



June 10, 2021

Mayor Sue Himmelrich
1685 Main Street
Room 209
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Dear Honorable Mayor Himmelrich,

I would like to personally and sincerely offer you and the entire City Council of Santa Monica my deep appreciation for your time and consideration in reviewing me as your potential City Manager. The great City of Santa Monica – like all municipalities – has its own significant potential and challenges to meet which I'm sorry I will not be helping you to address.

As moments like these are life changing decisions that literally impact the lives of thousands of people, I did not for a moment doubt the difficulty and debate that might occur should this process have proceeded as far as it has. I am, however, truly disappointed by the way this matter became public. Unfortunately, this significantly compromised the situation and impacted my ability to have robust, confidential communications without undue external influence. I have the greatest respect for you and your colleagues for the time, discussion, consideration and honor you've proffered me throughout this entire process.

I cannot describe the difficult discussions I've had with my own city council members, my staff, colleagues and by no means least, my wife and family. Your offer to join Santa Monica as your new City Manager is a wonderful compliment but it seems that the residents and elected of Montebello would like me very much to remain here and they've presented terms that I find hard to refuse at this stage of my life and career.

While I will look forward to carrying on the good and substantial work that I've started on behalf of Montebello and its citizens, I will always appreciate the opportunity and contemplation that you and your colleagues have provided. I wish you and the entire Santa Monica Council the best success in finding a worthy City Manager who will help you achieve your vision for the future of your city.

Thank you for your engagement and interest during this recruitment process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "René Bobadilla".

René Bobadilla

Cc: Santa Monica City Councilmembers Phil Brock, Gleam Davis, Kristin McCowan, Kevin McKeown, Christine Parra, Oscar de la Torre