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Arleta Neighborhood Council

Arleta, CA 91331

Community of Interest Statement

California State Citizens Redistricting Commission

April 30, 2011

Sergio Ibarra, President
Arleta Neighborhood Council

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Arleta Neighborhood Council
9700 Woodman Avenue
Suite A20-A574
Arleta, CA 91331

Honorable Commissioners
Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Public Testimony at San Fernando, CA

Arleta Neighborhood Council
Community of Interest Statement

Introduction:

The Community of Arleta is located in The City of Los Angeles and is north of downtown Los Angeles. The Community was part of the neighborhood of Pacoima until the early 1960's, when a new US Post Office was built and named the Arleta Post office. Arleta currently has an estimated population of 32,632 within its 3.10 square miles (www.latimes.com). The City of Los Angeles provides fire, police, water and sewer services. The Community prides itself on having a unique small town character with ranch-style homes and tree lined streets. The vision for Arleta, according to the Arleta Neighborhood Council (ANC) is, "A Community that is Involved, Clean, Safe, Family oriented, Well Educated, Green, and Diverse." Arleta High School is also an important asset to the community which helps make the neighborhood a highly desirable place to live. Some of the challenges the community is facing are issues with foreclosures caused by the down turn in the housing market, the loss of large manufacturing employers, the need for the development of additional recreational areas, and the need for development of retail areas along the major streets. The City of Los Angeles is facing budget short falls and a reduction of tax revenue due to the current economic conditions, and in turn a

cut to available city resources and services. Current general fund expenditures are exceeding revenues by a projected \$400 million in the fiscal year of 2011-2012. A balanced approach to mixed use development with an emphasis on multi-use commercial and residential in the business core is needed to increase the creation of jobs and to generate additional economic activity within Arleta's Community Redevelopment project areas. A windshield inspection of the community also identified other opportunities where economic development efforts to attract additional businesses to the area would be beneficial.

Assets:

According to Phillips and Pittman, a community asset is defined as, "physical, environmental, cultural, social, political and economic" (Phillips & Pittman 2009). The community prides itself with protecting its residential areas and the greening efforts to maintain the small town character and feel. The community also values its tree lined streets, which make it attractive to the filming of movies and commercials. Arleta High School also serves as a strong asset for the neighborhood and serves to attract residents. The high performance of the school helps keep property values since and helps make Arleta a very desirable place to live and raise children. The community is family oriented with the Branford Community and Recreation center that provides extra-curricular activities for families throughout the year (www.laparks.org/). The community also has a high resident participation rate in various community organizations that provide access for residents to get involve in the decision making in their community.

The Arleta Business Watch provides support services for the local business owners and helps promote the community by organizing several events throughout the year. The ANC also

sponsors a cleaning crew to keep the business areas clean. The ANC organizes a yearly Back to School Event, National Night Out, and a large Halloween event at Branford Recreation Center.

According to Phillips and Pittman, the focus point of community development strategies should be using a community's assets to build the capacity to act and take community action (Phillips & Pittman, 2009). So what does this mean? It means bringing the community together over common issues and putting a plan into action. The community of Arleta has extensive experience coming together for a common cause, and organizing events or advocating for its interest. The damage of the *Arleta Community* sign has brought all groups and organizations within the community into one coalition that is working closely with councilman Tony Cardenas's to build a new sign. The community activism also inspired other members in the community to become involved in the governing boards of their community and provides opportunities for citizen participation.

Safety Services:

Arleta is served by LAPD Mission Police Station, and LAFD Station 7. LAPD had helped organize new Neighborhood Watch groups. The Neighborhood Watch Groups organize block parties and outreach to their neighbors.

Description of the Community:

Location:

The Community of Arleta is located in Los Angeles County, and is north of downtown Los Angeles. Arleta is surrounded by the communities of Pacoima, Mission Hills, Panorama City, North Hills, and Sun Valley. The Boundaries of the Community are:

North: Pacoima Wash between Woodman and Interstate 5

South: Roscoe Blvd. Between Woodman Ave. and the Tujunga Wash; the Tujunga Wash between Roscoe Blvd. and Laurel Canyon

East: Interstate 5 to Branford St., up to Laurel Canyon to the Tujunga Wash

West: Woodman between Roscoe and the Pacoima Wash

The total area of Arleta is 3.10 square miles.

History:

The Community was part of the neighborhood Pacoima until the early 60's, when a new US Post Office was built and was named the Arleta Post office. The building of the 5-FWY also provided a physical boundary and separation from Pacoima. Arleta also had orange trees groves, small farms, and a dairy. The neighborhood established itself a small town bedroom community with a close proximity to downtown Los Angeles. Large employers included General Motors in Van Nuys and Price Pfister/Black and Decker. Arleta also has a Japanese Community Center which serves its small Japanese residents, and two Japanese Senior Living Centers.

Demographic Data:

According to the City of Los Angeles Building Department the total population in 2008 was estimated at 32,622 with 10,034 people per square miles. According to Census 2000 the ethnicity is broken down as follows: Latino 71.7%, White 13.2%, Asian 11%, Black 2.2%. The median age of the population is 29 years, the 19-34 years comprise the biggest category. The average income is \$65,649, and the average number of people per household is 4. Education levels are as follows: Less than a HS 48.7%, HS 19.5%, Some College 20.4%, Bachelors 17.7%, and Masters 2.6%.

Conclusion Arleta Community of Interest Statement:

Arleta should be kept together since it shares a common vision for, "A Community that is Involved, Clean, Safe, Family oriented, Well Educated, Green, and Diverse." In order to achieve the ANC's goal of achieving its vision the Community of Arleta should be kept together and represented by one district throughout each level of government, local, State, and Federal.

Residents of Arleta send their kids to the same high schools including, Arleta High School, and Poly High School. Arleta shares a common history with Pacoima and should be kept in the same State Assembly, Senate, and Congressional district. Although, at the local level, Arleta should be kept in Council District Six. Also, Arleta shares commonalities to the communities of Panorama City, Mission Hills, Pacoima, and North Hills. Arleta does not share similarities with Sun Valley and North Hollywood, since those neighborhoods have more industrial areas and are more densely populated.

Arleta also has a small Japanese Community that holds yearly event at the Japanese Community Center and separating into a separate district would adversely affect its ability to receive constituent services from two different government districts. Branford Recreation Center also serves as focal point of where resident come together at various events that the park and Neighborhood Council organizes. Residents in Arleta also shop at two locations in the neighborhood along Van Nuys Blvd/Woodman and Woodman and Nordhoff. The whole community is served by one LAPD Station, and LAFD Station 7. Above all, the process and the creation of the City of Los Angeles System of Neighborhood Council had clearly identified the boundaries of Arleta and has provided a venue of where residents can be civically involved. Separating Arleta into different government district would reduce the effectiveness of the Neighborhood Council to advocate and receive services from our elected officials.

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