DECLARATION OF JASON MAGAÑA

I, Jason Magaña, declare as follows:

1. I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge, and if called as a witness, I could and would testify to the following matters.

2. I am a Senior at Jefferson High School. I went to Ascot Elementary School and Carver Middle School. I want to be an aeronautical engineer. I got interested in aeronautical engineering at my school career fair. At the career fair, I met Jon Delgado, Superintendent of Operations III at LAX, who is now my mentor. He gave me his contact information at the career fair and invited me to LAX. When I arrived he said he had a surprise for me. He brought me into his office and gave me a tour of the LAX facilities. I got to go on the runways and into the cockpit of the world's biggest airplane, the Airbus A380. I want to apply to Purdue, Princeton, Michigan, University of Texas at Austin, and Stanford for college because they all have programs in aeronautical engineering.

3. My little sister is 14 and a freshman in high school, but she is not going to Jefferson. She is going to John Marshall High School. I did not want her to go to Jefferson because there are so many problems. There are not enough classes, particularly AP classes, and so many teachers are no longer at the school. So many great teachers and counselors do not work at Jefferson anymore. I did not want my sister to have to go through what I went through.

4. This year at Jefferson there were many, many students with messed up schedules at the beginning of the year. The whole school suffered. I went to the auditorium to get my classes and saw hundreds of students in the auditorium, waiting to be called up to get their classes too. Everyone seemed frustrated, and a lot of them did not want to attend school because there did not seem to be any point to sitting there, waiting to be assigned classes. At the beginning of the year, there were about 100 to 200 students sitting in the auditorium each period because they had not been assigned any class.

5. At the beginning of year, my schedule was messed up. At first, I was assigned to Graphic Design, but I had already taken that class twice and passed it. I did not need Graphic Design a third time (I only needed it once). I needed to be taking Economics or Government so I can complete the requirements to graduate and be eligible to get into college. I spent three weeks of school without the class I needed, and finally, in my fourth week, I was put into Economics. It is tough to catch up with the kids who have had the class since the first day. I was lucky because we had studied economics in Academic Decathlon last year so I was not too behind.

6. Right now I am taking two AP classes: Calculus and English Literature. I'm also taking Art, Physics, and Economics. There are a lot of students transferring in and out of my classes. It is disruptive, because changing the students in class changes the learning environment. This has been a problem every year with Jefferson. Sometimes it feels like it will always be like that, but the issue should be fixed.

7. My classes are also packed with students; for example, there are about 50 students in AP English. One of my teachers told me that they are still working on the schedule and might make changes to make the class smaller. When classes are packed, I do not get the attention I want.

8. This semester I was also assigned two Home Periods for eighth and ninth periods, which I did not ask for. On Wednesdays and Fridays, I am finished with school at 11:20 a.m. I try to use my free time as well as I can. During my Home Periods, I sometimes volunteer as a tutor at A Place Called Home three days a week. I help middle and high school kids with their homework, and I also mentor them. It is a marvelous place.

9. I wish there were other classes I could take at Jefferson. I need AP Physics in order to study aeronautical engineering. I also wish there was an AP Spanish Literature class. I took Spanish language, but there is nothing after that. We used to have Academic Decathlon, but we do not anymore.

10. It is frustrating to me that there are no classes I can take for eighth and ninth periods. If I stay at school, I feel like I have nothing to do there. I am just sitting there. People think that just because Jefferson is in South Central, we don't care about school. I care about my future and I think people should care about other students' futures. I know there are other schools that have more classes, and that makes students from other schools more competitive for college. That is one of the reasons I sent my sister to another school, instead of letting her come to Jefferson.

11. Last year I had a Service Period with my counselor for the first month of school. I did paperwork for him, organizing summer school grades and things like that. Sometimes I would just chat with the other students. I was assigned to a counselor for my service period, but he hardly had any time to teach me skills; he was overwhelmed with other things to do.

12. I had that Service Period for a month before I transferred to a Health class. I had taken Health freshman year, but I failed it and needed to take it again. I had asked my counselor for Health before the school year started, but I was told that I would have to take Health during the summer, not during the regular school year. So they put me in a Service class. But then, a month into school, I asked again to be put in Health, and I got it. I passed it with an A. It was a much better use of my time than the Service class.

13. A lot of other Jefferson students have service classes, too. When I had service, there were a lot of other students who were assigned to another one of the counselors for their service. I also see students that have service periods walking around the campus during class periods summoning students from classrooms.

14. Part of wanting to go to school is being motivated by having classes that are challenging. Students who have to take the same classes that they have already passed for multiple years in a row, or who do not have classes scheduled and have home periods instead are bored at school. When students are not excited by school, it makes them want to skip school. This is why some students are absent from Jefferson.

15. When I talk to friends at other schools like Bravo (Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School), and schools in the Valley, or meet them in study groups, I feel like I am not getting as good of an education as they are. Their level of education seems much more advanced than mine, and their math work is marvelous. When I compare it to mine, I feel like I am not at their level. I feel ashamed. They can do things that I do not know. When my little sister was going to John Burroughs for middle school, she was learning in Eighth Grade what I was learning in high school Chemistry my junior year. It makes me sad.

16. No matter how good you are at Jefferson, you are going to struggle in college. I met a student who went to Berkeley. He was so smart but he was struggling at Berkeley. Another kid from Jefferson almost flunked out of Berkeley. My school sends students to college underprepared. A lot of time, students do not know that getting an A at Jefferson and getting an A at Bravo means a different thing until they arrive at college and are in classes with other students who are prepared for college.

17. I had some teachers freshman and sophomore year who have left. It feels bad when teachers leave. Some of them had a great impact on me. Mr. Kim was a great math teacher and the best teacher I have ever had. A lot of counselors have left too. Mr. Boyle was the career counselor. He got me involved in the Youth Mentoring connection. He would find us volunteer and job opportunities and things to do outside school.

18. One of my friends is on the soccer team. While they were practicing at the park right next to our school, he was robbed. It is scary to hear about things like that happening right near school. One time when I was walking home I saw six people with brass knuckles walking in front of me. I felt nervous and I did not know what I was going to do. Usually they will only attack you if you are messing with them, but sometimes they come up with an excuse to come up to you. It is stressful.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on September 23, 2014, in Los Angeles, California.

JASON MAGAÑA