

Communication from Public

Name: Paul Garry

Date Submitted: 04/15/2022 02:12 PM

Council File No: 22-0410

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of the Applicant, I am submitting two batch of support letters for CPC-2019-4983-GPA-VZC. Attached is Batch one.

January 24, 2022

Mr. Eric Horn
Northeast Police Station
3353 N San Fernando Road
Los Angeles, CA 90065

To whom it may concern,

This letter shall serve as a letter of recommendation for Tina and Josh Oreck. But first, a little background on me as it relates to Tina and Josh. Born and raised in South Central Los Angeles, a seasoned City of Los Angeles Police Department Officer for the past 14 years, and a newly appointed President of the Northeast Los Angeles Little League President role residing in the Highland Park Los Angeles area, should qualify this recommendation as true and accurate.

I have personally known Tina and Josh Oreck for more than 5 years, when I served as coach to their son William Oreck on our baseball team. From this point onward, it has been a complete honor and pleasure not only coaching William, but also interacting with both parents and seeing their own sacrifice for their son and our Little League family. A third generation Angeleno, Josh has also served the Los Angeles area. Born and raised in Los Angeles, volunteering countless hours while mentoring, coaching, serving as an example the younger kids and pre-teens, Josh has a strong ethic and believes in the community he serves.

I am hopeful that my letter of recommendation has provided a glimpse into which Josh Oreck represents, and if I could provide any other information, please feel free to contact me directly.

Thank you for your time and attention while reading this letter.

Sincerely,



Eric Horn
Serial # 38997
Northeast Police Station

Dear Councilmember De León,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my unwavering support of a local business I care deeply about.

I first met and began working with Josh Oreck in one of my first jobs in the Los Angeles entertainment community almost 15 years ago. I was an assistant at Warner Bros. and Josh led one of the production companies with which my boss engaged. My boss was a difficult, often ill-tempered person whose disposition would elicit negativity and combativeness amongst those that worked for her. Mr. Oreck, however, consistently approached these undesirable interactions with a balance of positive pro-activeness, all while defending his employees and the quality of their work. In contrast to most of the other vendors I worked with early in my career, this made a profound impression and reinforced for me that there are indeed good people in this industry who: work hard, treat others with respect and do good work. As a result, I have been lucky enough to continue working with Josh, his business partner Tina and the entire Narrator team throughout various positions, both as a client and as a freelance consultant.

Over the last year, Josh and Tina engaged me to work within Narrator mentoring some of the interns and assistants. On occasion, I would find their pursuit of hiring so many inexperienced people a challenge. *Why not hire people with more experience?* With so much time and effort invested in training new people, I didn't fully respect the logic, at first. In my experience at other production companies, the approach to filling empty positions is typically aimed at hiring individuals that specialize in one skilled category, who promise a rolodex of client contacts that equate to potential income. The outcome of this approach was almost always a staff of the same (type of) person and almost always resulted in a company culture of overworked, stagnant staff with the inability to grow and change with our industry's needs. At Narrator, the longstanding approach of cultivating a diverse group of young talent, offering opportunities to grow into many different areas of expertise, has built a community and culture that I hope to see in other production companies throughout our industry. Your worth at Narrator is not dictated by a dollar amount, but rather by your character.

Working at Narrator is the first time in 15 years where my place of employment reflects the LA community I live within: it's colorful, diverse and gutsy; it's complex, hopeful and hardworking; it's proud and always aiming to be better; it's accountable, fair and resourceful. I will continue to value my working and personal relationship with Josh, Tina and the Narrator family as they grow, both as a company and as members of a community that they care deeply about adding to in mindful and positive ways.

Thank you for your consideration and taking the time to read my thoughts.

Producer - Abby K. Lance

Dear Councilman De Leon,

My name is Brian Pearle and I am a writer and producer working with Narrator Inc. For me, working with Narrator has been an exceptional opportunity and I hope you'll help support this vibrant and diverse business continue to thrive.

