Mayor
David Barrow

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MEMO

To: Members of the Public
From: Mayor David Barrow
Date: March 19, 2019
Re: Administration Building Public Input Forum on March 26, 2019

As part of planning for the future of our city, several plans have been developed to guide us including a Master Plan for Development, a Sewer Master Plan, a Transportation Master Plan, and currently still being developed is a Drainage Master Plan. Over 10 years ago, planning started on a future Administration Building (City Hall) and a City Center. Many public meetings were held to gather public input, and citizens were excited about the process.

State Senator Bodi White has been instrumental over the years in providing funding in the state's Capital Outlay Act for an Administration Building for the city of Central. It started with a small amount of seed money back in 2009 in the amount of $50,000. This amount grew to nearly $1.9 million in 2014. However, in 2016, budget cuts in the state reduced this amount to $1.1 million. In 2018, the total project funding was cut to $861,300. There is concern that this most recent amount could be reduced even more this next fiscal year.

In order to attempt to keep this funding, I desire to continue planning for an Administration Building (which would include permanent city council chambers) and related City Center, but I need your input first. I do not favor a $5 million complex as was proposed last year, and I do realize the controversy surrounding that project. On the campaign trail last year, I did state many times that I could support a smaller administration building. Over the past few months, I have been speaking with many citizens and business owners about this project, and based upon those conversations, I believe we can still construct a building and permanent council chambers at a smaller size and lower cost at some point in the future. The city currently does not own any property upon which to construct an administration building.

On Tuesday, March 26, 2019 immediately following the conclusion of the City Council meeting to be held at 6:00pm at Kristenwood, 14025 Greenwell Springs Rd, Central, LA 70739, I will be holding a public forum to ask your opinions regarding this project. I would like your input as to what you feel would be acceptable regarding the size, cost, location, timeframe, and more. I

would like your input as to whether or not we should include our City Services (IBTS) within a proposed Administration Building or keep them separate. I would like your input as to whether we should continue to plan for a large City Center or keep it small. Basically, I am seeking public input on a variety of matters as part of this planning process. This is all part of a future vision for our city. I have asked a small group of citizens, including former Mayor Mac Watts, to assist me with planning this forum and gathering information.

Please attend this forum and help be a part of this process. I will also be providing other methods for input in the future.

PUBLIC FORUM:
TUESDAY, MARCH 26 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:00PM.
KRISTENWOOD, 14025 GREENWELL SPRINGS RD, CENTRAL, LA 70739.