

Head-Royce School

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November 9, 2017

Dear Neighbors:

I write today in an effort to offer clarity around fire safety on the Head-Royce campus, particularly in light of the recent fires in the North Bay, and to respond to a letter from the Neighborhood Steering Committee which was circulated in our neighborhood last month. The two-page letter titled “Fire Safety Concern - Lincoln Highlands” states that both our North and South campuses have been out of compliance with the city of Oakland’s Vegetation Management Department requirements and that the School has neglected to take necessary corrective measures to address potential hazards.

First, it is important to state that Head-Royce School is deeply committed to maintaining a safe environment for our school community and neighbors, whether or not we are being inspected by enforcement officials. We are a learning community with responsible citizenship as one of the guiding tenets for everything we do, both in and out of the classroom. We work to model accountability and espouse the value of civic cooperation and engagement to our students. We take the safety and well-being of our community very seriously and fully acknowledge the responsibility we have as an invested member of this neighborhood for over 50 years.

Head-Royce has maintained a positive and constructive partnership with the Oakland Fire Department and we have worked swiftly to remedy any potential hazards brought to our attention. We strive to take a proactive approach to maintaining a safe campus, and our facilities staff and outside contractors perform work on an ongoing basis to mitigate potential hazards, including overgrown vegetation. In instances where we have fallen short and received notice from the city, we have responded immediately to address any identified issues, which the city has not always been able to immediately document due to ongoing city staffing challenges.

As of November 2, 2017, Head-Royce School has received documentation that the North and South campus properties are fully compliant with all City of Oakland Fire Department regulations. Vegetation Management Unit Supervisor Vincent Crudele personally inspected both campuses and granted Fire Clearance Certificates for each of the properties, confirming that Head-Royce is in full compliance with applicable California Fire Code requirements of Chapter 49 and that the School has “met or exceeded the required standards for abatement of fire prone hazardous vegetation.”

Please be assured that Head-Royce is committed to maintaining a high level of fire safety, and we will continue to keep the lines of communication open with OFD and our neighbors in this

regard. Regular updates on campus projects, events, and other items relevant to our neighbors are available on our Neighborhood Webpage (www.headroyce.org/community/neighbors). You are also invited to contact Mary Fahey, Director of Community Relations, with any questions or concerns: communityrelations@headroyce.org or 510-228-1503 (510-846-6844 after school hours). You may access Head-Royce's Fire Clearance Certificates on our Neighborhood Webpage, or by contacting Mary directly for hard copies.

We look forward to continuing to build a cooperative and productive alliance both with our neighbors and the Oakland Fire Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Mullaney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a stylized "M".

Jerry Mullaney
Chief Financial Officer & Director of Operations