and reduced capacity when allowed to reopen. Now is not the time to force them into further financial difficulties by increasing their overhead while not allowed to be increasing their revenue. I foresee this possibly forcing them to close their doors.

As a life time San Pedro resident, we have listened for decades about how the waterfront is going to be revitalized only to watch more businesses close than open. Crafted and Brouwerij West have become beloved institutions in our town. The port should be doing all it can to support these businesses, not put unneeded financial strain on them. Even in these unprecedented times, the port is having one of it's best years ever. What is the purpose of driving these businesses to close? They would sorely be missed by our residents and tourist alike.

With the Ports of Call construction moving at a crawl, these businesses allow us to enjoy our waterfront with a San Pedro feel, not some sanitized downtown Long Beach look. Please do not take these beloved places from us. Let us continue to enjoy them and allow them to continue to thrive.

Thank you

Lori Acalin

James Ellis

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Esposito

Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2020 3:29 PM

To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>

Subject: Comment on Possible Rent Increase at Crafted

CAUTION: External email.

Hello, and thanks for the chance to comment. I strongly oppose the Port of Los Angeles plan to raise the rent at Crafted, which would also impact all the businesses that occupy warehouses 9 and 10 along 22nd street. This increase will most certainly drive many or all of the small merchants at Crafted out of business. Please reconsider this and find another way to raise the money that doesn't destroy crafters' livelihoods or wipe out yet another piece of what is good about San Pedro.

Thanks again!

Richard Esposito

-----Original Message-----

From: sheila hartley

Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 9:18 AM

To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>

Subject: Crafted & Brouwerij West in crisis; facing tripled rent by Port of LA

CAUTION: External email.

Is this true? How could you? These two entities are wonderful parts of the SanPedro landscape and it would be horrible and very unfair to push them out with an avaricious rent increase. Have you promised the space to another entity, some side deal? I am very pro-growth and support the development of HarborWest etc. , but these entities have helped move SanPedro forwards in a time when the pace of development seemed glacial. Now that things are moving along, you want to get rid of these people, NOW? WHY? It appears a fix is in. AND we are in a pandemic.....what the heck!

Sent from Sheila Hartley's iPhone

From: karen sochar

Sent: Saturday, November 28, 2020 8:27 PM

To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>

Subject: Board of Harbor Commissioners Meeting: December 3rd, 9:00 am

CAUTION: External email.

Dear Commissioners: I am writing as a concerned shopper and artist that enjoys shopping at Crafted in Ports of Call, eating and drinking craft beers at the Brouwerij (Brewery) West before and after shopping at Crafted!!! **Why** would the **Ports of LA** hit these businesses with any increase in rents during a pandemic???

Even though your business may have enjoyed a huge increase in revenue, you must be aware that the majority of small businesses are dying or having a most difficult time staying afloat as the pandemic rages on and on. ***It is not anticipated that we will see business as usual until 2022!***

I urge you to please please consider our community of artists and artisans that will either be displaced or pushed out of business entirely by any amount of increase in rent!!! This is so unfair!

Please have a conscience and do not force these formerly thriving businesses OUT OF BUSINESS!!! Please abate any and all rent increases until 2022 or beyond.

Most sincerely yours,

Karen Sochar

From: FRAN BROWN
Sent: Saturday, November 28, 2020 3:08 PM
To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>
Subject: Poor decision

CAUTION: External email.

This is not the time to raise rents on small businesses. Crafted is a vital part of the San Pedro port community. They deserve all the help and support they can receive during this year of crisis. Small businesses have always been the heart and soul of the Harbor community. Do not destroy this one. Help and support it.

Fran Brown

-----Original Message-----

From: Phoebe Barnum

Sent: Saturday, November 28, 2020 2:31 PM

To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>

Subject: Rent increase

CAUTION: External email.

Dear Port Commissioners

I am an artist living in San Pedro and am saddened to hear about the proposed rent increase for Crafted. It would be tragic not only for the our local artists but for the entirety of San Pedro and other areas that might enjoy the site as a destination to purchase unique gifts while keeping artists employed. As someone who is painfully well aware of the financial hardship brought on by this incessant pandemic it would be tragic to impose yet more revenue loss locally.

As long as I have lived in San Pedro people I have spoken to have recalled coming to Ports of Call in their youth, now that's gone. Please don't eliminate another San Pedro destination.

Sincerely,

Phoebe Barnum

-----Original Message-----

From: Myrna Rafijah

Sent: Saturday, November 28, 2020 2:06 PM

To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>

Subject: This is not the time to raise rents, deprive people of jobs and/or revenue,

CAUTION: External email.

or eliminate benign activities for young and old. Raising rents 3 fold is just a form of bullying to get what you want...which is additional property.

