August 29, 2019

Beverly Hills City Council
City of Beverly Hills
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Honorable Mayor Mirisch and Members of the Beverly Hills City Council:

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce writes to you regarding the request of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) for a waiver of the current prohibition on work during the holiday season (Thanksgiving to New Year’s) on the Wilshire/Rodeo Purple Line Subway Station.

After careful consideration, our Chamber supports the request to lift the holiday moratorium for this year. The general sentiment of most of our stakeholders who have been engaged on this issue is that it is best to move expeditiously to complete construction as quickly as possible to minimize the impact to our business community. We believe that working during this period to complete construction as quickly as possible will help accomplish this task.

We do remain concerned about the impact to businesses during the holidays. Therefore, in evaluating LA Metro’s request, we ask that you take into consideration the following:

- The City should carefully take into account the sentiment of businesses, particularly the retailers and restaurants adjacent to the construction, in determining the scope of any work done during the holiday period.

- Minimize impacts to the City’s Holiday BOLD Initiative.

- The Chamber would like to see more precise communication from the contractor (TPOG) about the planned construction schedule, particularly during the holidays, and prompt communication to stakeholders about any changes to the schedule. Additionally, we believe businesses should be given specific guidance on how to communicate traffic and parking impacts to their customers/clients to avoid loss of business.

- The request from LA Metro and TPOG implies that construction impacts during the summer of 2020 will be lessened if they are allowed to work during the holidays this
year. The Chamber would like to see efforts by LA Metro and TPOG to expedite piling in such manner that decking can be completed before summer 2020 and the busy tourist season.

We support moving forward to complete construction quickly and ultimately have a new subway station that will be an asset for our City.

Sincerely,

Todd Johnson
President and CEO
Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce