## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Tuesday, August 1, 2023

Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Contact: Stop Home Depot - <u>StopHomeDepot@Gmail.com</u>

WHAT: The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will vote on the Home Depot

proposed development project at the North Hills Shopping Center (NHSC).

WHEN: Thursday, August 3rd, 2023, 6:30pm – 9:30pm

WHERE: Granada Hills Charter High School

Rawley Hall

10535 Zelzah Avenue Granada Hills, CA 91344

WHY: The Granada Hills community has been almost unanimous in opposing the

proposed <u>Home Depot development</u>. The <u>Stop Home Depot Community Group</u> was formed by nearby residents and has been working to ensure the right-size, community-oriented redevelopment of the North Hills Shopping Center.

• The meeting on Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> of the <u>Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council</u> will include an important vote on the Home Depot proposed project. <u>The Granada Hills Charter High School</u> auditorium has a maximum capacity of 125 attendees and every seat has been taken at the recent meetings.

- The Granada Hills community has been waiting for this important vote requiring Home Depot to complete an Environmental Impact Report for close to a year. Heavily attended meetings have been packed with residents and stakeholders outraged that Home Depot has stated it will not adapt their standard superstore design to this residential setting surrounding the selected shopping center site.
- More than 50 community members have submitted detailed letters to the Los Angeles City Planning Department in opposition to this proposed development project. Close to 2,000 individuals have signed a petition in opposition of Home Depot's planned development. Many of those community members will be present at the community meeting on Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. This meeting provides an opportunity for the residents and stakeholders to speak during the public comment time.
- The proposed site has five schools within ½ mile with a total enrollment of over 3,000 students (Figure 1). This are no other Home Depots in Los Angeles County with this many schools within such a short distance. Parents and guardians have expressed concern for the safety of their children if Home Depot is allowed to build their standard superstore.

## **ADDITIONAL FACTS**

- Home Depot claims that the superstore impact will be negligible and that no Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") is needed (Figure 2). The community vehemently disagrees and has prepared an approximately 100-page detailed report to document the specific technical concerns about this project (Draft Home Depot Report, 6-28-23 13.4 MB).
- The Balboa and Devonshire intersection is already the 21<sup>st</sup> most dangerous intersection in California and the 6<sup>th</sup> most dangerous intersection in the San Fernando Valley (Table 1).
- Parents and guardians escorting elementary school children while carrying babies typically make it across Devonshire with under 4 seconds to spare before the traffic light changes (Figure 3).
- Elderly residents frequently do not make it across the Balboa and Devonshire intersection before the light changes and vehicles are forced to wait until the intersection is clear.
- High school students from the LAUSD Valley Arts Academy have been seen walking across the Balboa and Devonshire intersection while never once glancing up from their phones (Figure 4).
- The proposed Home Depot will have 72-foot big rig trucks traveling within 30 feet of the homes adjacent to the shopping center (Figure 5).
- The Home Depot website stresses since 1986 that their market focus is on professional contractors, not weekend projects for occasional do it yourselfers (Figure 6).
- The proposed Home Depot will have 24-hour operations including forklifts with backup horns all lit by high intensity lights which have been compared to a prison complex environment (Figure 7). Residents whose homes are adjacent to the Canoga Park Home Depot have put up blackout curtains to cut the light down and razor wire on the top of garden walls to prevent thieves from climbing over as an escape path with their Home Depot stolen goods.
- Home Depot has claimed that their store will be "beneficial" to the neighborhood, but none of the corporate officers or representatives who have signed their planning documents live within 2 miles of any of their own stores.
- The Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council will take a vote on the Home Depot proposed development at the Board Meeting on Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. We encourage you to attend this meeting.

For more information, please visit www.stophomedepot.com.

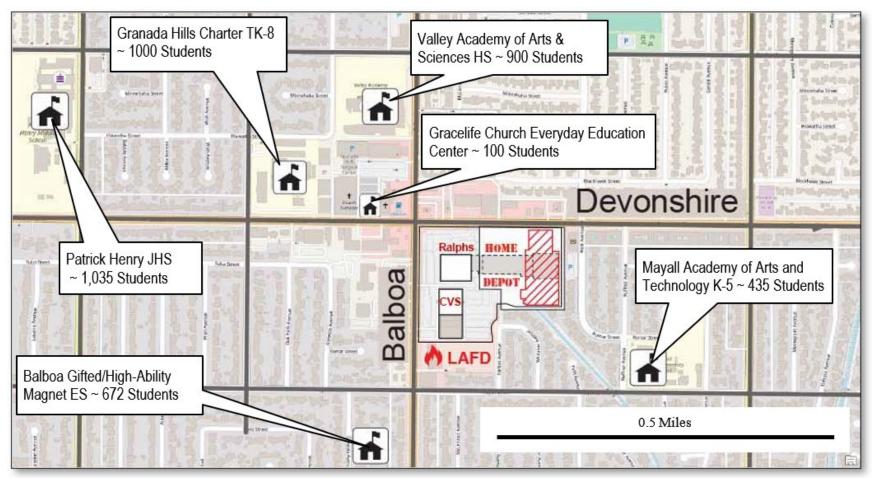


Figure 1. Schools near the proposed NHSC HD store. There are five schools within ½ mile of the store.

Note the store is outlined in red diagonal stripes.

Source: ArcGIS Pro, Navigate LA.