



September 13, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Vernon salutes Sen. Kevin de León for passage of ‘Malkenhorst’s Law’ to protect cities against costly pension lawsuits filed by convicted former officials

Vernon, CA – The City of Vernon today cheered Senator Kevin de León for passage of Senate Bill 39, his legislation to prohibit convicted former public officials from filing lawsuits claiming that cities are financially responsible for payment of any CalPERS reductions in their pensions that stem from their wrongdoing as public officials.

Vernon City Administrator Mark Whitworth said, “Senator Kevin de León has provided a great public service to cities throughout California by working hard to pass SB 39. Senator De León saw the danger local cities face when former public officers, who misused their positions of authority and took financial advantage of their cities, seek to be rewarded for their misdeeds by forcing cities to pay their lavish pensions. The City of Vernon joins with other California cities in urging Governor Jerry Brown to sign SB 39 into law to protect our state’s municipalities from being victimized twice at the hands of convicted former public officials.”

The City of Vernon is seeking immediate dismissal of a pension lawsuit filed by former Vernon City Administrator Bruce Malkenhorst in L.A. County Superior Court. The California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) reduced Malkenhorst’s annual pension to \$115,000 after the pension authority discovered he had received improper compensation. Malkenhorst’s lawsuit seeks to force the City of Vernon to use city funds to restore his annual pension to the previous sum in excess of \$500,000.

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Vernon was founded in 1905 to create jobs in California. Vernon’s 1,800 businesses create more than 105,000 jobs in the Los Angeles area – including 55,000 jobs within the city’s 5.2-mile boundary. The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation designated Vernon as California’s ‘Most Business Friendly City.’ Vernon generates more than \$330 million in state income and sales taxes, \$1.1 billion in taxable spending. Vernon’s businesses provide more than 4.4 billion in salaries and wages annually for workers in Los Angeles County. For more information, go to www.cityofvernon.org.