



Catherine Palmer &lt;council@babenc.org&gt;

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**Case Number: CPC-2023-153-CU-DRB-SPP-MSP**

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Marlene H &lt;marlenehca@gmail.com&gt;

Mon, May 15, 2023 at 8:26 PM

Bcc: council@babenc.org

Dear Councilwoman Yaroslavsky, Ms. Knudson and Members of the Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council:

I live in Bel Air Park. My neighbors and I are afraid of what will happen to our community if EF is allowed to increase their numbers to their most recent proposal of 900-1200 students. I have an enormous concern regarding fire safety and join my neighbors and community in opposing EF's Education First, the for-profit company in escrow to purchase the American Jewish University.

EF's proposal is an enormous change to what the campus has been like in the last several decades. Increasing the numbers from what the current CUP is will deeply effect our community. I know you will receive many emails explaining the number change so I'm going to take this moment to focus on my biggest concern. Fire.

In December 2017 when the Skirball Fires forced us to evacuate our homes. There were 500 homeowners jammed onto Casiano Road and then onto the two-lane Mulholland Drive in an attempt to flee for safety. Fortunately, the fires were contained and did not cause substantial damage to our community. But imagine something similar happening and in addition to all the homeowners, the 1200 students plus the faculty, advisors and staff have to evacuate as well. This would be a serious problem as was proven in the evacuation of Mount Saint Mary's University during the Getty fire. Mount Saint Mary's University had a shelter in place plan. Similar to what EF is proposing. A resident of the area of Mount Saint Mary's told me that students were running down the streets to flee. In that situation, residents as well as local emergency personnel were picking up students and driving them to safety. It was mayhem.

My concerns for fire are due to evacuation concerns as well as my concern that these students are young people from places where smoking is commonplace. Young people who don't have any skin in the game and don't understand what it would mean to the area if they throw a cigarette butt or match into the dry brush around the AJU. Unfortunately, we know all too well. EF is just not a good fit for Bel Air. Bel Air is not meant to be a place to entertain young people. It is meant to be a beautiful, peaceful place. Help us maintain our community and continue Bel Air as it has been.

We are very grateful to have a place to voice our concerns. We appreciate your time.

Marlene Hakakha  
Bel Air Park Resident