Hello Neighbors! We need to help each other!!

Are you interested in a school with a population of **800 students** located in our quiet, beautiful neighborhood?? That's what the school, Sahag Mesrob, has proposed for the former site of Bienvenidos at 183 & 205 E. Palm.

**Background:** Just after Labor Day, Sahag Mesrob, an Armenian-Christian school, illegally opened at 183 & 205 E. Palm. They knowingly proceeded to open and operate their school without receiving a "Conditional-Use-Permit" which is required for a school to exist in a residential neighborhood. Part of C.U.P. process involves an environmental impact study which includes traffic and noise problems affecting the area.

**Short overview of process:** To receive a Conditional-Use-Permit, a business must file an application with the LA County Regional Planning Office in downtown L.A. stating their intentions; a file is assembled of all pertinent information including letters and emails from the community; a public hearing is scheduled to hear pros and cons of the case; the Regional Planning Commission approves or rejects the application based on this information. This process usually takes between a year to 18 months.

**Sahag Mesrob's application**, originally filed in May 2008, is for a school consisting of preschool through 12th grade with a population up to 800 students. Currently, there are 240 students at the site with 57 employees. Bienvenidos never had more than 80 preschool age children there and operated with a small staff. This is a HUGE difference! Drop-off and pick-up wasn't an issue with Bienvenidos. It is now! The street cannot accommodate this amount of new traffic. Palm needs speed bumps anyway. Imagine 750 more students, more staff, and a lot more cars!

Sahag Mesrob was recently issued a "Notice of Violation" by Zoning Enforcement and must respond by approx. Oct. 1st. Supervisor Antonovich's office has advised them to cease operation. It doesn't appear that this will happen given that they've proceeded in complete disregard for, not only the neighborhood, but the law in general. This arrogant attitude towards the very community in which they want to exist is an important factor when considering the school as our neighbor. Are local, neighborhood kids attending this school? Think of that old cliché "give them an inch and they take a mile"... Can we afford Sahag Mesrob's intrusion into our peaceful neighborhood?? What about property values??? Property values decline with a school in a residential neighborhood.

- 1. Bruce McClendon, Director L.A. County Dept. of Regional Planning 320 W. Temple Rm. 1390 L.A., CA 90012 <u>zoningldcc@planning.lacounty.gov</u>
- 2. Anita Gutierrez LA. County Dept. of Regional Planning 320 W. Temple Rm. 1348 L.A., CA 90012 phone: 213-974-6443 agutierrez@planning.lacounty.gov

## 3. Supervisor Mike Antonovich 215 N. Marengo Suite 120 Pasadena, CA 91101 fifthdistrict@lacbos.org

\*\* **Note**: Letters have the most impact, but all correspondence should be personal, expressing what you like about living in Altadena and what concerns you have with this school in our neighborhood. i.e. excess traffic, parking, noise, teenage drivers, property values, etc. Important to include your address!

## For further information:

Sussy Nemer (Antonovich Senior Field Deputy) 626-356-5407 Paul Novak (Antonovich Rep.) 213-974-5555 Charles Moten, LA County Dept. of Public Works, Bldg. & Safety Division, 626-574-0941 Oscar Gomez, Zoning Enforcement III, 213-894-0880 Bruce Durbin, Zoning Enforcement, 213-974-6456

Altadena Town Council meets every 3rd Tues. at the Altadena Community Center, 730 E. Altadena Dr. 626-398-6174

## Please attend and voice your concern. It's up to all of us!!!

If no one responds, the Planning Commission assumes "all is well" and we end up with 800 kids, hundreds of cars, noise, traffic, declining property values.....

## Please respond before October 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you!

Call: Rachel 797-6465 -or- Coleen 797-2519