

Communication from Public

Name: Martha

Date Submitted: 03/08/2026 04:59 PM

Council File No: 25-1469

Comments for Public Posting: A chlorine station should not be in the middle of the community, which puts our families in danger.

Communication from Public

Name: Rick Thomas

Date Submitted: 03/08/2026 09:16 PM

Council File No: 25-1469

Comments for Public Posting: Los Angeles City Councilmember Tim McOsker wrote in a June 12, 2025, letter to JCI, Jones Chemicals, Inc., “We appreciate your continued partnership and presence in our community.” My question is simple: who exactly does “we” represent? Noting that you sit on the Public Safety Committee Tim, that clearly is a fair question. Because many residents of Harbor Gateway South do not share that appreciation. For those of us who live in the shadow of this facility, JCI’s “continued partnership and presence” has meant environmental violations, safety concerns, and years of community frustration. Public records show that JCI, Jones Chemicals, Inc. has repeatedly faced enforcement actions. During a May 31, 2024, EPA inspection of the Torrance facility, inspectors documented multiple safety failures, including corroded equipment, unsecured chlorine containers, unsupported piping, inconsistent procedures, and a non-functioning chlorine sensor in an active production area. The company agreed to pay a civil penalty and correct the violations. Earlier EPA inspections under the Clean Air Act also found violations of Chemical Accident Prevention rules, including failure to repair corrosion, failure to replace chlorine hoses on schedule, failure to translate safety procedures for Spanish-speaking workers, and failure to properly analyze prior hazardous incidents. Those violations resulted in a \$200,000 federal penalty. These are not minor issues. They involve chemicals and safety practices that affect the health and safety of our community. Yet residents have also seen troubling signals from city institutions that appear to normalize or even promote this company’s presence. The LAPD Harbor Division has partnered with JCI on community events, including allowing the company’s logo to appear on promotional materials for activities organized by the department. Residents have also witnessed close and highly visible interactions between LAPD representatives and company executives at Neighborhood Council meetings. This raises serious concerns. The role of city departments is to protect the public, not to create the appearance of endorsement for companies with a documented history of environmental and safety violations. Another issue residents have raised repeatedly is the movement of chemical transport trucks through residential streets near the facility. These streets are where families live, children walk, and neighbors expect a reasonable

level of safety and environmental protection. That is why the Councilmember McOsker's motions addressing these issues is so important. For many residents, this is the second significant action aimed at addressing the long-standing concerns surrounding the Jones Chemicals facility. The need for accountability is especially clear given the facility's proximity to the Cheryl Green Boys & Girls Club, which was constructed with special considerations due to ground contamination concerns in the area. This represents an opportunity for the City of Los Angeles to demonstrate that community health, environmental safety, and transparency come first. Moving this forward would send a clear message that the City takes these concerns seriously and that companies operating in our neighborhoods will be held accountable to city, state, and federal standards. I urge Council not only to continue the conversation with the community on this issue but I'm also asking Council to examine the broader issue raised here: how city departments as in the LAPD Harbor Division interact with companies that have significant environmental compliance histories. Clear policies should ensure that public agencies never appear to endorse or partner with polluters like Jones Chemicals, Inc. in ways that undermine community trust. Residents in Harbor Gateway South will continue to advocate for accountability and for the protection of our neighborhood. Los Angeles City Council has an opportunity to take a major step in that direction. Thank you.