Put that desire on hold for the public good. These are not ordinary times. But it WILL pass. I know that what you want is inevitable. It can wait. This community is trying to survive....hopefully with the reassurance of some kind of normality.

Please reconsider these strong arm tactics regarding Crafted, The Brewing Company, etc. We all need to consider the glue that binds a community during these stressful circumstances.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Myrna Bruce-Rafijah
San Pedro Resident

From: Linda Alexander
Sent: Saturday, November 28, 2020 1:35 PM
To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>
Subject: Rent Increases at Warehouses 9 & 10

CAUTION: External email.

Dear Harbor Area Commissioners; Please tell me that it is not true that you are raising rents at warehouses 9 & 10! What are you thinking? Not only are you raising rents but word has it that you are tripling rents. Could you have found a more terrible time to inflict this catastrophic change? I, among many, have appreciated these local businesses which have struggled during this pandemic to stay alive until the world can return to some sort of normalcy.

Particularly stinging is that the port is doing well financially. I urge you not to raise these rents and allow these local businesses which support local jobs, to survive.

That you want to destroy local business at this particularly time is outrageous. So much for supporting the Harbor Community.

Linda Alexander

Finance Chair of Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council(for identification only)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

-----Original Message-----

From: Denise de Lapp

Sent: Saturday, November 28, 2020 1:15 PM

To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>

Subject: Re: Dec. 1st Meeting

CAUTION: External email.

To Whom It May Concern:

It has been brought to our attention that during this horrific pandemic that you're considering raising the rent for Crafted and Brouwerij Brewery by a threefold.

If there is any truth to this, it is absolutely heartless and callous during these challenging times. Not only did the County Board of Supervisors vote 3-2 to shut down all our restaurants, breweries, and wineries who have complied to the guidelines; but now you want to raise the businesses rent while they are already financially struggling.

Please also take into consideration the number of small businesses who have been deeply financially crippled by this pandemic. We as a community need to contemplate what we could do to assist our small businesses; rather than allow this pandemic to wipe out these businesses.

Sincerely,

The neighbors of Vista Del Oro

Sent from my iPhone

From: Alice McMillan
Sent: Saturday, November 28, 2020 10:35 AM
To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>
Subject: POLA and Crafted

CAUTION: External email.

Hi,

Hope this finds you well.

I am expressing my deep disappointment and questioning the judgment of members of the Board of Port of Los Angeles.

In regards to Crafted, it is a poor choice to target working class brick-and-mortar business owners for more rent (astronomically more). I believe this shows that POLA has failed to learn anything from a dying (and then dead) Ports O'Call whose success was stifled and then suffocated by the greedy decisions of POLA decades ago.

Crafted and it's Board and tenants have made a hugely positive impact on the waterfront community, by beautifying a run down sector of the port and marina, and it has employed and given exposure to a great number of contract workers and independent business owners. Many of whom would not be thriving without the exposure Crafted provides to retail consumers.

That doesn't mean their businesses would continue to thrive if their expenses multiplied. What are currently successful businesses would cease to exist entirely.

Crafted is not only good for business. It's a place family and friends can congregate that is safe and positive. There are free community events and events for kids. Crafted provides a place for our citizens to gather unlike anywhere else within miles. There is nothing like it.

There are many places the Port can turn to acquire additional income you, all in places that preserve the livelihoods of working-class families.

Please show the San Pedro and Los Angeles community that you support the very people that keep the Port and San Pedro thriving.

It is heartless and maladjusted to the needs to the community and local business to gouge individuals who bring so much culture and support of the waterfront. And for what appears to be a mission to line the pockets of those who care nothing about individuals at all.

In fact, in college I worked at Ports O'Call restaurant. I personally served many board members extravagant meals and countless alcoholic beverages, which were paid for by the Port. I suggest perhaps you can start by slashing the personal expense budgets of Board of POLA members and cap their income starting now.

If after that, the Port is still so money hungry, then perhaps focus on efficiently running the docks instead of overstaffing oxy-addicted Longshoremen to stand around and do nothing. Sorry for the jab. Or fining the Union when they knowingly employ these Longies while they're under the influence.

Just know - Crafted is not your answer. you shouldn't target people who lack political or corporate pushback because of the board's own cowardice, greed, or both to address a lack of funds, or whatever your goals are here.

Do NOT STIFLE SMALL BUSINESS INCOME IN A PANDEMIC OR EVER. IT IS HEARTLESS and will make San Pedro a ghost town junkyard once again. The tenants of Crafted will not survive and your community will suffer.

I shouldn't even have to write this email. Disgusting proposal.

ALICE K McMILLAN

-----Original Message-----

From: dorothy wheelen

Sent: Saturday, November 28, 2020 9:18 AM

To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>

Subject: Crafted

CAUTION: External email.

