



"Nothing Stops A Bullet Like A Job"

130 W. Bruno Street • Los Angeles • CA • 90012
Phone 323.526.1254 • Fax 323.526.1257

www.homeboy-industries.org

December 3, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Board of Directors

David V. Adams, Sr.
Carol Biondi
H. Thomas Boyle
Rosa Campos
Alex Chaves, Sr.
J. Michael Hennigan
Dwight Hotchkiss
Christine Lynch
Amanda Mansour
Charlie McPhee
J. Mario Molina, M.D.
Fr. Al Naucke, S.J.
Joe Seager
Rob Smith
Carlos Vasquez

**Honorary Board
Members**

Herb Alpert
Robert Graham
Anjelica Huston
David G. Price

Services

Case Management
Curriculum/Education
Employment Counseling
Legal Services
Mental Health
Twelve Step Meetings
Volunteer "Navigators"
WIN (Work is Noble)
Ya 'Stuvo Tattoo Removal

Homeboy Industries

Homeboy Bakery
Homegirl Café & Catering
Homeboy Maintenance
Homeboy Merchandise
Homeboy Press
Homeboy Silkscreen &
Embroidery

I write this letter on behalf of **Julio Cesar Rivas**, Executive Director of the Hip Hop School of Arts. I met Mr. Rivas recently, through a mutual friend, in my capacity as Executive Director of Homeboy Industries, an employment referral center for at-risk and formerly gang-involved youth, and economic development program, respectively.

Mr. Rivas' vision in establishing the Hip Hop School of Arts is to provide an environment that fosters and develops the creative energies of inner city youth through education, guidance and self-expression. This is all based on his own personal experience as a youth who got mixed up with gang activity and negativity, until he became involved with Radiotron, a group pioneering the Hip Hop movement. He was able to develop his dance talent to the point where he traveled throughout Europe and the rest of the world as an exponent of the hip hop movement. He has inspired many young children and teens from poor and blighted areas throughout the world to change and enrich their lives through hip hop.

Mr. Rivas has acquired sufficient funds to purchase a building in which to house the Hip Hop School of Arts and sustain itself for a year. However, the site he has chosen, has encountered opposition. I fully support Mr. Rivas' effort to establish his Hip Hop School of Arts in Boyle Heights, so that he can become of part of the solution to the problem of youth violence in Los Angeles. We need more people like him who have the willingness, talent and passion to inspire and empower our young people to become the individuals they are meant to be.

It is my sincerest hope that you will consider the above in reviewing Mr. Rivas' application to purchase the site for the Hip Hop School of Arts in Boyle Heights. I greatly appreciate your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Fr. Gregory J. Boyle, S.J.
Executive Director