



# HOLMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *Church of the Bells*

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June 6, 2017

Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Support for Motion for Land Use and Legal Analysis of Setback  
Around Oil and Gas Extraction in Los Angeles (Council File # 17-0447)**

Dear Council President Wesson and Los Angeles City Council:

We write on behalf of Holman United Methodist Church, a member organization of the Stand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling – Los Angeles (“STAND-L.A.”) coalition. STAND-L.A. is an environmental justice coalition of community groups that seeks to end neighborhood drilling to protect the health and safety of Angelenos on the front lines of urban oil extraction. As a congregation that has been an integral part of the West Adams community for over 70 years, we believe that the safety and health of our children, youth, elderly and all families must take priority. The Murphy drilling site continues to put the health and safety of our community at risk. Our faith teaches us to develop and deploy a holiness that is personal, social and environmental. Such is a spirituality of mutuality and solidarity with our neighbors from West Adams to Wilmington. Hence, the STAND motion is a moral imperative for us, and has our full support.

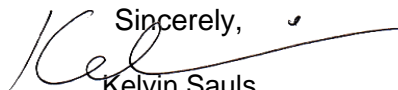
We respectfully express our support for an ordinance to establish a 2,500-foot setback separating oil and gas extraction operations from sensitive land uses like homes, schools and hospitals. We would also like to express support for the motion introduced on April 19, 2017 (Council File # 17-0447) directing the City Attorney, Petroleum Administrator and Department of Planning to perform a legal and land use study of such an ordinance. We applaud the leadership of Council President Wesson introducing this motion and to Councilmembers Bonin, Cedillo, Harris-Dawson, Koretz, and Martinez for co-sponsoring the motion.

Los Angeles is the largest and most densely populated urban oil field in the nation. The City of LA hosts more than 900 active oil wells, with over 77% located within 2,500 feet of a home or sensitive land use such as a school, park or hospital. More than half of the active wells are located in low-income Latino and African-American neighborhoods already overburdened by environmental hazards, such as Wilmington and South L.A. Residents from these neighborhoods have documented serious health problems—including nosebleeds, chronic migraines, nausea, asthma and other respiratory illness—in addition to daily disruption from drilling noise and vibrations, foul odors, and diesel truck traffic.

Oil drilling operations are wholly incompatible with residential neighborhoods, and we urge the Council to act swiftly to pass the motion for a legal and land use study as an important step toward alleviating the harm that front-line communities experience daily. Every Angeleno deserves to live in a safe, healthy neighborhood.

Thank you for your attention and action on matters that directly impact the health and safety of residents living near oil drilling operations. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Kelvin Sauls  
Senior Pastor

***“Inviting people into discipleship with Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”***