

# CHARNOCK ROAD SCHOOL

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February 9, 2010

Date: 2/10/2010  
Submitted in EAH Committee BTN  
Council File No: BU  
Item No.: 06-090-527AD  
Priority: Public

Dear City Councilmembers,

I am writing in support of the neighborhood council system and in opposition to proposed budget cuts. Our organization has received important support from the neighborhood council, which has allowed to better serve the local community.

Located in the Palms area of West Los Angeles, Charnock Elementary School serves a diverse population of over 400 students. The families we serve live in the high-density apartment complexes along Sepulveda Blvd, adjacent to the 405 freeway, and between Charnock Road and Venice Blvd. We are a title-one school, with 80% of our students receiving free or reduced price lunch, and over 60% of our students speak English as a second language. Charnock strives to provide a world-class education, complete with such "extras" as a state of the art library, a beautiful literacy garden, art classes, and afterschool enrichment programs, for the working-class and immigrant families in the Palms community.

Unlike more affluent schools in the community, such as Mar Vista Elementary and Clover Avenue Elementary, Charnock does not yet have an active PTA or powerful parent booster club. Booster clubs, such as the Friends of Clover Ave School, are often made of professional, financially savvy parents, and are instrumental in raising funds to finance the "extras" not provided by the school district. The booster clubs also provide schools with the "seed money" necessary to win competitive foundation grants that require significant matching funds.

Although highly supportive of education, the majority of Charnock parents, similar to the parent populations of many urban schools, are recent immigrants and work in the service industry and trades. They unfortunately lack the knowledge, language skills and political and financial acumen necessary to organize, advocate, and fundraise on behalf of their children. As a result, these schools were unable to purchase "extras," or raise the necessary matching funds required to apply for competitive foundation grants.

During the past three years, the Palms NC has played a critical role in partnering with the school leadership at Charnock to provide the "seed money" to finance an ambitious

**MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL BUSINESS DISTRICT ACTIVITY TO DATE**

Mar Vista Business District Activity: Since 2006, the Mar Vista Community Council has funded Streetscape Improvements, encouraged growth of our Farmer's Market, and promoted interest in our commercial corridor. This has driven a renaissance on Venice Bl between Centinela and Inglewood during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.



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Date: 2/14/2010  
 Submitted in 854 Committee  
 Council File No: 7653  
 Item No.: pu  
 Deputy: \_\_\_\_\_