



**DOWNTOWN  
LONG BEACH  
ALLIANCE**

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Charter School Office  
Los Angeles County Office of Education  
9300 Imperial Highway  
Downey, CA 90242

**RE: Support for We the People High School**

Dear Charter School Office Administrators,

Please accept this correspondence on behalf of the Downtown Long Beach Alliance (DLBA) Board of Directors and enter into the public record for the Los Angeles County Board of Education meeting scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, our support for the request to delay the implementation of We The People High School located at 501 Pine Ave., Long Beach.

The DLBA is a non-profit organization that represents more than 1,600 businesses and 4,000 commercial and residential property owners within the two Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in Downtown Long Beach. As one of the leading voices for the Downtown community, we want to express our support for the vision of We the People High School, and we would urge the Board of Education to approve the request to delay the school's opening from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020.

The DLBA has met with the leadership team for We the People High School, and we believe fully in the vision their team has for their future school site at 501 Pine Ave. Moreover, under the guiding planning document for Downtown, the Downtown Plan, the use of the space as secondary school is allowable and align with goals outlined in the plan. Not only will a delay in opening allow We the People High School to further develop their curriculum and classroom spaces, but it will also give the DLBA and our Downtown community the time to understand better the strength of the We The People team and the positive change the school will have on the community.

The DLBA also expresses its support for We the People High School because its institutional mission aligns with the guiding principles found in our Vision 2020: Strategic Plan. We the People High School aims to develop civic-minded students who are actively engaged in their local and global communities. The DLBA believes that our Downtown community provides a perfect laboratory for students to learn and engage with the city- and elected officials, community leaders, and private industry leaders. To witness first-hand the democratic process at City Hall and to learn about a variety of sustainable and conservation efforts from leaders at the Port of Long Beach and Aquarium of the Pacific.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our support for new educational opportunities in the Downtown Long Beach area, and we encourage the County Board of Education to support this proposed investment in our developing and diverse community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kraig Kojian  
President & CEO