

Subject: URGENT! Last Chance to fight HRS Expansion. City Council Hearing on September 19th

Dear Neighbor:

On Tuesday, September 19, at 4:00 p.m., the Oakland City Council will decide whether to approve or deny the Head-Royce School expansion project. This public hearing will be our last chance to persuade the City to order that plan changes be made before a permit is issued.

The Neighborhood Steering Committee (NSC) urges you to email councilmembers in support of the NSC's request for council-ordered changes to the plan permit.

Hundreds of Head-Royce supporters have sent emails urging the City Council to approve the expansion plan. We need to show the Council that there is significant community support for disallowing the huge student enrollment increase and sending the expansion plan back to the Planning Department.

Here is a possible email you can **adapt** to express your support for changes:

Subject: Support for Neighborhood Appeal of Head-Royce Expansion Project

Dear Councilmember:

This message is to express support for the appeal by the Neighborhood Steering Committee to reverse approval of the Head-Royce expansion plan as it currently exists. The school's plan to increase enrollment by more than 30% (1,250 students and additional staff) will prevent safe evacuation of this neighborhood, possibly causing loss of life during a wildfire or earthquake. The project does not include a realistic evacuation plan. HRS's only plan is to herd children and teachers onto their playing field or into their gym. There's no integrated plan for first responders, neighborhood and hills evacuation. There are also significant defects regarding the conditions of approval in the permit. Please direct that the expansion plan and permit be revised to address these issues before allowing this project to proceed.

An increased enrollment for HRS is a risk to thousands of people, insurers and the City if it approves this foolish and greedy expansion without significant mitigations. See:

<https://oaklandside.org/2023/08/31/home-insurance-wildfires-oakland-hills/>

- Your communication to Councilmembers is urgently needed by September 11, so that Council members and their aides have time to read it.

To reach all of the Councilmembers in one e-mail, send to: council@oaklandca.gov . State the street you live on and your city council district number. Or, to write to individual Councilmembers, names and addresses follow. If you prefer, send a letter to City Council, City Hall, 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612

The number of messages the Council receives will impact their vote. Households are urged to send separate emails from **each member** of your household. Please also contact **as many of your friends as possible** and urge them to send messages to the Council as well.

Other concerns you may want to express to the Council members:

- **Traffic and Parking**

HRS traffic plan only requires 34% of transportation by bus, carpool, or bike. All the rest will arrive by car to negotiate through a newly installed left turn lane on Lincoln Avenue, and then an on-campus loop road to a small drop and pick-up area. The plan is seriously lacking in parking for its intended size and instead, depends on unnegotiated and unsigned leases with other institutions to provide some parking, an unknown number of expensive and unrealistic mechanical stacking devices to lift cars off the ground and on top of each other, and cars parking up and down Lincoln to provide more parking.

- **Pedestrian Safety**

HRS refuses to commit to a pedestrian tunnel, leaving children and staff to cross Lincoln Avenue in a crosswalk to get between the two campuses.

- **A defective use permit for the project and HRS's operation**

The use permit has legally unenforceable conditions and increases impact on residents. The two campuses are treated exactly alike though they are in very different locations. It allows 85 nighttime special events, and 780 summer students to use the South Campus very close to housing, instead of dividing special events and students between the two campuses to reduce impacts on neighbors.

- **Contrary to HRS's claim to parents that the project will provide more STEM, it will not.**

This project involves comparatively few new classrooms and only a tiny playing field. All the rest of the expansion is about HRS's goal of profiting from a public entertainment venue operating nights and weekends. If approved, at the end of this project, HRS will have 4 theaters, 2 pavilions, 2 amphitheaters, and 2 food dispensaries -- all very consistent with a public entertainment venue and very inconsistent with a K-12 school.

ATTENDANCE AT THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

If you possibly can, please attend the City Council meeting on September 19, at 4 p.m. at Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza. We need to demonstrate community support for the NSC's appeal. Head-Royce will have many of its supporters at the meeting. **If you are interested in speaking please contact John Prestianni <jprestianni@yahoo.com>** to get on the speakers list. The Council limits speakers to 2 minutes.

For more information and to read the wildfire evacuation expert reports and other documents, go to the NSC website at headroycensc.org

Individual City Councilmember contact information:

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Email: council@oaklandca.gov

Website: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/departments/oakland-city-council>

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