



Dewey Academy

1111 2nd Ave.
Oakland, CA 94606
(510) 874-3660 (w)
(510) 874-3661 (f)

March 28, 2022

City Administrator Reiskin,

We, the staff, students, and School Site Council members of Dewey Academy are writing to share our concerns about the homeless encampment and the Lakeview Tiny Homes Village project located right next to our high school on the corner of 2nd Avenue and E.12th Street. We are a caring community who hoped that we would be able to exist harmoniously with the new neighbors without there being a negative effect on our students and campus community. We were told the encampment on the E.12th parcel would be closed once the Lakeview Village opened and we welcomed that change. We have been a good faith neighbor, participating in community meetings about the LVV, attending the Open House event, and even exploring ways to partner on a mural project. However, due to a lack of timely response on behalf of the City, since the Lakeview Village has opened our campus has been negatively impacted in the following ways:

Unsanctioned Encampment

- **Public nudity and sanitation risks:** We have witnessed individuals defecating on the sidewalk outside of our school during school hours.
- **Emotional & physical safety:**
 - Individuals have walked down to the end of E11th Ave where our portables are located and proceeded to yell at people who don't appear to be there. For fear of the students' safety, we have been forced to not allow students to walk down to the portables to prevent engagement with said individuals.
 - Also, we have arrived on campus in the mornings to find people sleeping in their vehicles in our parking lot or near the portables. When they are approached and asked to leave the individuals state, "It does not say no trespassing." Although most people have been kind enough to leave without incident, we feel as though we are left to patrol the City street on E11th Ave.
 - On multiple occasions, students on our basketball court have been yelled at by homeless encampment individuals outside of the Lakeview Village, and while students have played basketball and other sports individuals have stared at them and made them feel uncomfortable.
- **Fire:** There was a tree set on fire behind the portable on 10/13 which required the evacuation of staff and students in the portable. The most recent fire on 03/21 was at the Tiny Village and came within a few feet of our science classroom. All staff and students once again had to evacuate the school, distributing teaching and learning and causing stress to our community.
- **Encampment spilling onto the Dewey campus:** We were told the encampment at the E.12th parcel would be removed once the Tiny Village opened and this has not been the case. We had to settle for the City to install visual barriers on the fences on our basketball court, due to a large amount of trash and furniture stacked adjacent to the schools. Further encampments are being made next to our fences and instead of the encampments being removed they are multiplying.
- **Unleashed dogs:** Before the visual barriers were put up dogs would run onto the campus and defecate on the lower courtyard grass and bark at students and staff in the area.
- **Disturbing the peace:** Foul/explicit language and loud music is constantly able to be heard and is disturbing to teachers and students.

- **Trespassing:** After 3 day weekends we must ask individuals to move off of our property or neighboring properties to allow our students to travel between our main campus and portables.

Lakeview Village

- **Garbage:** There is garbage accumulating behind the Lakeview Village fence that is adjacent to the school property. More and more garbage is being thrown and it is a major sanitation and fire risk.
- **Fire:** The most recent fire on 03/21 was at the Tiny Village and came within a few feet of our science classroom. All staff and students once again had to evacuate the school, distributing teaching and learning and causing stress to our community.
- **Disturbing the peace:**
 - Protesters have honked their horns and yelled loudly. One even yelled directly at our Principal.
 - We have heard residents on the eastern side of the Village in loud arguments and using foul language. Loud music is also constantly able to be heard from that area and is disturbing to teachers and students.

The safety of our students and staff is our utmost concern. We should feel safe on campus and while traveling to and from campus. We have had regular communication with our City Council representative and her staff who have been extremely responsive. We are aware that Council President Bas and her office have been communicating our concerns to the appropriate City staff and advocating for our needs to be met for several months. We have also communicated directly via emails and phone calls to City staff and departments requesting a response to our concerns. Additionally, we are participating in the E. 12th Community Council group which meets every other week. Unfortunately, none of the above-mentioned efforts have led to the City acting to remedy these very valid and escalating issues. At this point, we feel we have no choice but to communicate with you directly and demand the following:

1. The immediate closing of the unsanctioned encampment next to the Lakeview Village and Dewey Academy. This means the actual execution of the closure scheduled for 03/31.
2. Cameras installed on the exterior of the tiny homes and monitored 24/7 by a security firm hired by the city of Oakland.
3. A security guard is stationed not only on the interior of the Lakeview Village but on the exterior and stationed on 2nd Ave.
4. There is a direct phone line to someone stationed at the Lakeview Village that is accessible and responsive during emergencies.
5. A chain of command developed to allow schools and neighbors to receive help that is timely.
6. Daily or weekly cleaning around the Lakeview Village fencing including the area adjacent to Dewey Academy.
7. A noise ordinance is recognized and all residents commit to a quiet time during school hours.
8. Removal of the graffiti on the fence surrounding the tiny homes.

We look forward to a response from your office regarding our demands. We are hopeful that with the proper actions taken by the City, the Lakeview Village and Dewey Academy can restore trust and both populations can receive the excellent service and treatment that they deserve.

Sincerely,

Dewey Academy staff and students

Dewey Academy School Site Council

OUSD D2 School Board Director, Aimee Eng