



March 20, 2020

Fairplex Sheraton – Necessary Asset for COVID-19 Pandemic

To Whom This May Concern:

I am writing to express my support regarding Los Angeles County's short-term lease of the Fairplex Sheraton to respond to the COVID-19 (or Novel Coronavirus) pandemic. COVID-19 has changed life as we know it and, with use of the Pomona Fairplex as a quarantine site, we will be able to return to our lives safely in a timelier fashion.

Volunteers of America of Greater Los Angeles has supported and empowered America's most vulnerable groups, including at-risk youth, the elderly, homeless individuals and families, people with disabilities, and those recovering from addiction through a long history of programming and services. We as an organization have seen Pomona and the surrounding communities always step up for its communities. We know that they will meet this moment through the opportunity to use the Fairplex to tackle the many challenges resulting from COVID-19.

By providing accommodations to our friends, families, and neighbors, the Fairplex will be a safe space to isolate and heal. This is temporary but critical piece needed to help flatten the curve of COVID-19. We need more places for people to recover from this terrible virus, and do so safely. Los Angeles County's proposal to use the Fairplex is going to provide exactly that by offering the Sheraton Hotel – 244 rooms --- to serve those who are ill or have been in contact with someone who has become ill.

This will also provide relief to our first responders. The Fairplex Child Development Center will open its doors to children of first responders. This includes law enforcement and health care workers – those on the front lines to protect our families.

Additionally, as a community organization, we care deeply about the economic impact COVID-19 is having on families. By keeping the Fairplex open, tax revenues will continue to come into our cities and communities – allowing an easier return to normal life once these days are behind us.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical asset. I also want to acknowledge Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis and the entire Board of Supervisors along with the Fairplex leadership for moving swiftly. Please contact me at jhlawek@voala.org or 213-500-6682 if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Hlawek".

Jim Hlawek
Senior Director, Alliance Development
Volunteers of America