

To the Honorable City Council RE: Council FILE No. 15-0038

Dear members of the Honorable City Council,

My name is Melanie Galuten and I am unable to attend the upcoming April 14 hearing as I will be out of the country so I wanted to write to you.

I am a parent of a 6th grader at New West Charter School. I am writing to show my support to uphold the previously APPROVED enrollment increase granted last year at the hearing I attended. It appears that couple of local residents are appealing this decision which would mean that this extraordinary and award winning PUBLIC school will not have an incoming 6th grade class next year.

This handful of residents (3 to be exact) for some inexplicable reason is trying to block families from the Brockton Elementary (the local feeder school) and kids from the larger LAUSD community from being able to enroll at this school despite it's documented performance as a compliant and good neighbor. The school has an IMPECCABLE reputation and has not had a single documented CUP violation or police phone call from the city in the 3 years that the school has been in residence. For that reason the school received unanimous support from the City Planning Commission to increase the enrollment to support an incoming 6th grade class. It was approved. **Now because of a FEW the entire future of the school is at risk.**

This appears to be petty local politics and I find it extremely interesting and informative that a similar **complaint has NOT been lodged regarding the TWO PRIVATE SCHOOLS that are in the same neighborhood. VERY interesting.** New West serves children from over 60 zip codes - many from historically underserved communities. So - are they really complaining about a school in their backyard or do they harbor another agenda?

NEW WEST CHARTER is a blessing in our family and my son is a straight A student and brought extremely high California test scores (perfect math score) with him from his elementary school and he is currently getting the best education I have ever seen (we have older children so we speak from experience). **This school ranks in the TOP 1 % of the highest performing schools in LA...and a few people want to spit on that.** Again... this appears to be petty politics trying to overturn a unanimous decision for the school to move forward. I hope that we can count on support from you on this important issue which adversely affects the lives students wishing for this great education at a PUBLIC school.

Thank you for your time and energy in this matter.

Sincerely,

Melanie Galuten