MEETING DATE: **August 25, 2008**

AGENDA ITEM: **Discussion of a $10,000 Contribution to the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles: Santa Monica from City Council Discretionary Funds.**

ATTACHMENTS

	Pages
1. Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles letter to Jerry Fulwood, August 22, 2008, with enclosure.	1-3

Attachment 1

LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
1640 Fifth Street, Suite 124
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Telephone: (310) 899-6200
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Central Office
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(213) 640-3881

East Office
5228 E. Whittier Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90022-4013
(213) 640-3883

Long Beach Office
110 Pine Avenue, Suite 420
Long Beach, CA 90802-4421
(562) 435-3501

South Central Office
8601 S. Broadway
Los Angeles, CA 90003-3319
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West Office
1102 Crenshaw Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90019-3111
(323) 801-7989

Writer's Direct Dial Number

Our File Number

August 22, 2008

Jerry Fulwood
City Manager
City of Culver – City Hall
9770 Culver Boulevard
Culver City, California 90232

By Email: Jerry.Fulwood@CulverCity.org

Dear Mr. Fulwood:

I am providing you information about the Domestic Violence Clinic of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (The Clinic), which is located in the Santa Monica Courthouse. The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) is a non-profit corporation established in 1929 to ensure that low income people have access to the justice system in civil legal matters, and is the frontline law firm for low-income people in Los Angeles. LAFLA is committed to promoting access to justice, strengthening communities, and effecting systematic change through representation, advocacy, and community education.

Domestic violence can be as close as our own families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, classmates, customers, or patients. Domestic violence is not always hidden in homes, and the violence may spill over into school sites, the work place, recreation areas and any place where people may gather. We need only read the paper to be reminded that the leading cause of death for pregnant women is domestic violence. Statistics regarding domestic violence that were so startling a decade ago are now too familiar. Women are four times more likely to be injured in their homes by their current or former partner than in motor vehicle accidents. Between 25 and 35% of all women seeking emergency care in hospitals are there because of domestic violence. Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children.

LAFLA'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/FAMILY LAW CLINIC

LAFLA's walk-in Domestic Violence Clinic is located in the West District Courthouse in Santa Monica. Culver City is part of the West district and its residents come to the courthouse seeking legal help. LAFLA staff and volunteers operate the clinic five days a week. LAFLA provides training and supervision for volunteers.

The Clinic assists victims of domestic violence, who are often moms in crisis, obtain temporary and permanent restraining orders, including custody of their children and child support. We conduct interviews, assist them in completing paper work, accompany them to court, explain the process and provide referrals to social services and counseling. A recent study indicates that legal assistance is the only social service that reduces domestic violence over the long run. Our objective is to help victims of domestic violence obtain safety for themselves and their children, and over the long run break the gripping cycle of violence so that they can rebuild their lives.

Over the last five years, the Clinic has assisted an average of 50 Culver City residents a year obtain court orders to keep them safe or obtain other family law legal services that help prevent domestic violence. Culver City residents represent 10% of the people we have assisted. On average, 12-13% of those Culver City residents are either seniors or disabled or both.

LAFLA requests that Culver City contribute $10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Dollars) for operating expenses for the Domestic Violence Clinic, just over 3% of our operating budget. This sum is also approximately $200.00 per Culver City resident, which is less than the cost of the average legal service supervised by a staff attorney or paralegal, and taking from one to four hours.

Preventing domestic violence, and assisting victims to rebuild their lives after domestic violence, requires a variety of services and strategies. In addition to providing legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, LAFLA's Domestic Violence Clinic is often a doorway to additional supportive services, including referrals for health care, counseling and shelter. Certainly, each dollar that Culver City spends in supporting this project is rewarded in the long run by savings in police response, medical care and related legal proceedings. In 2007-2008, the cities of Santa Monica, Los Angeles, and Beverly Hills funded operating expenses for the Clinic.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 323-801-7972. We can provide more information upon request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Susan G. Millmann
Senior Attorney

Date: May 4, 2002

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
1102 S Crenshaw Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90019-3111

Person to Contact:
Steve Brown 31-07422
Customer Service Representative
Toll Free Telephone Number:
8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST
877-829-5500
Fax Number:
513-263-3756
Federal Identification Number:
95-1684067
Accounting Period Ends:
December 31

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ACCTG. DEPT.

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to your letter dated April 17, 2002, of which you requested confirmation to the change of your accounting period. We have updated our records to reflect this change as indicated above.

In February 1943, we issued a determination letter that recognized your organization as exempt from federal income tax under section 101(6) of the Internal Revenue Act of 1939 (now section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986). That determination letter is still in effect.

We classified your organization as a publicly supported organization, and not a private foundation, because it is described in sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Code. This classification was based on the assumption that your organization's operations would continue as stated in the application. If your organization's purposes, character, method of operations, or sources of support have changed, please let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on the organization's exempt status and foundation status.

Your organization is required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, only if its gross receipts each year are normally more than $25,000. If a return is required, it must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the organization's annual accounting period. The law imposes a penalty of $20 a day, up to a maximum of $10,000, when a return is filed late, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay.

As of January 1, 1984, your organization is liable for taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (social security taxes) on remuneration of $100 or more the organization pays to each of its employees during a calendar year. There is no liability for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Organizations that are not private foundations are not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. However, these organizations are not automatically exempt from other federal excise taxes. If you have any questions about excise, employment, or other federal taxes, please let us know.

Donors may deduct contributions to your organization as provided in section 170 of the Code.

Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to your organization or for its use are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Your organization is not required to file federal income tax returns unless it is subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. If your organization is subject to this tax, it must file an income tax return on Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return.. In this letter, we are not determining whether any of your organization's present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

The law requires you to make your organization's annual return available for public inspection without charge for three years after the due date of the return. If your organization had a copy of its application for recognition of exemption on July 15, 1987, it is also required to make available for public inspection a copy of the exemption application, any supporting documents and the exemption letter to any individual who requests such documents in person or in writing. You can charge only a reasonable fee for reproduction and actual postage costs for the copied materials. The law does not require you to provide copies of public inspection documents that are widely available, such as by posting them on the Internet (World Wide Web). You may be liable for a penalty of $20 a day for each day you do not make these documents available for public inspection (up to a maximum of $10,000 in the case of an annual return).

Because this letter could help resolve any questions about your organization's exempt status and foundation status, you should keep it with the permanent records of the organization.

If you have questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely,

John E. Ricketts

John E. Ricketts, Director, TE/GE
Customer Account Services

3