

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Stadium Mega-Development Strikes Out With the Community

A growing coalition of Oakland community groups, Laney students, and other community stakeholders gathered on Tuesday, September 19 at the Peralta Community College District Administrative Office to voice their concerns and opposition against Dave Kaval's proposed mega-development of the new stadium at the current Peralta Colleges headquarters.

OAKLAND, Calif. -- On Tuesday, the Stay the Right Way Coalition held a press conference at the Peralta Community College District Administrative Office to voice their firm opposition against the proposed relocation and development of the new A's stadium at the current Peralta Colleges headquarters. Various stakeholders participated, ranging from Laney students to A's fans to Chinatown and Eastlake community members, as well as other community advocacy groups and coalitions.

The conference highlighted a number of speakers that emphasized the negative impacts the mega-development might bring to the Laney, Chinatown, and Eastlake community, as well as repercussions that might ripple throughout the city and county.

Cici Zheng, a Chinatown small business owner, stated, "Working and living in Chinatown, I have deep feelings for my community. I don't want the moving in of a stadium to change the history and values of this community!"

"The potential of this stadium not only threatens the Chinatown and East Lake neighborhoods - it's also a huge threat to over ten schools within a few miles radius of the proposed site," says Joshua Fisher Lee, Director of AYPAL. "The A's say they want to build a site that is authentically Oakland. To me, authentically Oakland means supporting our young people and their families to continue to stay in their neighborhoods and attend their local schools, not uprooting them."

Laney College is an important higher education institution for low-income students that is both affordable and easily accessible. However, rising rents and unaffordable housing is leading to a challenge in recruiting more students. Relocation of the stadium will add increased pressure on transportation, displacement, and accessibility.

John Reimann, a Laney student declared, "Laney College, given where it is, as the only accessible community college, really in Oakland, that if [the stadium] goes through, the existence of Laney College itself would be up for grabs."

"Given the proposed location of the new stadium and the current location of our college, it would, without a doubt, throw the positive learning environment that we strive so hard to maintain into disarray," proclaims Roger Porter, a faculty member at Laney College. "The truth

is that there is no way that a major league ballpark and a community college can peacefully coexist as neighbors.”

The press conference closed with a call to action. The different coalitions stressed the importance of raising visibility of these different cultural and educational communities, and how they play critical roles in shaping and sustaining the current surrounding communities.

“To the Peralta Board of Trustees and Chancellor Laguerre,” Alvina Wong of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network urges, “we’ve entrusted you with the responsibility of representing our community and making the right decision for our community’s survival. We urge the A’s to Stay the Right Way and not uproot Chinatown, Eastlake, or Laney.”

About Stay The Right Way Coalition: A growing coalition of small businesses, students, faculty, workers, tenants, seniors, artists, and nonprofits, including the following coalitions and organizations: the Chinatown Coalition, Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt, 5th Avenue Community Waterfront Alliance, Save Laney Land for Students Coalition, and the Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay.

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