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Council File 15-0038

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Wed. Apr 22. 2015 at 12:02 PM

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From: **Dana Stulberg** <dkstulberg@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Wed. Apr 22. 2015 at 10:24 AM
Subject: Opposition to New West Charter School CUP Amendments (Council File 15-0038)
To: sharon.gin@lacity.org

April 22. 2015

Jose Huizar. Chair. Planning and Land Use Management Committee

Gilbert Cedillo. Vice Chair. PLUM Committee

Mitchell Englander. Member. PLUM Committee

Attn: Sharon Gin. Legislative Assistant

200 N. Spring Street. Room 395

Los Angeles. CA 90012

via email: sharon.gin@lacity.org

RE: Opposition to New West Charter School CUP Amendments (Council File 15-0038)

Dear Councilmember Huizar. Councilmember Cedillo. and Councilmember Englander.

I am writing to oppose the granting of amendments to New West Charter School's Conditional Use Permit at its Armacost location (CPC-2011-1923-CA-SPR-PA-1) which will be before PLUM committee next Tuesday. While I am sure that you have received many letters in support of the amendment to the CUP from New West parents (the opening page of their website features a request to support the amended CUP). I would like to take the opportunity to state my objections.

During the contentious approval process for the Conditional Use Permit in 2012. New West addressed many concerns from the neighborhood—specifically an enrollment cap of 750 students. Now less than three years later, rather than continue to follow the hard-fought rules set down by the City Council, New West is asking to increase its enrollment. Have the conditions in the neighborhood changed, so that this change would be amenable to the neighborhood? Quite the contrary: Opposition to the CUP from the neighborhood remains as evidenced by this appeal. The Expo Line is not scheduled to be finished until next year and there are numerous proposals to develop the Expo/Bundy area—which will mean construction and the related traffic will continue for several years. Now is not the time to increase the enrollment of the school.

Additionally, New West's claim that they will not be able to enroll any students for 6th grade—including those from Brockton Elementary as laid out in the CUP—needs to be addressed. The claim is repeated in almost all of their correspondence on this issue. The City Planning Commission finding that increased enrollment will meet a "need of the community" is false. Brockton's enrollment has decreased 10% over the last 5 years. Given that there would be at most only 40 students coming from Brockton Elementary, New West's claim that they cannot accommodate these students is either a result of extremely poor planning on their part (in order to maintain the 750 enrollment cap) or, more likely, a complete disregard for the CUP approved by the City Council in 2012. This disingenuousness on the part of New West is troubling and, although I may be naïve, should not be rewarded.

In short, while I understand New West has the right under the original CUP to request amendments and thereby increase its enrollment, the request is antithetical to the spirit of the original compromise. **The Planning Commission did not act in the best interest of the neighborhood and am I asking that their determinations on September 11, 2014 be reversed.**

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dana Stulberg

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Los Angeles, CA 90035

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