

WHEREAS the Los Angeles Leadership Academy (LALA) has applied to the Board for exercise of the Board's legal authority to grant charter school's the benefit of the District's zoning exemption pursuant to section 53097.3 of the California Government Code; and

WHEREAS the two sites in Lincoln Heights which are the subject of this application (234 East Avenue 33 and 2670 Griffin Avenue) are for classroom facilities serving grades K-12 (approximately 800 students) located within one-quarter mile of each other and within the geographical jurisdiction of the LAUSD; and

WHEREAS both properties to be exempted were previously used for the purposes of nonpublic schools approved by the District (Crittenton High School and Booth High School); In 2007, LALA moved its high school to the former Florence Crittenton Center, which previously operated as a residential facility and high school for 45 years serving abused and neglected children and teen mothers and their infants; Booth High School was operated by the Salvation Army for 40 years as a school for pregnant teens and their toddlers; and

WHEREAS Pursuant to the Charter Schools Act Los Angeles Leadership Academy has been re-chartered by the District through 2012, and is currently in good standing; and

WHEREAS Los Angeles Leadership Academy has demonstrated to the District that it has sufficient financial resources to justify a zoning exemption; and

WHEREAS the decision to exempt has the support of two-thirds or more of the members of the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS the State of California through the California School Finance Authority, as well as the District through administration of local bond funds, has previously provided assistance to Los Angeles Leadership Academy through the Charter School Facility Grant Program; and

WHEREAS the prior use of the properties as residential school facilities with 24-hour support services was significantly more intense than daytime school usage as proposed; and

WHEREAS Los Angeles Leadership Academy has no plans to change the footprint of the existing structures and intends solely to adapt certain former dormitory rooms to classroom usage; and

WHEREAS the Lincoln Heights community to be served by these two sites is one of the most underserved areas of the City of Los Angeles, where the median household income is \$24,241 compared to the Los Angeles County median of \$42,189; where one-third of the households earn less than \$15,000, which is

double the County poverty rate; where 45% of the population has less than a 9th grade education while the County average is 16%; and where the local schools suffer from overcrowding; and

WHEREAS the re-use of the existing facilities as local public charter schools will greatly benefit the community's need for public school choice; and

WHEREAS the OEHS protocols for the environmental, health & safety have been satisfied, and an environmental, health, and safety review of the projects has been adequately conducted by Los Angeles Leadership Academy; and

WHEREAS the OEHS has determined that the re-use of the existing facilities will not expand the existing facilities and will not cause any reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts, the OEHS determined that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to section 15301 of the California CEQA Guidelines, which exempts "Existing Facilities" from CEQA compliance; and

WHEREAS LA Leadership Academy may not open school at either 234 East Avenue 33 or 2670 Griffin Avenue until a Certificate of Occupancy or Temporary Certificate of Occupancy is obtained from the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS these projects have strong community support through the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council and the Office of Councilmember Ed Reyes; so then be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the LAUSD hereby extends the District's zoning exemption to the abovementioned projects, 234 East Avenue 33 and 2670 Griffin Avenue, and instructs staff to prepare the appropriate documents in accordance with statutory requirements.