



Catherine Palmer <council@babcnc.org>

Milken Community High School

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To: "council@babcnc.org" <council@babcnc.org>, "rschlesinger@babcnc.org" <rschlesinger@babcnc.org>

Cc: Richard Kolodny <rk@lawyermover.com>

To the Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council:

My wife and I live in Bel Air Park (and been residents for over 20 years).

The last time that the AJU property was the topic of these hearings was a few years ago, when our hillside community and neighbors faced the prospect (in a proposed transaction that fell through) of a purchaser of the AJU property that was based thousands of miles outside of the United States, that had no ties to our local community, no ties to Los Angeles, no ties to California, and that advised our community, quite directly and bluntly, that their "standard" business plan model involved enrolling, on a short term basis, successive waves of new students (that had no connection to LA) in and out of our neighborhood on a 24/7 year-round basis for their short term courses.

Let's just say that didn't work.

On the other hand, I see MCHS as an ideal occupant of this campus. MCHS has for many years been an exemplary neighbor in the Mulholland corridor, with deep connections to our community and to Los Angeles. Indeed, MCHS has a nationally prominent reputation as a premier high school. The wider MCHS community, composed of students, teachers, staff, parents, and alumni, have deep and long-standing roots in our community. Leadership at MCHS is top tier, with responsive and accountable professionals and staff at every level. I believe that MCHS will be excellent neighbors and will listen and work with us in good faith on any issues that require discussion. I know that our homeowners' associations and our hillside neighbors have many different voices, but to me MCHS is an ideal neighbor that I believe will be big positive for our local as well as broader communities and will be an outstanding steward of this storied campus. We usually can't pick our neighbors, but if I could, I would pick MCHS.

I recommend that this Council grant MCHS the CUP MCHS is requesting. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rick Kolodny

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