February 3, 2021

Dear Board Chair Garcetti:

As I approach the completion of my employment contract which expires in May of this year, it is with mixed emotions that I am informing the Metro Board of Directors that I do not plan to seek a new contract or extension of my current employment.

It has been my distinct pleasure and absolute honor to serve and lead Metro’s nearly 11,000 employees for the last six years. I leave with great satisfaction knowing that, working together, we have improved mobility and increased access to opportunity for all residents of LA county, and weathered the most devastating health crisis of the past century. We have indeed quickened the pace of public service and left the County better than it was.

As an organization, we have accomplished so much. A few examples that cannot be overlooked are:

- Passage of the largest transportation investment measure in North America, Measure M.
- Aggressively created real opportunities for small, women-owned, minority-owned, and veteran-owned businesses, including the first Prime contract for a minority business with a traditional Prime subbing to a DBE.
- Metro’s management of the COVID-19 pandemic, and subsequent positioning of our agency to emerge from this health crisis stronger and more resilient.
- The advancement of real and effective employee professional development programs, including the SEED Transportation School, Workforce Initiative Now (WIN), the Metro Leadership Academy, ENO Multi-Agency Exchange Program, and many other workforce development initiatives.
- The partnership with our Federal and State partners to secure approximately $9 Billion in grant funding over the past five years. Much of this has to do with their trust in Metro’s leadership and our undeniable track record of success.
- Our emphasis on not just talking about innovation but implementing it in concrete ways that help real people improve their lives. The Office of Extraordinary Innovation, Metro Micro, Mobility on Demand, NextGen, and our Apple and Android apps come to mind.
- The change in organizational culture from one of entitlement to one of innovation, initiative and accountability.
- Creation of our Faith Leaders Outreach, where we have met with faith leaders from all over the county on a quarterly basis and developed relationships to advance Metro efforts, including Measure M.
- Oversight and management of the largest transportation infrastructure program in North America.
• The creation of the Women’s and Girl’s Governing Council (WGGC) which has released a study that is changing the way the transportation industry is responding to their needs.
• Metro’s national and international reputation for excellence will endure for many years to come.

Finally, the employees are my heart and soul. Everything I have tried to do has been in their best interest. I look forward to advocating and advancing the mission of Metro in my next endeavor.

Much love to our Board and our treasured and dedicated Metro staff.

Sincerely,

Phillip A. Washington
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Metro Board of Directors