

From: George Vukasin Jnr

Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 12:47 PM

To: BCDC PublicComment

Subject: June 30th Meeting- Removing Howard Terminal From Port Priority Use

Dear Members of the BCDC,

My family and company have a long history in the city of Oakland. My grandfather moved to Oakland in the early 1900's as a Yugoslavian teen ager and opened the doors of Peerless Coffee and Tea in 1924. He wanted to offer a European style fresh roasted coffee to the Bay Area. He also wanted to plant roots in this great city so he could be part of the local fabric.

My father joined the company out of college and for the next 60 years, my mother and father grew this small Oakland company into one of the strongest regional coffee roasters on the west coast... all the while keeping our business located in Oakland. My sister and I, both born and raised in this city, now run the company and we hope to continue to make Oaklanders proud to have Peerless Coffee and Tea in their town. Peerless is 95+ employees strong, many of them union (UFCW & Teamsters), many of them Oakland residents and support a Howard Terminal stadium.

The A's need to remain in Oakland and I implore you to support that goal. The Howard Terminal project will be a giant catalyst for improving the lives of not just Oaklanders but all in the Bay Area. **Please Vote to amend the San Francisco Bay Plan and Seaport Plan to remove the Port Priority Use Area designation at Howard Terminal.**

When we moved Peerless to Jack London Square in the 1970's from Old Oakland, we invested in a community that was basically warehouses and empty fields. Today, it is a shining star in our city with great potential. As local leadership, you need to shepherd this region to reach its potential and a partnership with the Oakland Athletics is crucial.

Thanks,

George

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