



Catherine Palmer <council@babnc.org>

Opposition to Proposed Sale of AJU to Education First

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To: Council@babnc.org

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To whom it may concern,

I am a homeowner in Mountaingate writing to express my opposition to the proposed sale of American Jewish University to Education First.

As you may know, EF proposes to have 700 students living on the AJU campus year-round, with another 200 students being shuttled to the campus daily during the period between September and June, and another 500 students being shuttled to the campus daily during the summer, a total enrollment of 900 to 1200 students on the campus daily, depending on the time of year.

Additionally, any number of resident advisors, counselors, faculty, and staff might also be present on campus under the terms of the EF proposal.

The number of individuals EF proposes to have on campus far exceeds the numbers permitted by the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) of the AJU: up to 200 students living on the campus with a total number on campus at any given time of only 500 students. The CUP was issued in 1966, prior to the construction of any of the homes in Bel Air Park, Bel Air Crest, or Mountaingate and prior to the construction and opening of most of the schools along the Mulholland Corridor.

Those of us living in the Sepulveda Pass in 2017 remember the Skirball Fire, in which Bel Air Park and Bel Air Crest homeowners were directed to evacuate their homes via Casiano Road and then turn right onto Mulholland Drive. Casiano Road is a one-lane road that becomes a two-lane road leading down to Mulholland Drive and Mulholland Drive is a two-lane road which becomes a one-lane road after Roscomare Road. The 2017 evacuation was chaotic and terrifying.

Now imagine an additional 700-1200 international students and staff members attempting to evacuate as well. EF's proposed solution? They would issue a "shelter in place" order. But not only would any such order be impractical; it would be ignored in the event of an emergency. And the resulting rush would create a further threat to life, not only to the homeowners in Bel Air Park and the nearby communities, but to the EF students and staff as well.

For these and other reasons, I urge you to oppose this proposed sale. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexis Bircoll Martin

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