

October 2, 2020

Dear Nithya for the City,

We, the undersigned residents and stakeholders of Council District Four, believe in a robust democracy and are committed to solving the issues facing Los Angeles, including homelessness, the climate crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic. We know these are dark times for our city and our nation, which is why it's more important than ever to have leaders that lift us up - not tear us down.

We want to make sure you are aware of the tenor and actions of your campaign and some of your supporters. We have seen David Ryu lawn signs destroyed or removed, which some of your supporters even brag about online. We have seen misleading statements, racist and homophobic tropes, and downright lies propagated by your staff, supporters, and endorsers. We have even seen threats of physical attack.

But more than anything, our communities and our neighbors are disappointed to see this level of online attacks and vitriol in the Council District 4 election.

We understand how important outreach is, both online and in person. We also know that this is a heated election year, where partisanship and cruelty have been given great currency. But no matter how passionate you feel, or how partisan your views are, there is no excuse for cruelty and abuse. Many of your supporters are respectful, and engage on the issues, but many others have injected a negativity into this race that is toxic. The false accusations and narratives from your supporters that you leave unchallenged reek of what is happening at the national level. You say that you are "for the City," but it seems that so far, your campaign has been for negativity and bullying. We fear what this toxic strategy would mean for community engagement and for the future of Los Angeles.

Though the current President may have set a low bar for online discourse, you should aim to go higher. We ask you to disavow the lies, disavow the bullying, and disavow your supporters who traffic in false statements and cruelty. Our district and our city deserve better.

Sincerely,

Anne-Marie Johnson, Silver Lake  
Bill Funderburk, La Brea Hancock  
Desireh Sedaghat, Los Feliz  
Candy Williams, Sherman Oaks  
Cathy Wayne, Laurel Canyon  
Betsy Isroelit, Silver Lake  
Chanchanit Martorell, Park La Brea

Cindy Chvatal, Hancock Park  
Ellen Evans, Doheny Sunset Plaza  
Sandy Gitmed, Hollywood Knolls  
Donna Bojarsky, Hollywood  
Jamie Hall, Laurel Canyon  
Moiria Kelly, Windsor Square  
Seth Kaplan, Windsor Square  
Owen Smith, Brookside  
Gerry Baker, Hollywood Knolls  
Helen Eigenberg, Hancock Park  
Jennifer Levin, Hancock Park  
Marissa Levin, Hancock Park  
Jake Itzkowitz, Larchmont  
Kerry Morrison, Windsor Square  
Stella Gray, Doheny Sunset Plaza  
Karen Perea Gannon, Sherman Oaks  
Cat Deakins, Laurel Canyon  
Tom Materna, Sherman Oaks  
Leslie Elkan, Sherman Oaks  
Pamela Harris, Sherman Oaks  
Jill Bauman, Windsor Village  
Patty Dryden, Whitley Heights  
Marilyn Wells, Hancock Park  
Janna Bodek Harris, Hancock Park  
Robin Greenberg, Bel-Air Beverly Crest  
Julie Stromberg, Windsor Village  
Steve Kang, Koreatown  
Laura Cohen, Brookside  
Suzanne Semnacher, Beachwood  
Peggy Bailey, Sherman Oaks  
Karen L. Bizzini, Windsor Square  
Esther Kim Varet, Hancock Park  
Todd Manion, Whitley Heights  
Mary Marx, Windsor Square  
Polly Estabrook, Windsor Square  
Mark DeAntonio, Windsor Square  
Taryn Poole, Silver Lake  
Michele Kuraner, Silver Lake  
Martin Grey, Silver Lake  
Jennifer Dibs, Silver Lake  
Sandy Martin, Nichols Canyon  
Mort Yates, Nichols Canyon  
Michael D. Masterson, Silver Lake

Nora Graham, Nichols Canyon

Jane Cook, Silver Lake

Kristen Stavola, Laurel Canyon