

1 **Declaration of Jose I. Cardenas**

2 I, Jose I. Cardenas, hereby declare:

3 1. I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and if called to  
4 testify I could and would do so competently as follows:

5 2. I attended Fremont High School in Oakland during the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001  
6 school years. This year my mother placed me in Life Academy, a public charter school, because  
7 Fremont High School is such a terrible school.

8 3. In my physical science class during the 1999-2000 school year I was not given a  
9 book to use during class or to bring home to study with. I saw several physical science textbooks  
10 lying around my classroom, but the substitutes did not use those textbooks. Instead the  
11 substitutes would give us photocopies and worksheets to do. During the 2000-2001 school year,  
12 I was not given any books in my English class. I really only had books in my algebra and history  
13 class and I only received books to use in my algebra class during the month of April -- eighth  
14 months after school started. Until we received books in April, the teacher gave us photocopies.  
15 It is terrible that I did not receive something as basic as a textbook in so many of my classes at  
16 Fremont. This year I am at Life Academy and I can see the difference. I have a textbook in all of  
17 my classes that I can take home to study with and to do my homework. It makes a big difference.  
18 I feel like I am learning a lot more, I can review at home, and it is easier to complete my  
19 homework because I have a book at home to use.

20 4. During the 1999-2000 school year, I did not have a permanent teacher for my  
21 physical science class for the entire school year. I had different substitutes throughout the year,  
22 and I did not learn anything in physical science. That class was terrible because we did not have  
23 a permanent instructor, no lesson plan, and often no work to do during the period. The  
24 administration recognized that we did not learn anything in that class and instead of giving us a  
25 grade for work that we were never assigned they gave all of the students in the class a P for pass.

26 5. The bathrooms at Fremont are disgusting. There is tagging all over the place and  
27 sometimes the water does not come out of the faucet in one of the bathrooms. The  
28 administration at Fremont also locks most of the bathrooms in the school and so often I had to

1 search around to find a bathroom that was actually unlocked. Generally, only about two of the  
2 bathrooms are open during the day for students to use. I know that these conditions still exist  
3 because I have friends who still attend Fremont.

4 6. During the 2000-2001 school year, my science class was incredibly hot on many  
5 of the days during the last three months of school because we did not have air conditioning.  
6 Sometimes it would get so hot in the classroom that students would walk outside to get fresh air  
7 because they felt dizzy. On really hot days our teacher would let us sit outside because we just  
8 couldn't be inside the classroom.

9 7. My biology class during the 2000-2001 school year was overcrowded. In the  
10 beginning of the year the class had approximately 40 plus students in it, and the room was too  
11 small to hold those students so students would have to stand or sit on desks. There just weren't  
12 enough desks for everyone. The teacher would send students to the office so that they could  
13 transfer to another class, but at first the administration would just send the students back to our  
14 biology class because there was no other place for them to go. Later in the semester the situation  
15 improved and by April of 2001 I would say we had approximately 30 students in the class.

16 8. In my architecture class during the 1999-2000 school year there were mice in our  
17 workshop room. That was really disgusting.

18 9. Fremont does not have enough basic science materials for students to use such as  
19 beakers and telescope that are supposed to be available for us to complete science experiments.  
20 For example, there is a set of about 30 telescopes for all of the science classes and so students  
21 often have to share in large numbers.

22 10. I really hope Fremont High School will improve. It makes me sad that many of  
23 my friends still have to go to such a horrible place. The school is in terrible condition, and I do  
24 not believe I learned what I should have learned during my time at Fremont.

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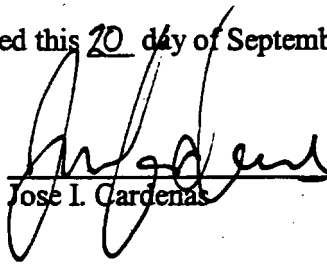
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I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 20 day of September, 2001 in Oakland, California.

  
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Jose I. Cardenas