EAST HOLLYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES

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ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA MAYOR

October 23, 2012

EAST HOLLYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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To the Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

As President of the East Hollywood Neighborhood Council, I represent the more than 50,000 starcholders of my community. Over the past several years, the East Hollywood Neighborhood Council has expressed its concern and opposition to the project proposed for 5241 Santa Monica Blvd. in East Hollywood.

Tomorrow, the project approvals are on the City Council agenda as a consent item. Unfortunately for the members of my community, that means we will not have an opportunity to be heard regarding the impact of this project on our neighborhood.

Among the many negative impacts this project will have on East Hollywood, the most concerning is the elevated lead levels found in the soil. This project is located immediately adjacent to an elementary school with 500 students. When I spoke before the Planning and Land Use Management Committee to express my concern that these students may be subject to potential lead poisoning, I was treated with utter contempt and disdain. The Committee members appeared to be unconcerned with the potential health threat posed by this project.

Now the project approvals are scheduled as a "consent item" on the next agenda. The utter lack of concern by the members of the City Council for the children of East Hollywood is disgraceful. As a president of a Neighborhood Council, my job is to inform the City Council of the concerns of my community. When the City Council chooses not to listen to our concerns, the entire process is undermined.

The more than 50,000 people living, working and going to school in East Hollywood are not an annoyance to be brushed aside in the rush to do the bidding of developers and campaign contributors. They are your constituents, and they have a right to be heard.

Yours sincerely,

David Bell President, East Hollywood Neighborhood Council