

TO: San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed

RE: Public comment on Proposed Rocketship #8 on the Tamien site

Dear Mayor Reed,

I want to tell you that Washington Elementary is a very important school for my family and especially for those of us who are Latino. Because Washington is a bilingual school, we are able to have our children enrolled in a school that is not only narrowed to English. A bilingual person values both languages. Also I want to say that our school does not require parent volunteer hours for each parent, but we are truly volunteers with our time and energy. Washington has many programs for both the children and the parents. I have listed the programs that I can remember that are offered here:

- Madre a Madre
- Zumba
- Compañía de lectura
- Rosetta Stone
- China Club
- Girl and Boy Scouts
- Las Mariposas
- Adelante
- Washington Camina Contigo
- Mujeres mas interesantes
- Voyager
- Coral
- Imagine Learning
- Dream Box
- Lexia
- Proyecto parent Junior
- Silac
- Proyecto bliss

All of these programs are offered at Washington, and other schools do not give these opportunities to their students. I am proud to have my children at this school taking advantage of many of these programs, and they are also very proud of their school. We feel comfortable with the teachers, parents, and classmates here.

What our community needs is a middle school not more elementary schools, please. I feel very sad that many of the parents from Rocketship charter schools verbally abuse and harass the parents from Washington Elementary School, saying that Washington students are academically below Rocketship students when I believe this is not true. The parents from Washington do not harass the parents of Rocketship. Because of this, and the fact that the Rocketship charter schools take away students from Washington, I am against another Rocketship charter school in our neighborhood. I invite you to come to visit our school and community. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Graciela Leon