

PRESS RELEASE



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March 2, 2006

South Central Los Angeles, CA (South Central Farmers) March 1, 2006

An eviction notice was posted on the west gate of the South Central Farm by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department at 2:00pm, yesterday March 1, 2006. According to the notice the 14 acre farm (the largest urban farm in the nation) needs to be vacated by Monday March 6, 2006. Until the end of that day, it will still be legal for the farmers to remain on the land.

Mayor Villaraigosa has abandon 350 poor families who he courted during his campaign for mayor and through his tenure-ship as a councilman for the City of Los Angeles . They have been left at the mercy of a real estate developer who has demonstrated an intense desire to destroy 13 years worth of a successful community farm.

As citizens and tax payers of the City of Los Angeles we are outraged that the city of LA settled a speculative lawsuit with Mr. Horowitz. Even after Judge W. Crispo had ruled three times against Horowitz, the city officials conceded to give the land back to Horowitz for a mere 5.1 million dollars, extremely under the fair market value, since in 1994 it had been sold for 13.3 Million dollars.

We are outraged that the community is now being asked to bear the profit of 11 million dollars for the real estate developer. Further, we address the primary decision maker regarding the land, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, urging him to do more than suggest that the working class community connected to the farm raise \$16 million or more through individual contributions.

Those who conceded the sale have an essential liability to return this asset to the community. We are calling on Congressman Xavier Becerra, Speaker of the California Assembly, Fabian Nuñez, County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and the whole city council to 1) nullify the sale with Ralph Horowitz, or 2) take the land by eminent domain, or 3) take on the burden of fundraising to buy the land that was given away to a speculative developer. The land belongs in the community for the good of the community.

It is not necessary to destroy the community farm. Help us prevent the destruction of this 13-year project that has become an asset to South Central Los Angeles. We call upon you to reconsider the destruction of the 14-acre community farm in South Central Los Angeles. Surely an alternative site can be found for Mr. Ralph Horowitz somewhere else along the Alameda Corridor.

Sincerely,  
South Central Farmers



Antonio Villaraigosa asking for the farmers' support



Antonio Villaraigosa leads the Lord's Prayer with the Farmers.