



DIPATAMENTON I KAOHAO GUINAHAN CHAMORRO
DEPARTMENT OF CHAMORRO AFFAIRS

Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo
Governor of Guam

Joseph Artero-Cameron
President, DCA

Raymond S.Tenorio
Lieutenant Governor of Guam



April 28, 2015



The Honorable Senator Rory J. Respicio
Chairperson, Committee on Rules, Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs, Human & Natural
Resources, Election Reform, and Capitol District
33RD I Liheslaturan Guahan
155 Hessler Street
Hagåtña, Guam



Subject: Status Update on Hagåtña Masterplan

GUAM MUSEUM

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Chairman Respicio and members of the Committee on Rules, Federal & Micronesian Affairs, Human & Natural Resources, Election Reform, and Capitol District.



We are happy to be here tonight to give this esteemed Committee on Capitol District a status update on the Hagåtña Master Plan prepared by the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority.



Sistema Litrario Pùblico Guahan

An Act to create the “*HAGÁTÑA RESTORATION AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY*” was passed into law December 1, 1997 by the 24th I Liheslaturan Guahan. With almost 18 years past, you will see tonight that we are getting closer to accomplishing the law’s initial task of implementing the Hagåtña Master Plan. In June 2013, the 32nd I Liheslaturan Guahan passed Public Law 32-039 which added two (2) commissioners: the Mayor of Hagåtña and an appointee from the I Liheslaturan. At the time, this action gave the Authority great encouragement and support, as this undertaking can only be accomplished with full collaboration by all parties concerned. This is why HRRRA’s appearance here tonight is not just a status update but also to hear and gather input, issues, and concerns from this esteemed body. I must also commend Senator Respicio as a fellow HRRRA Board Member for his invaluable contribution and drive to implement this Masterplan. It is also my opinion that he has represented this body to the highest degree.



I would also be remiss if I did not acknowledge the foresight of the following: the Governor of Guam, the 32nd I Liheslaturan Guahan, Guam Visitors Bureau, and the Guam Economic & Development Administration for locating the Guam Museum in the Capitol District, hosting the 2nd Annual Guam International Music Festival and the 12th Annual Festival of Pacific Arts in our Capital City of Hagåtña. Hagåtña is clearly becoming the focal point of culture, government, and commerce. It has begun.

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Recently, someone pointed out to me the differences of meaning between the two spellings of the word Capitol with an “O” and Capital with an “A”. Capitol (with an o) defines a building or group of buildings where the legislative deliberating body meets. Capital (with an a) defined as a the city serving as the seat of government. Furthermore, it is important that we establish the word CAPITAL as not only our seat of Guam government but also the center of culture, historical sense of place, and Guam-centric learning.

Our capital contains such iconic structures like the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica; the Plasa de España Arches; the soon to be renovated Guam Congress Session Hall; the Hagåtña Spanish Bridge (Tollai San Antonio); and the soon to be completed Guam Museum. We hope to add to this list the iconic Palåsyo and the Plasa de España. In our discussion with stakeholders, there is overwhelming support to restore and rebuild the Palåsyo historic site. These two (2) historic sites are not a new endeavor but long standing efforts going back to 1980, one led by our standing Congresswoman as the First Lady.

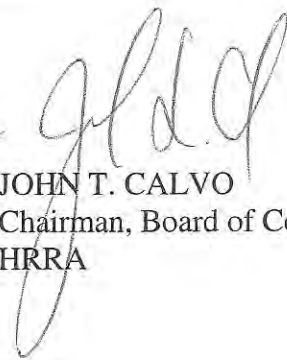
Nevertheless, I cannot over-emphasize anymore how important it is for us to implement the Hagåtña Master Plan. We need to reestablish our Capital and elevate it to its deserving prominence in the region and world. Our Capital City of Hagåtña is the epicenter of Guam and Chamorro Culture and is at risk of being lost to future generations if we do not succeed. HRRRA is not approaching this plan haphazardly but will ultimately present the best and highest use possible with the limited space we have available. Make no mistake, the HRRRA will pursue the vision of the greater good of the people of Guam.

Let me introduce HRRRA’s consulting team – Matrix Design Group and I will like to introduce Ms. Celeste Werner to continue the presentation.

Senseramente,



JOSEPH ARTERO-CAMERON
Executive Director
HRRRA



JOHN T. CALVO
Chairman, Board of Commissioners
HRRRA