

Los Angeles, April 9, 2014

To whom it may concern,

My name is Miguel Angel Orellana and I have to first off commend Milagros Lizarraga for the wonderful actions she has done in order to promote this fantastic dream of Peru Village.

My mother is a Peruvian women named Luisa Miranda Alvarado who came from Lima to the U.S. in 1988 during the terrorism in Peru that affected our family deeply. She joined her sister Ivonne and aunt Aurelia, who came in 1984 and 1939. That side of my family comes from Arequipa and Ayacucho and migrated to Lima during the 20th century. My father is a Salvadorian and came here in 1984 from San Salvador during the civil war in his country. I mention my background so that you can see that I am of Peruvian decent and most importantly that my heart feels a lot of love for Peru. It is simply how I was raised since birth along with a desire for the progress of Peruvians here in the U.S. and in Peru.

I have always had this longing to visit Peru and understand where my family came from, my aunt Ivonne and my mother were extremely instrumental in my life and development. So in July of 2010, I traveled to Peru with all of the money that I saved up in my first job. I went with two aunts and 10 cousins on a plane from San Francisco to Lima. We met relatives, stayed in Chorrillos, explored Lima, and learned about living as a Peruvian. We spent everyday with our Peruvian relatives, which were many! I saw all the people and places that my mom and family members would describe to us growing up. We also traveled through Ica and Nazca in order to reach "La Sierra" to see Ayacucho and Arequipa. All in all, the trip was the most beautiful experience of my life.

Every since I heard about Peru Village, I have been wanting to become part of this movement and contribute to it's success. Living here in Canoga Park and all over Los Angeles has given me a clear understanding of this city and it's inner workings. I used to live in Hollywood close to where Peru Village is now by Melrose and Wilton in 2003-04. With my background, I am able to work with fellow Angelenos, other Americans, the Peruvian-American community, as well as Peruvians in Peru. I come from a very difficult childhood and adolescence, however I continue persevering and now working towards my Bachelor's Degrees in Communications and Political Science. I am in the community college system and it will take time for me to complete these degrees but determination is going to help a lot. Even though I am still a student, I find it very important to reach out and start contributing to my Peruvian Community. Who knows what will happen in the future, but I do know that by sending this message to you in the present that big changes will happen.

All over Los Angeles there are other ethnic communities trying to do exactly what we are doing with Peru Village. I think it's important that we support each other. El Salvador Corridor is another

dream that I want to be a part of. I would like to see Peru Village grow like Koreatown, which has been getting a lot of foreign investments for many years and has just recently been getting grants from the U.S. government. I see a lot of potential with Peru Village and I want others to see it too. Peru is an amazing country that has diverse culture, music, foods, traditions, values, ideas, 28 of the world's 32 climates, ethnic diversity, history, and economic potential. All these characteristics are united under the Peruvian flag. I never shy away from promoting Peru with my friends. I even promote it on Facebook. I always keep good relations while promoting and raising awareness.

I hope that I can be part of the Peru Village Organization and use it as a platform to achieve our goals as Peruvians, Angelenos, and Americans.

Sincerely,

Miguel Angel Orellana

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