I believe Crafted Is a great asset to our community, they have events that involve children and give them things to do. Every time I have visitors to our area I take them to Crafted and they love it. I believe it is wrong for you to raise the rent at this time of pandemic, these people work hard to bring a good thing to our community. They are already having a tough time and raising the rent will just put more of them out of work, that's not what our community needs. Please reconsider this decision as it will affect a lot of people and add to the unemployment we already have here.

Dorothy Wheelen

Sent from my iPhone

From: Peggy Sivert Zask
Sent: Saturday, November 28, 2020 9:09 AM
To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>
Subject: Crafted and Brouwerij West

CAUTION: External email.

Dear Commissioners,

I am shocked to hear of your tripling the rent for Crafted and Brouwerij West at such a time! How can you dare to do such a thing at any time let alone during a pandemic!!

We had a business in the arts district in the past in San Pedro and developed close relationships with the San Pedro community. We live in Rancho Palos Verdes but even though Palos Verdes is our address, San Pedro is our home town - it is where our friends live and it is where we spend our time for dining, entertainment and culture. It is also where we get our cars repaired and appliances fixed by small local businesses. This is our core. Do not drive out local business!!!

Please reconsider this unfair decision to drive out local business !

Sincerely

Peggy Sivert Zask

From: Linda Grimes
Sent: Saturday, November 28, 2020 7:42 AM
To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>
Subject: Raising Rents at Crafted and the Brewery

CAUTION: External email.

Dear Harbor Commissioners -

It was come to my attention you are planning to raise the rents at Crafted and the Brewery by more than three times the current rate.

While I understand landlord's need for profit, this is unconscionable in a pandemic when retail and bars are struggling. I hope you will reconsider this punitive action and delay any rent increases until we are not in an economic free fall.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this plea.

Linda Grimes,

From: Eve Donaldson
Sent: Saturday, November 28, 2020 7:34 AM
To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>
Subject: Rent Raise Crafted POLA

CAUTION: External email.

To the Board,

I am writing to you as a Small Business owner. We have suffered greatly due to the pandemic and you want to raise the rent at Crafted.

This saddens me, as I thought we had your support.

I have built up a business at Crafted with loyal customers and given back to the Community, and you want to take it all away.

Crafted and the Brewery have become a go to weekend place for families not just from Pedro, but from Long Beach...Torrance. RB, HB and beyond.

Please, times are hard, a rent increase at this time would be devastating and wrong.

Believe in your Community, keep Small Business alive and let us continue to thrive.

Thank you,

Eve Donaldson

Rufus Ragz

From: Susan Gilbert
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2020 2:10 PM
To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>
Subject: Board of Harbor Commissioners Public Comment December 3 2020

CAUTION: External email.

Dear Harbor Commissioners,

I am writing to voice my concern re: proposed rent increases for Crafted and Brouwerij West.

2020 has been a challenging year for all of us, but it has been particularly hard on small businesses. I fear that the proposed rent increase will essentially shut down both of these businesses that have become integral to the community.

I moved to Crescent St in 2010. 22nd Street Park had officially opened earlier that year. The warehouses stood empty and the property not maintained. The addition of Crafted and the long awaited Brewery have been a most welcome improvement to the neighborhood and property values.

Crafted did have a few bumps initially, but recovered (no small thing when it involved parking fees and the seemingly unforgiving San Pedro Community)! It has become a strong presence in and of the community. The San Pedro Art Association, now located at Crafted, represents local artists, but also sponsors the Student Art show which supports local schools and families. Periodically, San Pedro Ballet and other local musicians are featured. Many of the booths, like Paradise Preserves, represent long time San Pedro residents.

Likewise, the Brewery has become a family favorite. Prior to COVID, it was not unusual to see families gathered in the open space. Movies, music, food trucks. These all add to the quality of life, particularly in this part of town.

The move to substantially increase the rent at this time seems short sighted, maybe even a little mean spirited.

It is my hope that the Harbor Commissioners will reconsider the proposed increase.

Sincerely,

Susan G. Gilbert

-----Original Message-----

From: Shari Tipich

Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2020 12:12 PM

To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>

Subject: Proposed rent increase at CRAFTED and Brouwerij West

CAUTION: External email.

Dear Commissioners,


I am a lifetime and third-generation resident of San Pedro, and a professional decorative designer and artist, with a career spanning 35 years. I am writing in response to the proposed rent increase at CRAFTED at the Port of Los Angeles, and Brouwerij West. I am shocked at the impending tripled rent increase at this wonderful venue.