From an ethical standpoint, I feel strongly that Josh and Tina Oreck are great moral leaders—exactly the type of business owners you would want in any community. When I first started working with Narrator I was also directing a documentary focusing on US-backed human rights abuses in Argentina during the late 1970s. The project often pulled me away from my responsibilities at the office—but because of my strong personal connection with the communities represented in the film, I felt it was something I simply had to do. Other employers might have cut me loose, but the Orecks understood that these kinds of stories matter and so they worked with me to find a flexible schedule that let me both continue to maintain employment while working on my Human Rights based work. They further offered company services pro bono to help make my project possible. This fusion of pragmatism and idealism to me represents a core aspect of what makes Narrator Inc. great.

Additionally, one of the things I love about Narrator Inc. is the high level of diversity and representation that exists there. In comparison with many other production houses, Narrator is populated by people from all ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds; it is workplace that looks like the city I live in which is a welcome reprieve from what exists in many production companies.

Narrator has also been a place where I've really been able to grow my skills and build a true career. As my skills have increased so has my compensation, and I feel grateful to work in a place that recognizes my effort and commitment.

Finally, I just want to emphasize one final point: the people who run this company are just good people. The film industry is notorious for big egos and abusive work practices. The culture at Narrator Inc. is the polar opposite from that. The leadership here treats all workers with respect and compassion and has created an environment that I'm truly proud to be a part of. I hope you will support this business and the people like me who work here.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brian Pearle
Writer / Producer, Narrator Inc.

Dear Council Member De León ,

My name is Chelsea René, and I am writing to you in support of Josh and Tina Oreck, and their company Narrator, Inc.

I have been an employee at Narrator since November 2021. Throughout college I was a member of Evolve Entertainment, now known as the Group Effort Initiative (GEI), whose mission was to help minority students obtain internships and jobs in the entertainment field. Tina and Josh work hand-in-hand with these companies, and help secure internships and job positions for students in need. I am one of those students.

I connected with Tina while in undergrad, and after graduating college in April, I joined their company a few months later. In my tenure of being an employee I have been presented with ample opportunities and learning experiences. Each day at work brings me joy because I am surrounded by people who are advocates in what a business should be: diverse, educational, safe, and inspiring.

I love knowing that the building has a rich history, and the former owners were secure in their decision to leave the development to Josh, Tina, and Narrator, Inc. This solidifies the fact that the land is in good hands. I truly enjoy being an employee at their company, and I am confident in the fact that their business will only bring positivity to the community. Thank you for your time and understanding, and I hope you take my thoughts into consideration when deciding the future of the company.

Best,

Chelsea René
(424) 439-3969
chelsearene14@gmail.com

February 17, 2022

Councilmember Kevin de León
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012

I am currently a staff member of Narrator Inc. film agency, which is located at 2434 Gates St, Los Angeles, CA. I have Latino origins and English is not my primary language and here I received the opportunity to work in a high-end skill job related to the movie industry. I've seen how Narrator Inc also give job opportunities to people from diverse races, gender, and socio-economic status.

I hope this information is useful so you can further encourage this type of organization in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Luis Avilés". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underlining the name.

LUIS AVILÉS

Telef.: 7473332667
Email: luis.aviles@nr8r.com

Councilmember Kevin de León
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012

February 17, 2022

Dear Mr. Councilmember,

**DAVE
BOGOSIAN**

I am writing to you to voice my support for Josh Oreck and Christina Carter's zoning change request for 2434 Gates Street, Los Angeles 90031.

In 26 years of working in the entertainment industry, I've never met two people more committed to creating an environment that reflects the world at large - assembling a team with a clear vision toward diversity, gender equity and inclusion.

Josh and Tina's honesty and transparency gives me not only hope for the future of Hollywood, but in the direction of our city as a whole.

Lincoln Heights is a wonderful community and will only get better when they count Josh and Tina as neighbors.

