

18 June 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

The Beverly Hills Education Association supports any reasonable efforts by the City of Beverly Hills to create available affordable housing within the city limits. Everyone knows the detrimental effect that the high cost of housing causes in southern California, but it is particularly bad on the West Side of Los Angeles. Rents are soaring and even half-million dollar homes are a thing of the past.

BHEA did a study of members' demographic information from the 05-06 school year. The study found that only 39 of our school district's approximately 300 teachers live in Beverly Hills. Only a fraction of these 39 teachers actually own homes. The rest rent. The average teacher in Beverly Hills lives nine miles away from the city. Some live dozens of miles away in search of affordable housing.

Many of our teachers desire to play a more active role in the very community in which they work, but cannot do so for lack of affordable housing. The fabric of the Beverly Hills community should include its public employees who give back to the city in so many ways. BHEA hopes that the City of Beverly Hills can find a way to make this dream a reality for our school's employees.

Sincerely,

Christopher Bushée
President, Beverly Hills Education Association