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JOHN E. DEASY, Ph.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

February 21, 2014

The Honorable Council Member Mitch O'Farrell, Chair
Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street #450
Los Angeles, Ca 90012

RE: Council File 1204-S1 – E-cigarettes

Dear Chairman O'Farrell,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), I write in support of the proposed electronic cigarette use ordinance that will prohibit the use of E-cigarettes in areas where smoking is currently prohibited.

At LAUSD, we will stop at nothing to ensure every student receives an education that will prepare him or her for the future. We want to ensure our student's preparation takes place in a safe environment and will continue strive to provide smoke-free environments on all of our campuses. Recent reports have raised concerns that introducing e-cigarettes to be used in traditionally smoke-free areas reinforces "smoking-like behavior" which may result in higher youth initiation rates.

What we do know is that youth have begun to use these products. According to the National Youth Tobacco Survey conducted annually by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the percentage of high school students who claim to have used E-cigarettes rose from 4.7% in 2011 to 10% in 2012. One in 5 smokers has tried an E-cigarette. The study also found that 76.3% percent of middle and high school students who used E-cigarettes within the past 30 days also smoked conventional cigarettes in the same period.

These findings raise serious concerns that there may be youth for whom E-cigarettes could be an entry point to use of conventional tobacco products, including cigarettes. Therefore it is critical that the City move forward on these regulations.

On behalf of the Los Angeles Unified School District, I urge you to support the proposed E-cigarette ordinance on February 24th, 2014. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please feel free to contact Edgar Zazueta in my office at (213) 241-7000.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Deasy".

Dr. John E. Deasy