

Dear Parents and Community Members,

I trust this letter finds you in good health and spirits.

As the principal of Jordan High School, I have been asked many times about S&W Atlas Iron and Metal Corp., a recycler next door to Jordan High School, for more than 70 years. I want to share essential updates on two lawsuits.

Shortly after summer break began in June, Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón filed a 22-count criminal complaint against Atlas and its owners. Los Angeles Unified Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho joined Gascón at a news conference held at Jordan High, when the charges were announced and the company's practices were condemned.

Atlas has been charged, among other things, with illegally disposing of toxic materials, including lead, at their property on many occasions. Testing has shown these metals dusted Jordan's campus and school buildings, exposing students and staff to harmful materials.

Most environmental cases result in a fine, a commitment to clean areas and an agreement to comply with the law. But in this instance, criminal charges have been filed, alleging severe offenses and possible jail time.

For decades, Los Angeles Unified has worked tirelessly to ensure that the public agencies overseeing Atlas safeguard the school community. Lacking meaningful enforcement, Los Angeles Unified, in 2020, filed a federal lawsuit against Atlas. The suit alleges that state and federal environmental laws were broken.

As these cases wind through the court, I hope Atlas is banned from continuing its harmful operations next to our school. You can follow the latest updates online: Go to JordanHighSchool.net, click the Atlas link and learn more about our legal dispute with Atlas.

I deeply appreciate everyone's efforts: the Los Angeles Unified School District, the District Attorney's office, our school families and staff and our community partners, as we strive for environmental justice. Together, we will win.

Sincerely,

Alex Kim
Jordan High School Principal