

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

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October 18, 2021

Members, Planning and Land Use Management Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 N Spring St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Request for Update Concerning Motion to Study Incompatible Industrial Uses Next to
Schools & Residential, Council File 20-0826

Dear Planning and Land Use Management Committee Members:

I am reaching out to the Committee in my capacity as the Director of Environmental Health & Safety for the Los Angeles Unified School District. As you may recall, I am tasked with the mission of ensuring a safe environment for over 600,000 students to learn, 24,000 teachers to teach and 73,000 employees to work. In concert with this mission, Los Angeles Unified reiterates its full support of the Motion to Study Incompatible Industrial Uses Next to Schools & Residential Areas.

Los Angeles Unified respectfully, but urgently requests an update on this committee's efforts to study the potential incompatibilities plaguing neighborhoods. As you know, this committee approved the Motion for the City Council to direct the Department of Building & Safety with assistance from the Department of City Planning to report back in 30 days on the following:

- 1) Identify any/all metal recycling or metal shredding facilities which are housed inside the City of Los Angeles and are next to any of the following:
 - a) Schools
 - b) Residential uses
 - c) Childcare facilities
 - d) Recreational facilities
 - e) Hospital and medical facilities
 - f) Parks and Open Space
- 2) Report on any/all complaint histories and/or public records of violations against these facilities.
- 3) Rank each of these facilities by number of code enforcement complaints and gravity of code enforcement violation allegations.

- 4) List corrective actions taken by the Department of Building & Safety or any other City Department for each facility on the roster (Chronological Case History)
- 5) Identify any sites from this roster which are recommended as incompatible with existing or proposed residential uses and other land uses and an action plan to advance the complete remediation of any sites found to be incompatible.
- 6) Identify locations where schools and adjacent industry should be considered for rezoning to protect children and families from potentially harmful air, water, or other pollutants.

It has been well over a year since the Motion was approved, but there has been little information shared about findings. Meanwhile, students and staff have returned to Jordan High School, where one example of incompatible use is clear. As you may recall, this school community needs regulatory oversight of a facility threatening the health and safety of the school population and the surrounding new Jordan Downs affordable housing community.

Los Angeles Unified has been working tirelessly to eliminate the environmental and health impacts caused by the ultra-hazardous metal recycling facility, Atlas Iron and Metal Company (10019 S Alameda St, Los Angeles, CA 90002). The facility shares fence lines with Jordan High School (2265 E 103rd St, Los Angeles, CA 90002) on one side and the housing community on the other. Of interest to this Committee are the emissions and the deposit of metal particulates from Atlas that have permeated the newly installed athletic facilities and internal buildings of our school. In addition, there are also dangers posed by projectiles and shrapnel flying over Atlas' walls onto the school campus. Each time this happens, there is a substantial risk of harm to students and staff from these flying metal shards. To make matters worse, the metal recycler has since erected a dangerous wall of shipping containers, stacked three containers high, next to the school that threatens the health and safety of students and staff. A structural engineer has reported that the school is in immediate harm due to the careless way the wall was erected.

This is just one example of incompatible industrial use that we know about and still, we struggle with keeping students and staff safe. What about the cases that we don't yet know about? There may be hundreds of similar situations putting residents in harm's way. It is imperative that the action items identified in the Motion be completed immediately. Please provide an update on this Motion as soon as possible. Lastly, Los Angeles Unified and the city planning department can work collaboratively in carrying out assessments since we have already identified many high risks facilities near our schools. We are happy to partner on this.

Please let me know if you have any questions or wish to discuss further. I can be reached directly at (213) 792-4265.

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Torres, Director
Office of Environmental Health and Safety
Los Angeles Unified School District