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March 25, 2024

Subject: A Plea for Community Safety and Justice: Addressing the Tragic Loss of Yener Ramirez in the Wrigley Neighborhood

To the Leadership and Law Enforcement Authorities of Long Beach,

It is with profound sorrow and grave concern that we, the members of the Wrigley Association, reach out to you regarding the devastating loss of Yener Ramirez, whose life was tragically cut short in our community. The shocking violence that occurred near Lafayette Elementary has left our neighborhood reeling with fear and uncertainty.

Yener Ramirez was not just another victim of violence; he was a cherished member of our community, celebrated for his work ethic, unwavering dedication, and boundless kindness. His untimely passing not only leaves an unmeasurable void in his family but serves as the latest chapter in an alarming saga of violence that has plagued Wrigley. Sadly, his death serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need to confront the escalating crime rates in our neighborhood.

On February 14th, a man was brutally murdered in his home in Wrigley, the perpetrators still at large, and in the neighboring Washington neighborhood, an exchange of gunfire on March 19th left one person injured, just one day before Yener lost his life due to a stray bullet. A cursory glance at our local newspapers' websites will reveal a distressing litany of violent incidents that have unfolded in our neighborhood and adjacent communities. Yener's tragic fate encapsulates the broader epidemic of violence gripping our area.

Our Mission: The Wrigley Association is a 501 C4 non-profit organization, (CA State ID # 1673284) whose mission is to promote the common interest, instill pride, establish and encourage the highest standards in Wrigley. To foster an active understanding of citizenship and civic responsibility. To oppose and discourage discrimination and to create a sense of belonging. To promote higher business standards and encourage uniformity and cooperation among merchants, property owners and residents. To eliminate crime, promote community pride, and develop wholesome, enjoyable, cultural, social, and physical activities.

The recent surge in violence has understandably instilled fear and apprehension among those who call Wrigley home, and we implore our leadership to heed our urgent call for assistance.

We demand that both city leadership and law enforcement respond with unwavering resolve and urgency to this tragedy. We recognize the complex challenges facing underserved communities like ours and adamantly advocate for resources and attention to be allocated to our neighborhood with the same immediacy and care afforded to more affluent areas.

We are disheartened by the disparities in response, where incidents like the one at Dave's Hot Chicken provoke swift action, while the murder and violence that afflict less privileged parts of the city like Wrigley are met with perceived platitudes. Every life lost to violence in Long Beach warrants equal attention and concerted action.

We implore you to allocate the requisite resources for a comprehensive investigation into Yener Ramirez's murder and other victims of violent crimes, ensuring swift accountability for those responsible, and implementing effective measures to tackle the root causes of crime in our neighborhood. We firmly believe that bolstered community engagement initiatives and targeted intervention strategies are indispensable in stemming the tide of further tragedies.

Justice for Yener Ramirez and his grieving family is not negotiable. We stand united in our unwavering resolve to tirelessly advocate for Wrigley, steadfast in our mission to ensure that our community is a sanctuary of safety and security for all its residents.

Sincerely,

Wrigley Association