HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

May 24, 1962

Mrs. Glahn and Gentlemen:

In 1959 the Santa Barbara City College was established at its present site on the Mesa with the expectation that a future building program would be required. The present facilities are now overcrowded in every respect, and will become more so in the immediate future as junior college enrollments accelerate.

In addition to growth caused by general population increases, the California junior college movement has been given impetus by recent actions by the State Legislature in adopting the Master Plan for Higher Education in California, and in stipulating that by 1965 every high school district in the State must become part of a school district that maintains a junior college.

The State Master Plan defines the roles of the University of California, the State colleges, and public junior colleges. This plan provides that the University will devote its primary attention to upper division and graduate work through the doctorate; State colleges will be primarily concerned with upper division and graduate work through the master's degree; and junior colleges will have to assume every-increasing responsibility for larger numbers of lower division students. This means that most college-bound students in the Santa Barbara area and elsewhere in California will have take the first two years of college training at the junior college, rather than at the University or State College.

In addition to this increasing responsibility for transfer education, Santa Barbara City College and other California public junior colleges will continue to provide the following types of educational programs:

- Preparatory or remedial education for those individuals who can profit from instruction and who need to make up subject or scholastic deficiencies
- Vocational and technical education through:
  - Pre-employment training for students preparing to enter occupations upon their completion of one or two years of college work
  - Trade extension and other courses for the retraining or occupational advancement of persons already employed (this program is being accelerated through implications of the Manpower Retraining Act)
- General education experiences in all courses in order to contribute toward the development of a broadly educated citizenry
- Adult education
Santa Barbara City College has had an enrollment of 1385 students just in day credit classes alone during the current, 1961-1962 school year. This represents an increase of 158% in 5 years. Last fall the Citizens' Advisory Committee estimated a minimum City College enrollment of about 2500 students in the next 5 years, and this figure can easily be much higher if the present rate of growth continues.

A basic question of fundamental concern to both the school system and the community at large is, can the City College fulfill its role in the community at its present location?

In its desire to plan wisely for the future, last July the Board of Education retained the architectural firm of Daniel, Mann, Johnson, and Mendenhall to analyze the City College site and educational needs, and to develop a master plan for the College on its present site. At approximately the same time, the Board appointed a Citizens' Advisory Committee to study many aspects of educational needs in the Santa Barbara City Schools. The Architect's recommendations were developed concurrently with the Committee's studies on City College problems, and the Committee concurred with the recommended master plan.

The "community college" concept of this master plan was based on the following basic considerations:

1. Development and joint use of both School District facilities on the college campus proper, and nearby City-owned facilities (municipal pool, baseball field, tennis courts, La Playa Field, Plaza del Mar Park, several parking areas, etc.). By this concept, the City College and the City (through its Park, Recreation, and Harbor Commissions and Departments in particular) would cooperate in maximum utilization of all publicly owned facilities in the vicinity of the present City College.

2. Acquisition of approximately 37 acres of land across Leadbetter Road from the City College campus, now owned by the Regents of the University of California and under lease with option to purchase by Jean Paul Wolfe.

One of the outstanding characteristics of the present campus site is the tremendous natural beauty it possesses in terms of orientation, landscaping, and location overlooking the Pacific. Two problems detracting from the site's advantages have long been recognized. They are (1) lack of sufficient area for ultimate expansion; (2) lack of sufficient parking areas to keep pace with predicted student enrollments.

The community philosophy of the project indicates that solution to these two basic problems could be achieved by joint use of adjacent City facilities by the City College, realizing that the community would also benefit by having access to a great number of new facilities which the Board of Education would construct to implement the plan. Such a joint effort would save the taxpayers the purchase cost of a comparable area and would serve to insure the optimum use of facilities by both the community and the student body.
The Citizens' Advisory Committee concurred with the community college concept, and with acquisition of the additional property. $400,000 was the cost estimate for the additional land which the CAG included in its final report to the Board, and this $400,000 was in turn included in the High School District bond building program authorized by the electorate in March, 1962.

Since that time, the Board has secured an M.A.I. appraisal on the so-called Wolfe property, and it appears it will not be possible to purchase the property with the bond building fund appropriation for this purpose.

