

February 10, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support of COVID-19 vaccination sites in Southeast Los Angeles

Dear Governor Newsom:

This letter is to bring attention to a very important issue concerning the COVID-19 vaccination process. Early in your COVID-19 pandemic response, you wisely and appropriately noted the importance of our state's commitment to equity as 'the call of the moment'. While we applaud the work of your Office of Emergency Services in collaboration with the Biden Administration in launching the Cal State Los Angeles vaccination site, we must wholeheartedly ask, in our shared commitment to equity, that you bring vaccination sites to the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) region.

Our region has been grappling with the devastating effects of the ongoing public health and economic crisis. Our region is extremely dense, with approximately 8,485 people per square mile, an average well above the rest of the county and state. The region is home to many low-wage, front-line essential workers, and residents that are more likely to live in overcrowded, multigenerational households- key risk factors in accelerating the spread of the virus. Our population is 67% Latino with many non-native speakers.

Just this week, we learned that Latino and African American seniors in LA County are falling behind in access to the COVID-19 vaccine compared to White seniors. The reopening in late May 2020 resulted in the rise of cases among essential workers and in areas with higher rates of crowding. Moreover, with the recent lifting of some of the stay-at-home orders and the existence of a more contagious COVID-19 strain, our communities and residents are in dire need of vaccinations.

Even prior to the pandemic, the people of SELA have for decades confronted one environmental slight after another, including high levels of pollution from freeways, rail yards and toxic sites, the Exide battery recycling plant disaster, and a Delta jet that dumped fuel over our homes and schools. We request that you heed our collective cries to confront these inequities and step in to help.

We welcome your leadership and partnership in helping restore confidence and faith in our communities and throughout the state. Our collectively shared commitments to equity and justice offer a continued and fruitful partnership at solving these contemporary problems. We are steadfast in our joint commitment at serving and protecting those that remain the most vulnerable including essential workers who have kept the gears of our economy going.

In closing, we have identified the following venues (please see attachment) within our jurisdictions to serve as potential vaccination sites. The following Southeast Los Angeles County Mayors are united in our requests for critical vaccination sites and resources to be directed to our region.

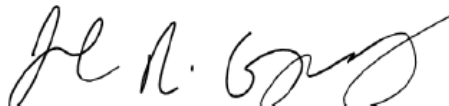
Sincerely,



City of Bell  
Mayor, Ali Saleh



City of Maywood  
Mayor, Ricardo Lara Jr.



City of Cudahy  
Mayor, Jose Gonzalez



City of Paramount  
Mayor, Peggy Lemons



City of Lynwood  
Mayor, Marisela Santana



City of South Gate  
Mayor, Maria Davila

cc: Speaker Anthony Rendon, California State Assembly, 63rd District

Attachment

City of Bell Locations:

Shoe City Parking lot  
6400 Atlantic Ave  
Bell, CA 90201

Bell Community Center  
6250 Pine Ave  
Bell, CA 90201

City of Cudahy Locations:

Clara Street Park  
4835 Clara St  
Cudahy, CA 90201

Elizabeth Learning Center  
4811 Elizabeth St  
Cudahy, CA 90201

City of Lynwood Locations:

Lynwood City Hall/Civic Center  
11330 Bullis Rd  
Lynwood, CA 90262

Marco Antonio Firebaugh High School  
5246 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd  
Lynwood, CA 90262

City of Maywood Locations:

Maywood Park  
4801 E 58th St  
Maywood, CA 90270

Southeast Rio Vista YMCA at Maywood  
Center  
4801 E 58th St  
Maywood, CA 90270

City of Paramount Locations:

Paramount Park  
14400 Paramount Blvd  
Paramount, CA 90723

Progress Park  
15500 Downey Ave  
Paramount, CA 90723

City of South Gate Locations:

South Gate Park Sports Center  
9520 Hildreth Ave  
South Gate, CA 90280

South Gate Park Auditorium  
4900 Southern Ave  
South Gate, CA 90280