Sincerely,



Dave Bogosian

mobile (310) 497-4566
email davebogolian@gmail.com

2/20/2022

Councilmember Kevin de León
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember de León,

My name is Carlee Coulehan. I am an assistant editor at Narrator, Inc. in Lincoln Heights. I started working for the company about six months ago after graduating college. I had limited professional experience in the field of editing, however Narrator still welcomed me to the team and made an effort to professionally train me. That is the true vision of Narrator, to uplift young, inexperienced, or underprivileged editors, filmmakers, and producers, and transition them into the professional LA scene. They do this while also giving back to the local community by hiring locally and supporting other businesses such as the restaurants down the hill on Broadway.

I would appreciate your support of Narrator, Inc. I believe the community benefits from having Narrator in Lincoln Heights.

Thank you,

Carlee Coulehan
carlee.coulehan@nr8r.com
(480) 370 - 7116

February 18, 2022

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Tina and Josh Oreck
REZONE Request for Property Address: 2434 Gates Street, Los Angeles, Ca 90031
Formally known as "Little Flower Missionary House" School

To whom it may concern:

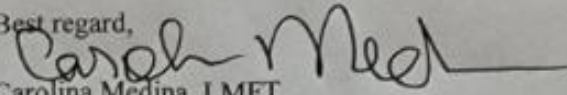
I am writing this letter of Recommendation on behalf of Tina and Josh Oreck and their company Narrator, Inc. to express my support for the proposed Office Building-Rezone by Narrator Inc. development of the property located at 2434 Gates Street, Los Angeles, CA 90031.

My name is Carolina Medina and I was born, raised and active in the community of Lincoln Heights. I attended the local schools when I was younger and my 3 sons attended Little Flower Missionary House. I have seen the community change through the years. I am a licensed mental health therapist and have 20 years of experience working with children, teens, adults and elderly including the juvenile justice system as a probation officer.

Tina and Josh have shown their efforts in engaging community by hiring community members and helping high school and college students. One of my sons was given an opportunity to work for Narrator, Inc. in 2020 and after he left, he was given the opportunity to return if he chose to. They gave my son a chance to have a normal life through this pandemic that has crushed many dreams. They also gave my 10yo son, and 4 other children the opportunity to utilize various areas of their classroom space as a distance learning environment. We had access to internet and we had a space to have nutrition breaks and lunch. I observed Tina interact with the children and it was fascinating to see how she spoke to them and how she encouraged the education and praised them for their good behaviors. Tina and Josh were welcoming to having community children present on their property. As a mental health professional, what I see is that Tina and Josh are helping improve the mental health of many [in Lincoln Heights and surrounding communities] and changing the lives of community members in their charitable actions. They played an important role for me and my sons because it brought up their morale and helped motivate them. I have had the chance to see the formally known as "Little Flower Missionary House" School be renovated and not demolished. The structure holds many historic memories for many and knowing that it is being preserved by Tina and Josh is uplifting. I am happy that Tina and Josh are NOT the type of developers or business owners that have come into Lincoln Heights with a demolition plan to build more condos or homes. They are good people that want community members to grow along side them. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Tina and Josh provided my son and the other children. I am not surprised because that is the type of people that they are "giving and considerate of others" especially those in need.

I strongly support the REZONE Request for Property Address: 2434 Gates Street, Los Angeles, Ca 90031: Formally known as "Little Flower Missionary House" School. This historic building has been a part of this community since built as a school house and when the previous owners, the Carmelite Sisters, chose Tina and Josh it was because they knew they would preserve and improve the structure. Our community is in desperate need for developments that support education, culture, health/wellness, employment, and community pride and that is what Tina and Josh are trying to establish. Its renovation and restoration is extremely important for our community.

Best regard,


Carolina Medina, LMFT

Email: cmolina259@yahoo.com

Querido Councilman De Leon,

My nombre es Joaquin Rodriguez y estoy escribiendo esta carta para apoyar a tina carter & Josh Oreck.

Yo soy el pintor de la compania de Narrator, Inc. Perdon que estoy escribiendo esta carta en español pero no se mucho ingles. Yo he estado trabando con tina y su equipo por 8 meses y ella me a tratado como un gran empliado. Su esposo y ella tienen un gran conrazon y yo he visto como han contratado mucha gente que no hablan ingles pero para ella todos somos iguales. Yo estoy muy agradecido con ella porque gracias a ellos tengo mi trabajo seguro aqui.

