

June 10, 2020

Alum Rock Union School District

2930 Gay Avenue

San Jose, CA 95127

Dear Boardmembers,

Today, I proudly submit to you, my letter of support for the Ethnic Studies Resolution that will establish an Ethnic Studies Adoption Committee for the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District. It has been one of my greatest honors to represent one of the largest Chicano populations in California. East San Jose is one of the most diverse and culturally rich districts in the 10th largest city of the country with a dynamic history that few are aware of. The East Side stands witness to countless untold stories of both challenges as well as proud moments that have changed the trajectory of our history. The East Side is home to our very own Chicano and international iconic social justice hero Cesar Chavez, it is the birthplace of the grape boycott, where then presidential candidate John F. Kennedy stumped for Chicano votes at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, it has been the platform for national notoriety of the lowrider culture, and the site of the largest immigration marches in Northern California. East San Jose is also the birthplace of the widely acclaimed music sensation Los Tigres del Norte.

East San José has historically showcased the cultural and historical dynamics for many decades. East San José has been the epicenter in the City of San José of the Chicano movement. It is where Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta began their worldwide grape strike, where lowriders cruised our neighborhoods with pride, and other street culture that has become a phenomenon and in 2006, the largest immigration march took place in Northern California. While East San José has challenges it faces to further empower its Latino community, and it should also be proud of the positive prideful and tight-knit culture it cultivates. As a Chicano Studies major, I support the Ethnic Studies resolution because I understand the consequences of when one's history is erased from textbooks and replaced with alternate histories. The families I represent are from diverse backgrounds with important stories to tell. Sadly, generations of history have been lost due the curriculum that has not been inclusive and only told of a dominating society.

In the wake of COVID-19 it has become even glaring obvious that disparities of communities of color have taken place through a long history of racial and systemic injustices. The country has changed in less than 100 days and the youth are leading that charge. We must meet the needs of an evolving world, which includes diversity, equity, and a hunger for racial justice, beginning with an inclusion of Ethnic Studies in our school's curriculum.

Thank you Somos Mayfair and Trustee Corina Herrera-Loera for your bold leadership. I urge Alum Rock Union School Board of Trustees to move forward with Ethnic Studies Resolution that will establish an Ethnic Studies Adoption Committee for the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District. This will help root out systemic conditions that make day-to-day life difficult for our East Side families by learning the rich history of our *gente* that will provide a unique lens that many of us did not have.

Again, I urge the board to pass this resolution today and help keep the momentum going for Ethnic Studies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Magdalena Carrasco', with a stylized, cursive script.

Magdalena Carrasco

San José Councilmember, District 5