

1 **Declaration of Angelica Araya**

2 I, ANGELICA ARAYA, 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 just graduated from eighth grade at Luther Burbank Middle School in San
6 Francisco, California. I will be going to Burton High School in the fall.

7 3. Luther Burbank is very dirty and has cockroaches and rats all over the school.
8 I have seen rats in the gym and the girls' locker room, and sometimes when the lights are turned
9 on in the gym we can see rats scurry out and into the walls. My gym teacher told me that a rat
10 ran across her foot. During English class in seventh grade, I saw a rat run across the place where
11 they keep the chalk and erasers. I have seen cockroaches in my math and science classroom. I
12 have also seen cockroaches in the hallways on the floor. One time in my science class with Mr.
13 Candia there was a cockroach crawling on the ceiling and it fell about two feet away from my
14 teacher's head. The whole class started screaming. I have complained to two of my teachers,
15 [REDACTED], about how dirty the school is, and asked why there are so many
16 cockroaches and rats in the school. Both teachers told me there is nothing they could do about it.

17 4. In the hallways there are a lot of tiles missing from the ceiling. They are also
18 cracked up and look very old. In some of the classes there are windows that are either missing or
19 loose. That isn't safe for the students. For example, one time during math class one of the
20 windows near where I was sitting came loose and just fell right out onto the floor. My teacher
21 called up to the principal's office, but they didn't seem to care. The next day when we came to
22 class someone had just leaned the broken window back in the place where it was before. If
23 anyone had bumped into it or leaned against the window, it would have fallen right out again. I
24 have seen other schools, and I think that Luther Burbank is much worse than other schools. It
25 looks scary, windows are missing, and you can tell from the outside the blinds are all torn up.

26 5. There are times when it is so, so hot in my classrooms, and there is no air
27 conditioning at all. There are also times when it is so, so cold, but no heaters that would work.
28 In my social studies and math class this year (eighth grade) it was really, really hot for about a

1 week. We don't have air conditioning, and my teacher would just tell us to bring in bottled water
2 and a visor so the sun wouldn't get in our eyes. In seventh grade, I remember my teacher Mr.
3 Nawa told us to open up all the windows. It makes it really hard to learn when it is hot like that,
4 because you are so uncomfortable. You can see that everyone gets irritated and doesn't want to
5 do work. In January and February of each year that I was at school it was really cold, and we
6 didn't have any heat. When I say we didn't have any heat, I mean that in some of my classes you
7 could hear a noise in the walls that sounded like a heater was on but you couldn't really feel any
8 heat. At least it didn't make it warm. There are heaters in the hallway, but I don't think they are
9 even hooked up, because I can't feel any heat from them. One time the whole vent cover fell off
10 and was lying in the hallway and no one did anything about it for almost a week. Usually, the
11 students kept their jackets on all day, and my teacher would keep a jacket on too. Students would
12 also put their gloves on if they remembered to bring them. Also, when we are really cold and we
13 bring a hat to class to wear to keep warm the teachers won't let us wear it, because wearing hats
14 is against the school rules. When it is really cold like that it is really hard to study or concentrate.

15 6. The bathrooms are really gross. I never use the bathrooms, because they smell so
16 bad, and in both the first and third floor bathrooms one of the stalls has no door. I just hold it
17 until I come home. Last year and this year, all of the bathroom doors were locked during class so
18 students can't use them. Sometimes this year during lunch one of the bathrooms would also be
19 locked. I know of two people who had accidents during school, because they didn't want to use
20 the bathrooms or couldn't get into them. There is no soap in any of the bathrooms even though
21 there are soap dispensers. Sometimes there are no paper towels to use to dry your hands either.
22 There are not enough stalls for everyone to use. Sometimes there are lines for the bathroom.
23 There are nine stalls total for girls in the school and nine for the boys, three on each floor.

24 7. In science they sent a note home telling us we had to purchase markers and
25 crayons, because we were doing a poster project on smoking. If kids didn't have the money to
26 buy them then they would have to share the few crayons that the school had. At the beginning of
27 each school year, they also send home a notice with a list of things that we must buy to use at the
28 school like paper, pencils, erasers, and stuff like that.

1 8. My teachers had to buy their own supplies, and I don't think that is right. For
2 example, in science Mr. Candia bought squid and also cow eyeballs for us to dissect because the
3 school wouldn't buy them. We had to share one eye to a table because that's all he could buy.
4 He told us he bought this with his own money so we should be careful because the other classes
5 had to use it too. We also didn't have enough dissecting knives to dissect the eyeballs, and the
6 ones we had were all rusty and gross so instead we used stencil blades. Ms. Stewart and Ms.
7 Habib also bought books for us to read during free time or to use for book reports. Ms. Stewart
8 bought a whole carousel of books for us that she told us she bought with her own money. I think
9 they did this because our library wasn't very good, and they wanted us to have books to read.
10 They would also send home notices asking for book donations or money for donations to buy
11 books. We do have a library at the school, but it is hard to use because we don't have a librarian.

12 9. I could not bring textbooks home in most of my classes, because we did not have
13 enough books. We had only one set of books for all the students in most teachers' classes to use.
14 The books we did have were all broken up, had writing on them, and were falling apart. In my
15 social studies classroom we had to share books sometimes two to a student because there weren't
16 enough for all the students who needed them. We would have to share books in class when
17 another teacher had borrowed books from our classroom, so we have even less than the class set.
18 Because we couldn't take any of our books home from school the teacher would zerox our
19 assignments for us from the books. However, sometimes the copy machine would break down or
20 run out of paper and then there wouldn't be enough assignments for everyone to take home.

21 10. I have had a different principal every year I have been at Luther Burbank. When I
22 see so many principals leaving, I feel like nothing will change and no one cares about making
23 things better. When you complain to the principal you feel like nothing will happen, because
24 they will probably just leave the next year.

25 11. A lot the teachers at my school leave, sometimes in the middle of the school year.
26 In my eighth grade year two of my six teachers left during the school year. One of my seventh
27 grade teachers, [REDACTED], left a month before the school year was out. Four of my other
28 teachers are also no longer working at the school. It bothers me, but what can I do. We just have

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to deal with it when the teacher's leave, because there really isn't anything we can do.

12. It is very important to me that these things get fixed, because, if ever my brother or one of my cousins has to go to this school, then I don't want them to have to deal with what I've had to deal with. Nobody should have to go to a school like this.

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 ~~June~~^{August}, 2001 in San Francisco, California.

Angelica Araya
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