



February 5, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Fred MacFarlane – (213) 369-8425

Van de Kamp's January 2014 Independent Reform Monitor Report on Vernon governance concludes, '...early promises for reform have been met... there has been no turning back.'

Vernon, CA – John Van de Kamp, Independent Reform Monitor of the city's government policies and practices, has issued the sixth in a series of in-depth, bi-annual progress reports on the city's good governance reforms.

In his 37-page report issued on January 31, 2014, Mr. Van de Kamp concluded, "Vernon continues to follow a reform path. A number of their early promises for reform have been met, or are in the works for implementation. There has been no turning back." But he also noted, "That's not to say that things [in Vernon] can't get better – a comment that can always hold true."

Mr. Van de Kamp prefaces his report by writing, "In the past six months [July 31, 2013 to January 31, 2014], Vernon has continued on its good government path, continuing to follow through on reform recommendations."

"The most important milestone reached was the approval of Vernon's Tax Credit Allocation, which will assist Meta Housing's new home construction project, adding 45 new units in Vernon. When completed, it is expected to more than double Vernon's population by the end of 2015. It is expected that ground will be broken on the project sometime in the spring of 2014," Mr. Van de Kamp wrote.

Vernon City Administrator Mark Whitworth said in reference to Mr. Van de Kamp's January 2014 report, "Our city has kept the promises it made in 2011. Today, Vernon operates much like any other municipality. Vernon endured two-years of intense scrutiny. But through it all, our city's leaders did not waver from their pledge to adopt good governance practices."

"Vernon has more progress in store. In addition to this year's construction of our city's privately-funded 45-unit apartment development, we will soon announce appointees to our Vernon CommUNITY Fund, a nonprofit charitable entity that will award grants to

worthy municipal projects and nonprofit programs that benefit our city's residents and residents in our city's neighboring communities, much like the good neighbor support our city has provided to the City of Huntington Park for the renovation of soccer fields at Salt Lake Park, a popular recreation spot for Vernon families," Mr. Whitworth added.

To view Mr. Van de Kamp's January 31, 2014 Independent Reform Monitor progress report on Vernon's governance and reforms, go to:

http://www.cityofvernon.org/good_governance_reforms/JohnVanDeKampIndependentReformMonitorReport_01_31_14.pdf

#

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.