Si tines alguna prejunta, por favor llamame. Gracias.

Joaquin Rodriguez
(818)238-7256

February 18, 2022

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Tina and Josh Oreck
REZONE Request for Property Address: 2434 Gates Street, Los Angeles, Ca 90031
Formally known as "Little Flower Missionary House" School

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter of Recommendation on behalf of Tina and Josh Oreck and their company Narrator, Inc. to express my support for the proposed Office Building-Rezone by Narrator Inc. development of the property located at 2434 Gates Street, Los Angeles, CA 90031.

My name is Julian Echevarria and I grew up in the community of Lincoln Heights. I attended Sacred Heart of Jesus Elementary School, Bravo Medical Magnet High school and currently attend CSULA with major in Engineering. My grandparents and maternal uncles/aunts are also homeowners in Lincoln Heights and have been a part of Lincoln Heights for 55 years. I am also a Little Flower Missionary house alumni along with my 2 brothers and also several cousins and friends.

Tina and Josh work hand-in-hand with companies that help secure job positions for students in need. I am one of those students. I connected with Tina and Josh during such a difficult time for me. The pandemic had begun and I was finishing my Senior year at Bravo Medical Magnet High School- 2020. It was hard enough going through such an important part in my life where being able to be a part of all the Senior activities in the norm became obsolete. And being forced to finish my high school online lowered the morale. When I graduated in 2020, Tina and Josh provided me and a friend with employment. They gave us a chance at normalcy. Seeing how Tina and Josh were positive and supportive to students gave me some motivation. I had the opportunity to interact with other students and respectable adults. I had a chance first hand to see them make great improvements at the Little Flower Missionary House property, now belonging to Narrator, Inc. I got to step into the buildings where I was once taught to read and write; the building where I graduated and the playground where I once played. Watching them hire community members to help them with their project in renovating the property was uplifting. Being able to say, they are NOT developers that come in with a demolition plan to build more condos or homes. They have come into our community to give more opportunities. The former owners, whom I had the opportunity to know when I was a student and also as an alumni, were secure in their decision to leave the development to Josh, Tina, Narrator, Inc. because they strongly knew that the land is in good hands and they will only bring positivity to the community. I hope you take into account my experiences as you decide the future of this company.

Best regard,

Julian Echevarria
Email: 55julian.echevarria55@gmail.com

Councilmember Kevin de León
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Kevin de León,

I am writing in support of Narrator, Inc. I was hired here a few months ago and could not have asked for a better employer. My time here, although short, has provided a lot of upward mobility in my pursuit of Producing major films.

The work environment exceeded my expectations by not only being very diverse but also gender inclusive. I feel completely comfortable being surrounded by like minded people. My co-workers are collaborators and friends, alleviating the stress of content production.

The community can only benefit from a company run by empathetic, amenable executives like Josh Oreck and Tina Carter. Shortly, after my hire, I helped the company coordinate gift-giving for the holidays. To see the joy this unexpected, philanthropic effort brought others was reward enough for the team here.

The respect, dependability, and generosity displayed within this company on a daily basis is enough for me to know Josh and Tina truly care about their employees.

Thank you,

Kennedy Goolsby | Narrator, Inc

<https://nr8r.com/>

Email: kennedygoolsby@nr8r.com

Cell: (614) 735-0587

February 19, 2022

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Tina and Josh Oreck
REZONE Request for Property Address: 2434 Gates Street, Los Angeles, Ca 90031
Formally known as "Little Flower Missionary House" School

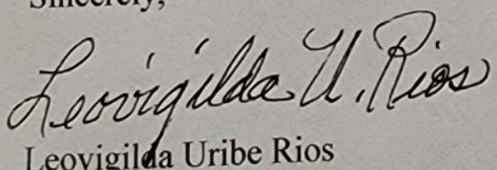
To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter of Recommendation on behalf of Tina and Josh Oreck and their company Narrator, Inc.

