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**EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES
HISTORICAL MONUMENT**

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Honorable Members of the Budget & Finance Committee
c/o Holly L. Wolcott
Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Spring Street, Rm. 360
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Proposed Budget- El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument

On behalf of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed FY 2022-2023 budget.

As the historic and cultural heart of our great city, El Pueblo has emerged stronger and more resilient from the COVID-19 pandemic. We embark on this new chapter in the nearly 250 year history of El Pueblo with a renewed commitment to reconstitute our staff and operational capacity.

We are the birthplace of the city and a premiere destination point for both residents and visitors. Our world-renowned 22-acre historic district showcases the city's famed historical landmarks and sites which together reflect the diverse communities that contributed to the growth of Los Angeles. As home to world-famous Olvera Street, the district uniquely integrates museums, historical sites, retail, restaurants, events, and filming.

In light of unprecedented pandemic challenges combined with City Council approved rent forgiveness, El Pueblo continues to be a revenue-generating department having previously reached \$5.4 million annually in revenue at pre-pandemic levels. Returning to our pre-pandemic revenue-generating levels is central to our departmental goals in the coming fiscal year.

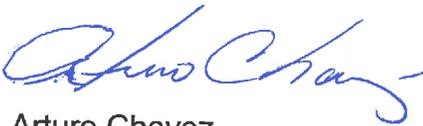
Having a pre-pandemic full-time staff of ten (10) employees, the Separation Incentive Program (SIP), retirements, promotions and departures resulted in a 60% staff vacancy by early 2022. Through your continued support, we hope to reconstitute our staffing and return to an operational capacity that ensures the self-sufficiency goals of the department.

Highlights of the draft FY 2022-23 budget include:

- Fully funded appropriation for filling all ten (10) full-time staff positions that are crucial for the operations of the department;
- Continued funding from the Arts & Cultural Facilities and Services Trust Fund to support Museum Guides at our museums that cater to tourists and visitors;
- Increased funding for the Los Angeles Police Department's Contractual Services Account to assist with much needed contract security services deployed throughout the 22-acre El Pueblo district.

Our mission statement calls for our department to promote, safeguard, and preserve the City's birthplace and culturally diverse heritage through the effective management of its commercial and historical resources and events. We will continue to serve this mission through your continued support year after year.

Thank you,



Arturo Chavez
General Manager
El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument