



GSA Pacific Rim Region

March 13, 2009

Cecilo Garcia
Commander

Paul R. Varela
Sr. Vice Commander

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Jr. Vice Commander

Albert Aviles
Adjutant/Treasurer

Disabled American Veterans
Los Angeles, Chapter 5
16083 Sierra Pass Way
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

Dear Messrs:

Thank you for your service to our country and for your continued interest in the important services and support for veterans. We received your letter dated February 18, 2009 regarding the relocation plans for Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) from the 11000 Wilshire Federal Building. General Services Administration (GSA) shares your interest in finding the best solutions for VBA.

Due to the age and condition of the facilities at 11000 Wilshire, substantial and immediate repair and alteration work is required. The repair work requires the relocation of the VBA. In addition, in accordance with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) nation-wide Field Office consolidation program, the FBI must consolidate its Los Angeles Field Offices into one location. To do so the Office of Management and Budget directed that FBI be consolidated at 11000 Wilshire. The size of FBI's offices requires use of the entire federal building and relocation of all other executive agencies from 11000 Wilshire.

GSA is working with the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to move VBA to a new location that is well positioned to serve its clients. The new facilities for VBA will be state-of-the-art. They will meet all current local codes, including accessibility requirements and will facilitate more efficient operation for the VBA than can be provided at the outdated facilities at 11000 Wilshire. The delineated area for the new location was selected by DVA. DVA can further direct that GSA use proximity to mass transit, requirement of location on the ground floor, proximity to freeway exits, sufficient parking (including handicapped), and other mission-related requirements as selection criteria for the new location.

U.S. General Services Administration
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3434
www.gsa.gov

Regarding the ownership and status of the property, the 11000 Wilshire federal building is located on a portion of a 300 acre grant from John P. Jones and Arcadia Bandini de Baker to the United States in 1888.

In the early 1960s, a corner of the original 300 acres was sliced off from what remained of the original grant site (site of the now current medical center) by the construction of the San Diego Freeway. In August 1962, VA declared the 28.216 acre parcel excess to its needs and transferred it to GSA in May 1963 for construction of a new Federal Building as authorized by Congress.

In 1990, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in *Farquhar v. United States*, 912 F.2d 468 (1990) reviewed the 1888 deed. The 9th Circuit noted that the 1888 deed contained a recital that a branch home for disabled veterans would be constructed and permanently maintained on the property, and, in fact, the DVA continues to operate and maintain a branch home on the remainder of the property to date. The Court concluded that this recital does not create a permanent restriction upon the use of the land for veterans. Therefore, the United States is authorized to dedicate the 11000 Wilshire site for use by executive agencies other than VBA.

We understand your concerns about relocation of VBA from 11000 Wilshire. We can assure you that we will work closely with DVA to accommodate all of the mission related needs of VBA in the search for a new location. Thank you again for your letter and service to our country. If you have any further questions, please call Mr. Abdee Gharavi, Director, Portfolio Management Division, at (415) 522-3085.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary M. Filippini".

Mary Filippini
Acting Regional Commissioner
Public Buildings Service