The further development of the City College at its present location is dependent entirely, therefore, on:

1. The firm willingness of the City of Santa Barbara to cooperate wholeheartedly in joint use of both City and School District properties as set forth in the community college concept; and

2. The wishes of the people of Santa Barbara and its environs in view of most recent developments concerning the cost of additional land, etc.

A number of informal contacts on the proposed community college have been made over a period of many months between representatives of the City and the School District. Excepting for questions and opinions by individual City representatives, however, there has been no reaction on the part of the City concerning its interest in proceeding with the proposal. No further progress can be made on the urgent problem of the City College until it is known whether the City wishes to cooperate with the Board of Education, and whether the community at large wishes the City College to stay where it is or move to another location.

Definite cooperation of the City is required and requested if the Board of Education is to proceed with expansion of the City College at its present site. Following is a resume of the facilities included in the proposal for joint use of publicly owned properties in the vicinity of the Mesa Campus:

**City's contributions in joint-use proposal:**

1. Physical properties:
   a. Pershing Park
   b. Tennis courts
   c. Municipal pool facilities
   d. La Playa Field
   e. Plaza del Mar Park
   f. Related parking areas

2. If any of the land adjacent to Leadbetter Road is acquired by the District, cooperation by the City in effecting closing of Leadbetter to through traffic, and creation of another right-of-way immediately southwest of said additional land to connect Cliff Drive to the future Shoreline Drive extension.
3. If the Board acquires acreage in the Ladera Tract northwest of Cliff Drive for additional parking area, action by the City to extend Montecito Street to serve this area, with a possible secondary access on Gutierrez Street.

4. Additional traffic improvements, some of which are already under consideration, which would be considered normal to development of the facilities (such as re-routing Shoreline Drive adjacent to La Playa Field).

5. Recognition by the City that City College would have first priority for use of both City-owned and School-District owned properties on days and at hours when the College is in session.

School District's contributions in joint-use proposal:

1. Physical properties:
   a. Gymnasium, showers, and lockers (City league basketball games and other community activities)
   b. Cafeteria - Student Center (civic dinners and meetings)
   c. Little Theatre (civic dramatic groups, etc.)
   d. Outdoor Theatre (civic meetings, outdoor dramatic presentations, etc.)
   e. Recreation areas (park and picnic areas)
   g. Related parking areas on present School District property and any additional property which is acquired

* - Shower and locker facilities, and the Cafeteria - Student Center are included in Phase I of the City College building program on the present site

The joint use of both City and School District properties would permit an optimum City College enrollment of about 4500 students at the present site. It is not inconceivable that this enrollment could be attained within the next 10 years or so.

Additional City College facilities are needed at once, and three portable classrooms will be provided this summer to help meet this urgency. It had been anticipated that the first phase of the building program would be completed by September, 1963, but questions concerning the location, the matter of the City's interest and cooperation, and the problem of acquiring additional property are delaying this schedule.

In order to avoid unnecessary further delay in planning for City College needs, it is imperative that a final decision be made almost at once on whether to develop the College at its present location, or whether to move to another site. Several other possible sites appear to be available for this purpose outside the City limits.

The Board of Education of the Santa Barbara High School District formally requests the City of Santa Barbara to give immediate consideration to the proposal outlined in this communication. It further requests that the City inform the Board of Education by July 1, 1962, of its decision regarding its willingness to cooperate with the Board in development and use of publicly owned properties in the vicinity of the present City
College campus. Such an arrangement would be entirely independent of any past, present, or future considerations regarding other properties belonging to the City or the School District.

The Board of Education also invites you and other City representatives as you may designate to discuss the entire matter with the Board and representative interested citizens at a meeting to be held on __________________, 1962, at _______ p.m. in Room 6 of the Administration Annex.

Ascertaining both the City's decision and the present trend of community thinking is essential to the Board of Education in its further deliberations on the most sound, efficient, and economical way of meeting the community's educational needs at the City College level.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce D. O'Neal, President
Board of Education

Norman B. Scharer
Superintendent

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