My name is Leovigilda Rios and I have been a member of the Lincoln Heights Community for 55 years. I have 9 adult children that were raised in this community and also attended the local schools. I own several properties and was the program manager for the Lincoln Heights Unity house a children's program on Eastlake Avenue. My family was also part of the neighborhood watch program and worked closely with the Senior Lead officer and the assigned officers to keep our community safe. When I found out that the formally known as "Little Flower Missionary House" School was sold to Tina and Josh Oreck and their company Narrator, Inc., I was pleased. I have a relationship with Carmelite sisters and I can honestly say that they sold it to Tina and Josh because they felt they were the perfect fit to helping our community grow. The Carmelite Sisters had many prospective people that were interested and mostly investors. The Carmelite Sisters did not want to sell the property to someone that would destroy it and make it disappear. They wanted someone who would preserve it and make improvements. This is why Tina and Josh were chosen. Tina and Josh have helped many individuals in our community and also in the surrounding communities. They are hardworking and sacrificial who in addition have ethical standards and good morals where family relationships and community are concerned. They have helped some of my neighbors, my children and grandchildren and are an asset to our community.

I strongly support the "REZONE Request for Property Address: 2434 Gates Street, Los Angeles, Ca 90031- Formally known as "Little Flower Missionary House" School" as their business will continue to bring positivity to the community. I hope you take into account what I have shared as you decide the future of this company.

Sincerely,



Leovigilda Uribe Rios

Email: jose_leovigilda_Rios_uribe@yahoo.com

Dear Councilmember de León,

My name is Miles Wilson. I'm an artist, a filmmaker, and a resident of Southern California. Los Angeles to me isn't just one city, but a city within several different cities—all of which have their own unique personalities and varying degrees of culture. Having started working at Narrator, I've realized that this company and the city of L.A. are truly one and the same in that regard.

There's no doubt that the city of angels is home to all different walks of life, and warmly embraces the arts—specifically the art of cinema. Here at Narrator, we specialize in showing how that cinematic art is brought to life. I may have only been working at Narrator for two weeks but I already feel like I'm part of a community. Since you're a firm believer in making communities stronger, your endorsement will be greatly appreciated.

Warmest Regards,



Miles Wilson

Honorable concejal Kevin de León.

Mi nombre es David H Lopez, el motivo de la presente es para apoyar a Josh y Tina Oreck y su compañía NARRATOR Inc.

He trabajado para Narrator Inc. desde 2017 como soldador y un poco de todo. Conocí a Josh y Tina, cuando yo trabajaba en brite spot dinner restaurante(2016) en echo park y desde entonces me han brindado su confianza, amistad y su apoyo a través de trabajo con el cual puedo sustentar las necesidades de mi familia. Siempre me han tratado con mucho respeto y consideración, trabajar para ellos ha sido una bendición.

Ahora ellos tienen la oportunidad de desarrollar un proyecto en una propiedad muy especial que adquirieron pensando en el futuro no solo el de su compañía tambien el de nuestra comunidad. Espero que tome en cuenta mis palabras para cualquier decisión para el futuro de la compañía.

Bendiciones en sus labores.

Sinceramente
David H López
323-8410669
elchedave@gmail.com

Re: REZONE Request for Property Address: 2434 Gates St, Los Angeles, CA 90031.
Formally known as "Little Flower Missionary House" School.

This letter is to express my support for the proposed Office Building-Rezone by Narriator Inc. development of the property located at 2434 Gates St, Los Angeles, CA 90031.

To whom it may concern:

My name is David Rios, I was born, raised and active in Lincoln Heights. I have seen our community change over the years and I have also witnessed the positive impact that the new owners of Little Flower property have made within Lincoln Heights. I am also still a active stakeholder in Lincoln Heights as one of the administrator of 3155 Minnesota St, 2753 Prewett St, 2753 1/2 Prewett St, 5811 Prewett St, and 2711 Augustine Ct.

As you already know, the new owners Narriator Inc. (Owners John & Tina) have met all the requirements that have been requested of them. In my opinion Narriator Inc. has met the prerequisites given to them, while at the same time reaching out to the local residents, local community groups, hiring local residents, refurbishing and landscaping the existing buildings. As a result, I am confident that you have already received multiple letters of support from the local Boy Scout troop, local church members, business owners, and now myself.