Over nine years ago, I attended numerous community redevelopment meetings as the concept of CRAFTED was introduced. As it became a reality, and an Open House took place, I watched as enthusiastic and hopeful talents walked wide-eyed through these cavernous warehouses, imagining the worlds largest permanent art and craft marketplace, boasting 550 artisans and vendors of all kinds, and imagining it's possibilities. I quickly reserved my space, and dreamed of the possibilities of supplementing my residential business with a retail presence. Now, as one of only a half dozen remaining original vendors, over the span of our 8 1/2 year occupancy, I have also watched as they have dropped one by one and in large numbers, as our town and waterfront fell to empty promises of development, tourism and revitalization. Delays with environmental impact reports, plans, approvals and budget fluctuations and beginning construction made it impossible for hundreds of artists to succeed and survive.

Now, as San Pedro is finally breaking ground on the waterfront project, it is appalling to think that our talented artisans who have been hanging by a thread along with the rest of downtown and the waterfront will be possibly driven out by such a dramatic rent increase. Our owner, Wayne Blank, has invested obscene amounts of money into our venue, with hopes that the Port will comply to improvements that are very necessary for our venue to thrive. I believe that this rent increase could make the possibility of our future at CRAFTED futile, and could eventually force our venue to close, putting these unique small businesses out of business altogether.

I am asking for reconsideration of this increase, so we may continue to maintain, grow and improve this very unique venue, and in combination with San Pedro's upcoming growth, realize the potential that has been dormant for decades.

Thank you,

 Shari Tipich

Decorative Design and Artistry

Sent from my iPhone

12.2.2020_Fran Segal (Phone Call Comment)

Hi this is Fran Segal. I am making a public comment about the increase in rent The Port has decided to do for **Brouwerij West**. My number is XXX.XXX.XXXX and I am a long time San Pedro resident. I feel we get so little from The Port of LA and they take so much from us in years of health and other issues. There has been a 232% increase in revenue for The Port this year and I don't understand why a business, and is a local business that gives to the community and provides a safe meeting place, would be a target for an outrageous rent increase. During Covid and the aftermath, the outside setup is perfect and safe. The tables are far apart and people can congregate safely. Local businesses it supports and also food trucks and local paying jobs that are important for this community.

Thank you again my name is Fran Segal and my number is XXX.XXX.XXXX

I believe that rent increases like this also seem to indicate that the Port is not transparent and that there has been a long history of this. We San Pedro residents have had to stay on top of these things and we are volunteers that do this for free to serve the community to make sure The Port doesn't take advantage.

From: Brian Weiss
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2020 1:23 PM
To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>
Subject: Re: Comment for 3 Dec Commissioners Meeting

CAUTION: External email.

On Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 10:38 AM Brian Weiss <captain.brian.weiss@gmail.com> wrote:
I would like to address the situation at warehouses 9 and 10 in the west basin. It has come to my attention that the port has raised the rent on these properties three-fold in the midst of a pandemic. I find it shocking that, while Los Angeles is under a rent freeze for privately owned properties, POLA finds it acceptable to impose a massive increase on one of the few community based small business ventures located on port property.

As you well know the Sept 2020 Year to Year Performance Report for POLA reported a net income increase of 232.1%. It's true that royalties, fees and other revenues decreased over this period (I assume Crafted's rent falls into this category), but this entire category of income only averages 2.5% of total POLA revenue.

Now, given the significant profitability of POLA, why would they decide to price the Crafted and Brouwerij West out of business by nearly tripling their rent. The craft market was closed for 3 months due to pandemic mandated closures. Brouwerij West was shut down for 6 months, and is currently shut down again, because of this global pandemic we are all struggling with. These businesses occupy warehouse 9 and 10, structures which stood empty and deteriorating for decades before several private investors (without any POLA financial assistance) refurbished them in a way that serves the local community. Now, in the midst of the worst pandemic in over 100 years the port is looking to price them out of existence with this unjust, unnecessary and cruel money grab. This is an affront to the community of San Pedro. This move will destroy most of the businesses that make up the craft market as well as the brewery. And for what? A miniscule portion of revenue.

As a member of this community since 1963 I watched the slow decline of Ports O Call Village due to mismanagement, and with it, the loss of many local jobs. POLA talks about community support. Please explain how destroying additional small, community based businesses, in the midst of a pandemic and economic collapse, helps the community of San Pedro. It's time for POLA to step up and correct this travesty. It's time to show real support for the community. Please undo this injustice.

Regards,
Brian Weiss

From: ray carofano
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Commissioners <Commissioners@portla.org>
Subject: Crafted and Brouwerij West

CAUTION: External email.

What in the world are you people thinking!?! Raising the rents three-fold on Crafted and Brouwerij West during the pandemic when businesses are suffering financially.

Don't you realize if you raise the rents we will lose two important places? San Pedro has already lost two wonderful places, Ports O Call and the 16 million dollar fountain.

Try to do something right and don't raise the rents!

Crafted and Brouwerij West