Date: June 10, 2019

To: Dr. Richard Vladovic, LAUSD Board Member

Subject: Concerns regarding Charter School Co-Locations in the Harbor Community

Dear Mr. Vladovic,

We, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council have great concerns regarding the recently approved charter school co-location at the Catskill Ave Elementary School in Carson as we see this as a trend that may affect schools located in the Harbor Community. We are concerned that adding a co-location charter school at an existing campus will most likely destabilize the school learning community by taking away existing resources such as computer labs, campus library, counseling room, and play yard. We are concerned that existing schools with fully credentialed experienced teachers, Dual Language, School for Advanced Studies/Gate, English Language Learner, and Special Education programs could be adversely impacted when co-habitation takes place.

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council believes our schools should serve all students. There have been reported instances where charter schools exclude minorities, special education students, and English Language Learners. Furthermore, we believe that schools should transparently include the community when making decisions. We are concerned that GANAS Academy may be failing to do this. We ask that you address these issues.

In conclusion, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council supports the parents, teachers, and community members who have expressed concerns regarding the co-location of GANAS Academy at LAUSD public schools in the Harbor Community, specifically in San Pedro.

We request that you provide us with specific information as to how adding a charter school to any existing campus in the Harbor Area will benefit the existing campus and not detract from existing classroom space, play yard space and existing programs such as Dual Language, School for Advanced Studies/Gate, English Language Learner, and Special Education.

We stand united in protecting our schools in Northwest San Pedro and request a response to this letter within two weeks of your receipt.

Sincerely,

Ray Regalado
President, Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council

cc: Mr. Michael Romero, Superintendent, LAUSD Local District South; Hon. Steven Bradford, SD35; The Hon. Mike Gipson, AD64; Mr. Alex Caputo-Pearl, President, UTLA; Mr. Joe Buscaino, CD15 Councilmember