

REDEEMER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENED



Pray with us

The building that we have leased for 18 years was sold this month. The new owner will increase our rent substantially. We have been researching other properties in our area. Please pray for God to lead us in these decisions!



A standing room-only crowd filled the public hearing space. Children squirmed, nibbled granola bars, and filled out educational workbooks. *"Mom, what's a nine-letter word for energy that can be replenished?"*

It was a weeknight in Mid-January, and our neighbors had gathered for the South LA Area Planning Commission meeting. The company that operates the Jefferson Drill Site, just up the street from our tutoring center, was asking this board to excuse them from making expensive safety improvements. We were there to describe, yet again, the noise, the odors, the headaches and sore throats, the hazardous chemicals and the air pollution that oil drilling inflicts on our community.

A hard-won determination in November had mandated the enclosure of the site, the use of electric workover rigs instead of diesel, noise and air quality monitoring, modern fire suppression equipment, a vapor recovery system, and more. The oil company was appealing.

At this hearing, neighbors presented the Commission with powerful testimonies about oil spraying homes and cars, and loud clanging that disrupts sleep and conversation. A physician from UCLA recounted how strong odors led her to move out of her house while she was pregnant. We shared current research on

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Adventures Ahead Spotlight

Karina grew up in Adventures Ahead's neighborhood and attended the same schools our students attend. When it was time for her own daughter to begin school, Karina came to Adventures Ahead looking to give her the best chance possible to succeed. For 5 years, Karina attended our School Choice workshops where she used the information to secure her daughter a spot in a high performing middle school. She recruited other parents and became so familiar with the process that she even led a meeting herself. This past fall we invited Karina to join our staff team where she now co-leads a class of 10 K-2nd graders. Along with her great work ethic and natural teaching ability, Karina's experience as a parent in this school system has been invaluable. We're so blessed to have her on our team!



Ms. Karina with her class

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the health impacts of chemicals used at the site--air toxins, carcinogens and endocrine disrupters. Individuals told stories of miscarriages and the loss of friends and family to cancer. Together, we called on the City to value community health over corporate wealth. We urged the commissioners to be a part of making our neighborhood a safer, healthier place.

To our delight, the Commission voted unanimously to DENY the oil company's appeal! This started the clock on a 90-day time limit for the oil company to make the required improvements. Last week the oil company sued the City of Los Angeles to evade the determination and buy time. As the costs mount we hope the company will explore alternative uses for the site. Meanwhile, we continue to work for the health and safety of our community's residents.

Expanding Our Work

This January RCP expanded our organizing effort around ending neighborhood oil and gas extraction. The Murphy Drill Site is located less than a mile from the Jefferson Drill Site. Like Jefferson, it is surrounded by dense, multi-family apartments, convalescent homes, a hospice center and schools. All of the oil and gas from Jefferson is piped to Murphy for processing, burning or sale so the impact and danger for nearby residents is even greater.

We have hired two amazing interns to meet neighborhood residents and connect with organizations near the site, including businesses, convalescent homes, schools and various non-profits. Please pray that local stakeholders would join together to oppose this dangerous facility and pursue a path to end toxic extraction in South LA. Please pray especially for our brothers and sisters at the LA Archdiocese who lease the land to the oil company. Fear of losing oil royalties seems to grip tightly at present. We recall the story in Mark 14 of a woman who broke an alabaster jar of costly perfume to anoint Jesus. Our prayer is that those who have the power to do so would break this land lease and forego the profits it produces. We pray that love for Jesus and love for South LA neighbors would compel the Archdiocese to this powerful witness of the unsurpassed worth of a life lived richly toward God.



the murphy drill site



canvassing at a local school



canvassing on Earth Day!