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File No. Administration

February 2, 2010

Marian Bergeson, Chair  
Charter Update Commission  
c/o City of Newport Beach  
3300 Newport Boulevard  
Newport Beach, CA 92658-8915

**Re: Charter Update Commission**

Dear Honorable Chair Bergeson:

I am the current Chair of the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Charter Amendment 743 (Newport Beach Municipal Code Section 3.24.010) (which was adopted almost 55 years ago) reads as follows:

"3.24.010 Appropriation of Funds to Chamber of Commerce.

The funds which the City Council may in its discretion appropriate to the local Chamber of Commerce for promotion, publicity, advertising, and entertainment purposes for the benefit of the City shall be limited to the sum of two thousand four hundred dollars (\$2,400.00) annually. (Initiative Ord. 743; adopted by a vote of the people on March 15, 1955)"

It is my understanding that the City now provides financial support and sponsorship to a number of civic-spirited events/organizations, such as:

- (1) The Toshiba (\$50,000);
- (2) Restaurant Week (\$160,000);
- (3) the Newport/Ensenada Race (\$50,000);

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- (4) the Film Festival (\$50,000); and
- (5) the OC Marathon (\$100,000).

The Chamber is not requesting funds at present, but believes that - in light of the benefits and favorable publicity the City receives from such events as the Boat Parade, Police Appreciation Breakfast, Mentor for a Day Program, Athletic Awards Breakfast, Scholarship Awards Breakfast, Flight of the Lasers Boat Race, Ensign Intermediate School Character Counts Awards, Citizen of the Year Gala, Fire and Marine Appreciation Beach Party, Sandcastle Contest, the Taste of Newport and other civic-spirited Chamber-sponsored events – the Chamber should not be any less eligible to apply for City support than the other events/organizations listed above.

Accordingly, the Chamber respectfully requests that the Charter Update Commission consider the repeal of Charter Amendment 743 (Newport Beach Municipal Code Section 3.24.010) and the addition of a Charter provision along the following lines:

“Not-for-profit community organizations shall be permitted to apply for City financial support and sponsorship of particular events presented by such organizations where such events promote, publicize, enhance the image and reputation of, and otherwise benefit the City.”

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Paul K. Watkins  
Chair,  
Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce

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