



OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
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CITY ATTORNEY

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April 11, 2008

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Dear [REDACTED]:

The Los Angeles City Attorney's Dispute Resolution Program has been asked to convene an initial session to assist stakeholders in the Sunland-Tujunga community in exploring views about how to improve the quality of life of your community, specifically related to the proposed site for Home Depot. (Please see enclosed flyer for Dialogue information and discussion questions.)

We expect to engage approximately 100 of our 1,800 person roster of volunteer community facilitators to assist in an initial discussion of the issues your community considers important in relation to the proposed Home Depot site in particular, and to the quality of life of your community, in general.

After an initial public dialogue involving small group discussion is complete, the Dispute Resolution Program would expect to move toward working with representatives of various points of views to negotiate the details of any agreement that may evolve from the process.

In order to provide community members with the broadest options in the selection of facilitators for the long term, and to ensure integrity of the process, the Los Angeles City Attorney's Dispute Resolution Program will partner with two organizations, Loyola Law School's Center for Conflict Resolution and the Center for Public Dispute Mediation (CPDM). These agencies will assess the facilitation work necessary to complete the process and determine what fees would apply if they are called upon by the parties to intervene at some point.

Facilitation services provided by the City Attorney's Dispute Resolution Program are provided at no charge to all parties.

Each dialogue participant will be asked to join a small group to discuss his/her issues and concerns. The effort will be designed to select the issues deemed most important for further discussion and potential resolution. We would also move toward having a smaller group of representatives of the various views engage in the longer term, more detailed discussion and negotiation of the issues at stake in your community.



Our experience has proven that we will not likely complete discussion of the entire list of questions. After the initial dialogue, the group may wish to consider scheduling another session to further explore the questions posed.

Any material submitted to the Dispute Resolution Program for the purpose of facilitating dialogue or resolving disputes in this matter should be considered public information, unless otherwise specified.

The key volunteer facilitator team representing the Los Angeles City Attorney's Dispute Resolution Program includes Barbara Goldfarb, Edwin Young and Byron Cruise.

Each volunteer facilitator has been asked to disclose any potential conflict of interest that might bias the process of leading this facilitation effort.

You may know that mediation and facilitation of public disputes are voluntary processes. All third party interveners, or in this case, facilitators, must be neutral and impartial.

We have partnered with the two agencies indicated above in the event that parties determine that they wish to move forward with an agency they perceive will conduct facilitated or mediated sessions in the most effective, neutral and impartial manner possible.

Approximately one hundred of our volunteer mediators and facilitators, who have completed 40 hours classroom training, will represent the Los Angeles City Attorney's Dispute Resolution Program at this initial session.

We trust that you will find this process satisfactory to meet the needs of your community, and we are delighted to help you structure a process designed to enhance your quality of life.

The key volunteer facilitators have very limited schedules. You may voice your concerns and inquiries via e-mail at mediate@lacity.org, by U.S. mail at 222 S. Hill Street, Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90012, or by telephone at (213) 485-0390.

Each dialogue participant is encouraged to bring personal refreshments to the session. It is not likely that refreshments will be provided.

We wish you all the very best.

Very truly yours,

Avis Ridley-Thomas

Avis Ridley-Thomas, Director
Dispute Resolution Program
Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney

Enclosure

SUNLAND – TUJUNGA DIALOGUE

... a voluntary public dialogue

Discussion Guide

DATE: Saturday, April 26, 2008
TIME: 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Mt. Gleason Middle School
10965 Mt. Gleason Ave., Sunland, CA 91040

If participants agree, other public dialogue sessions may be scheduled in the future.

All participants will be asked to address the following questions:

1. Introduce and describe yourself to the group. How long have you lived in the neighborhood? In what ways do you feel connected to Sunland-Tujunga? Do you have children or relatives living in the neighborhood?
2. Whether you support or oppose the Home Depot at the proposed site, do you acknowledge the project would benefit some people? What benefits? Who would benefit most?
3. Whether you support or oppose Home Depot's current proposal, do you acknowledge the project would have some harmful effects on some people? What harms? Who would suffer most?
4. What concerns you most (favorably or unfavorably): Home Depot itself, the proposed site, or something else?
5. Given the level of local opposition, do you see the possibility of a win-win solution? For example, would you favor another site, or are there other things Home Depot could do to make the project more acceptable to those who oppose it?
6. What do you consider the greatest assets in your community? What do you like best about Sunland-Tujunga? Why?
7. What views do you have about how the quality of your life can be improved in the Sunland-Tujunga area?

For those who wish to respond to the questions in writing, your response can be faxed to (213) 485-8916. Responses can also be e-mailed to mediate@lacity.org or sent by U. S. Mail to Los Angeles City Attorney's Dispute Resolution Program at 222 S. Hill Street, Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Please complete the survey/evaluation form, which will be provided at the dialogue session.