

FRESNO COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

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Petitioners' Written County Committee Questions and Answers September 17, 2024

Public Hearing Regarding Proposal to Transfer School District Territory Out of Sierra Unified School District and into Clovis Unified School District

At the September 17, 2024, public hearing in this matter, the Chief Petitioner submitted a recorded video presentation to be played during his allotted presentation time. Because the Chief Petitioner declined to provide for an in-person presentation or to attend the hearing, he offered to answer any questions from the County Committee via email within 24-hours, through County Committee legal counsel. Below is a verbatim copy of the questions emailed to the Chief Petitioner at the County Committee's request, and the answers received from the Chief Petitioner.

- 1. In regard to your map of traffic accidents, you showed us what is the expected percentile, but not an actual percentile. What is the current actual percentile of accidents from Sierra Unified to the Ventana Hills?**

The percentile addressed in my presentation reflected the Excess Predicted Average Collision Frequency (EPACF) which demonstrates the risks posed by the travel route up Auberry Road for students and drivers coming from Ventana Hills. It estimates the predicted number of collisions based on factors like traffic volume, road characteristics, and environmental conditions using a statistical analysis. Roadway Collision Severity Scores indicate that driving to Sierra Unified from Ventana Hills ranges upwards of the 100th percentile in severity of collisions. In addition, Collision Severity Scores by Intersection indicates that the turn onto Lodge Road is in the 90-95th percentile, this is the road that is used to turn onto to go to Sierra High and Intermediate School. I do not have stats on the actual crashes.

- 2. Your explanation of commute times was based upon when a new Clovis Unified elementary school opens, but according to Clovis Unified that elementary school is not planned even within the next 10 years. What are commute times currently to schools students would attend?**

To provide an accurate answer Clovis Unified School district would need to let us know which schools could accommodate the students from Ventana Hills. Clovis North High school is 15 minutes away (10 miles) or Riverview Elementary is 17 minutes or (11 miles away). If students were to attend Clovis West, then the bus stop is 3.5 miles away (6-minutes). Currently most parents who have school age children drop their children off on their way to work in Clovis or Fresno.

- 3. What is the current interdistrict transfer process as experiences by residents of the Ventana Hills neighborhood?**

I am only aware of one parent who has an interdistrict transfer. (everyone else attends private schools). The mother expressed to me that the process was frustrating in having to secure a transfer every year and then waiting until mid-summer to determine if the requested school can accommodate her daughter. Her biggest fear is that the daughter could be accepted at one school one year and then must attend a different school the following year.

4. Are you in any way being compensated by Granville Homes for your presentations of 9/5 and 9/17?

No – Other than purchasing a home from Granville in Ventana Hills, I do not socialize or conduct any other activities with Granville personnel. Furthermore, this is not about me. I am a father who is trying to provide my daughter the best education possible. Her safety and happiness are paramount to my wife and me.

5. Who, if anyone, did you receive assistance from in the preparation of your presentations of 9/5 and 9/17, and were those individuals compensated by Granville Homes?

Priscilla Presto assisted me with the creation of the PowerPoint. You will need to ask her if she receives compensation from Granville. I am assuming that similar questions have been asked of the Attorney and Consultant(s) for the opposition.

6. What is your occupation?

I am a commercial real estate agent who works for ASU Commercial Real Estate in Bakersfield. For the past 35 years my focus is selling existing multifamily properties in and around Kern County.

7. Are you being paid for your presentation? And if so, by whom?

No – To be clear, I am acting solely out of concern for my child. No one has paid me, nor would I accept any payment or compensation in any form from anyone for doing what I can for my kid. Any suggestion that I would is offensive and, quite possibly, actionable. I do not understand why the request of my neighborhood is not being considered on its merits. If the request fails on its merits, fine, but if those involved want to focus their efforts on impugning my character, it is apparent we will not get a fair shake. I am appalled that this is how concerned parents are treated. It makes me understand the reluctance of others to get involved.

8. Are you aware of any interdistrict transfer requests from Ventana Hills being denied by Sierra Unified?

I am not aware of anyone currently seeking an interdistrict transfer request. The only ones I have heard being denied were those Sierra parents that spoke in favor of the opposition on the 5th.