



ANAHUACALMECAC

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY

An International Baccalaureate World School



4736 Huntington Drive South, Los Angeles CA 90032 • (323) 352-3148 •
Email: info@dignidad.org • www.AIUPWorldSchool.org
Semillas Community Schools

*"Somos Semillas, Somos Tenaces.
We are seeds. We are Relentless."*

MEDIA AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY

October 12, 2016

WHAT: SCHOOL SAFETY THREATENED BY KNOWN SUSPECT, POLICE REFUSE TO ACT

WHERE: Anahuacalmecac International University Preparatory - IB World School 4990 Huntington Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90032

FOR INQUIRIES or STATEMENTS PLEASE CALL: 323-791-7496

October 12, 2016 - On October 3, 2016 at around 11:30pm, the 4990 Huntington Drive K-2 campus of Anahuacalmecac was burglarized. The perpetrator broke a ten foot tall tempered glass window to break into the school facility after having scaled a ten foot tall locked fence. The suspect is a male Chicano who has repeatedly approached school personnel asking to "take his children" whom he allegedly and falsely believes are in our school. The suspect is apparently well known to LAPD officers for a long history of aberrant behaviors and a rash of break-ins around the community. Despite well documented concerns and evidence already collected, LAPD refuses to arrest the suspect blaming the District Attorney's office for rejecting charges.

When children are endangered and schools are threatened, law enforcement should act with all due urgency.

ABOUT SEMILLAS: Founded in 2002, Semillas Sociedad Civil, is a California 501c3 community-based nonprofit public benefit corporation operates Anahuacalmecac International University Preparatory of North America ("Anahuacalmecac") (grades K through 12) in 2008.

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BACKGROUND:

The suspect's break-in was recorded by school security cameras. The break-in was discovered in the morning upon inspection of the campus before opening by school administrators. The campus was discovered in disarray with trails of blood dropped in every classroom, on every door handle and on several windows.

Due to security and safety concerns we were obliged to relocate all students to our neighboring campus and hold classes outside.

This is not the first time this individual has posed a threat to our children. A previous incident in 2014 was well recorded, reported and handled similarly as a low level concern by LAPD. Yet, LAPD has refused to arrest, detain or press charges against the suspect. LAPD representatives have alleged that the District Attorney's office rejected charges raised by LAPD. Yesterday, we confirmed in writing that in fact the LAPD never pressed charges against the suspect for threatening our students or burglarizing and vandalizing our school campus.

Today, the individual returned during our before day program and stepped into the school's property to put his face on the window of one of the classroom to look inside. He then approached the car of a staff member to say that he was looking for who he believed is a teacher, calling her by name, and stated that he was looking for his children. According to officer Dimitt, there is nothing they can do because the individual is not committing a crime and "this is why you have him" pointing the private security guard hired by the school and is posted by the front door.

Urgent action is needed by law enforcement including the DA to connect the dots between this individual's repeated and flagrant violations of the law and the threat he poses to our school children.

Today, we advise parents and community of the quandary the school finds itself in with regards to the inadequate response to the threat posed by the known suspect in question, and law enforcement's inability to adequately act on the threat to our students' health and wellbeing. After LAPD officers were called to the school this morning due to the suspect's return to school campus again



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seeking to harass children in our school campus, LAPD again refused to arrest the suspect.

Less than twelve months ago LAPD was still conducting visits in schools out an abundance of caution with regards to threats to schools and school children. Today, it seems we are no longer able to rely upon the presumption of safety expected by parents and community in a school.

In addition to immediate law enforcement action, we expect direct communication with LAPD command regarding our school's safety.

On Friday July 11, 2014, 911 was called to seek LAPD response in an emergency situation in which a male individual harassed students, staff and parents in the nonprofit Youth Policy Institute (YPI) Summer k8 program at our campuses. The individual then twice scaled a wall and jumped over the fence into one of our school yards. Students were evacuated from that yard and held in lock down in another facility next door. Once the children were secure, they were released to their parents or held indoors under constant supervision. The suspect seemed mentally unstable and is apparently a local resident of El Sereno. Police responded about thirty minutes after the original 911 call was placed. After the LAPD patrol car arrived, the responding officer questioned me as to whether or not our school was an LAUSD school. I clarified that we were not, we are a public charter school, and as such receive no police support from LAUSD PD. This discussion went on several minutes with Officer Perez insisting that as a school matter, LAUSD PD ought to respond. Within five minutes, five LAUSD PD cruisers showed up at the scene. Two of the LAUSD officers chose to walk the campus to witness the vandalism caused by the suspect. After this the LAUSD PF officers clarified that as an independent public charter school, they had no jurisdiction in our case and that it fell squarely on the LAPD to provide support. This is a matter that has been common knowledge in all interactions I have had over the last thirteen years with our Senior Lead Officer and former Hollenbeck captains. It seemed very strange that the LAPD Officer Perez insisted that the matter be handled by LAUSD PD. It is my suspicion that this may have actually delayed 911 response time and placed my staff and students' lives in jeopardy. It is my assertion that unless LAPD personnel are clear about this simple jurisdictional issue, our lives may be placed in jeopardy in future incidents. Parents waiting to retrieve their children from this situation were extremely concerned with the slow response time they witnessed of LAPD.



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Eventually, the suspect was detained and taken into police custody by LAPD, purportedly to be placed on hold for mental observation as a threat to others (5150). According to the arresting officers nothing else could be done. The Executive Director (myself) requested further action of the arresting officers to which they replied I could place the individual under citizen's arrest in order to ensure some action was taken in the matter. Two hours later one of the arresting officers called my phone to inform me that their detective stated that the individual would only be cited and released if I placed him under arrest for trespassing but that a 5150 hold would last 72 hours if successful. I acknowledged that the individual probably needed mental services and accepted this understanding that the hold would be for at least 72 hours.

Then again on July 14, 2014, at or about 9:00am the same individual appeared in front of our campus again, harassing staff and children. Children had been frightened by these encounters. Since this time and up to the break-in on October 3, 2016, the suspect has continued to come and go but now again poses a serious threat to the children and the school due to his state of mind and actions.

The school guidance counselor will speak to students about their experience and will be available as needed. Semillas will secure private patrol services as needed. Parents ought to take extra care when dropping off and retrieving their children making sure to sign out students and present ID's especially after regular school hours.