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**Together We Can Build a**

**#HATEFREEOC**

February 23, 2018

Dear President Flanders and Board Members of the Brea Olinda Unified School District,

At OC Human Relations, we believe that all people deserve to live free of violence and discrimination. We come to our work with this belief largely due to our understanding of our nation's history. Citizens of this nation have been terrorized by a sometimes-lethal combination of the two, the KKK being a prime example of how this terror was executed.

While the KKK may have had a presence here in our county at one time, we know that this is not the whole story of our home. We are also home to everyday people who changed the civil rights history of the United States. In 1946, *Mendez v. Westminster*, a case based out of Orange County, desegregated our schools, almost 10 years before *Brown v. Board of the Education*. In 1967, Orange County resident Dorothy Mulkey took her housing discrimination case (*Reitman v. Mulkey*) all the way to the United States Supreme Court, where she prevailed.

It is this history of standing up for equality and justice that we at OC Human Relations look to when we thank you for agreeing to investigate the name of William E. Fanning Elementary and whether it should be changed.

Confronting our history, including any names and images that honor or celebrate racism and its accompanying domestic terrorism, is an important and courageous step that we each must take if we are to truly transcend the sins of our past. We hope and believe that the people of Brea would agree that any sites that bear the name of a member of the KKK, or any similar organization, would not represent the city or the values of its residents.

We trust that you will carefully weigh the impact of your decision, knowing that this moment is another in our county's history where we can be an example to so many of the power of righting wrongs and healing communities.

On behalf of OC Human Relations, we are,

Frank Marmolejo  
President,  
OC Human Relations Board of Directors

Alison Edwards  
CEO,  
OC Human Relations