

January 24, 2005

Fountain Valley School District  
Board of Trustees  
17210 Oak Street  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Dear Members,

I am writing this letter to urge you to reconsider your intent to sell the Wardlow property located at 9191 Pioneer Drive in Huntington Beach. The Wardlow property has been host to many important youth-oriented programs for over 20 years. Selling this property would displace thousands of children and quite possibly put an end to some of the programs that the community has come to rely on.

I am somewhat dismayed by the information that I have received from the school district's letter and public hearing that strongly conveyed that the school district is intent on selling the property to the highest bidding residential developer. After reading the school district's letter, dated January 4, 2005 that was circulated to only a small number of area residents, it became apparent that the decision on what to do with the Wardlow property may have been prematurely made.

The district's January 4<sup>th</sup> letter makes statements like the following; *"The district's intent is to sell these three sites for residential development as single family homes"* and *"we recognize that there may be issues about this potential development which the surrounding communities may wish to raise..."* Statements such as these at this preliminary stage of a legal process indicate a disregard for due process concerning the sale of surplus land by a school district.

Therefore again, I urge you to reconsider your decision to sell the Wardlow property because such a decision is in direct conflict with the spirit of California Education Code Section 17485, et. al., which requires that prior to a decision to sell, the Board must first deem the property "surplus land," then offer the land by sale or lease at a reduced rate, to another public agency in order to retain school playgrounds, playing fields and recreational real property.

Please take this information into consideration for your Board's hearing to discuss this matter on February 10, 2005 and remember that your decision will irreversibly affect the lives of children and the surrounding community forever.

Sincerely,



Ronald C. Vienna

Cc: Jill Hardy, Mayor, Huntington Beach  
Orange County Register