In today's current COVID restricted environment, much of residential and business community has been negatively affected and I strongly believe that Narriator Inc. will likely bring with them much needed healthy disposable income to our community.

I am confident that the applicant's proposed rezone of the property located at 2434 Gates St, Los Angeles, CA 90031 (already within 100ft of existing businesses) will only be a benefit to our community. I urge you to vote yes on the Rezone request because it is the kind of redevelopment that is good for the neighborhood and good for the Lincoln Heights local economy.

Sincerely,
David Rios

Name:  Date: 02/19/20
email: rios.david@comcast.net

Councilmember Kevin de León,

My name is Eric Randolph, and I work in Lincoln Heights at a great company called Narrator, Inc. Put simply, Narrator is a really unique creative agency that provides marketing materials for films from major studios. It has grown at an exciting pace just since I was hired here in May of 2021, and continues everyday to develop into a larger home for a diverse group of creatives.

One of the greatest qualities this company has is that it gives opportunities to people in a way other companies don't. In the time since I was hired, I have been promoted from an assistant editor to a lead assistant editor, and now to a junior editor. While I definitely put in very hard work to warrant these promotions, it is unheard of to be given that kind of recognition in that short time. While another company might have stuck to a rigid practice of forcing employees to remain at one level for a strict time frame before rising up, Narrator gave me chances proportional to my ambition and talent. This will reflect very well on my resume and open a lot of doors in the future.

All of this experience has not only given me priceless training, but has given me union days required to apply for the Editors Guild. This is incredible for a person beginning a career in post-production because being a member of the Guild opens the door to having a career editing the types of studio TV and films that we market here at Narrator. I went to college so that I could gain some of the skills needed to join the union, and Narrator has continued to help me accomplish that goal. I'm not alone in this - many people come through this company, gaining incredible experience and connections on their way to assistant editing and editing TV and films.

Our office is located in what used to be a church, which gives us a massive and unconventional space to convert into offices. While I don't have much experience working in other office buildings, I understand that this is not the standard setup for a workplace. However, what Josh Oreck and Tina Carter (Narrator President and Vice-President) are doing with the space lends itself to a lively and creative place to work. We all have individual offices to work in, we have community rec spaces, we have beautiful spaces to house company-wide meetings, and each space still maintains the beauty of the original architecture. It's all really lovely.

Narrator also does a great job at finding talented employees from all backgrounds, creating a diverse staff that is not usually seen elsewhere in the entertainment industry. It truly is special to walk into an office and see a group of people that accurately reflects the diverse population of this country in a way that statistically just does not happen as often as it should.

I hope this email finds you well, and please reach out to me if you want to know more about the value of Narrator and the opportunities it has to offer people like myself.

Have a great weekend,

Eric Randolph
Nr8r // Junior Editor
919.610.0356

Hello Council-member Kevin de Leon,

I wanted to reach out to voice my support for Narrator Inc located in 2436 Gates St. My name is Erick Espinoza and I am a full-time employee and student at this location. Tina and Josh hired me even though I did not have the experience and connection they were originally looking for but took a chance with me. 7.5 months later and I am still here as a member of the finance team trying to work around the COVID-19 restrictions and making everyone feel safe. I am given the flexibility to work around my school schedule which alleviates stress and lets me focus on pursuing not only my career but also my education. The company always puts their employees first. Whenever I would need time to study for my exams, or in need of a mental day to myself, they always want what is best for those around her. Just this week, she allowed me, with an hour notice, to ask for the day off to help my mom get her citizenship. Although sometimes advised not too, Josh and Tina go above and beyond for their employees and clients financially. They are more willing to give back to the community when an opportunity presents itself. This past year, they have been donating extra materials to the surrounding schools by providing tables and utilities not need in their office. They have been a big help to Lincoln Heights and I believe as they continue to expand, the more opportunity there is for people, especially students with goals of being in the production industry, to build a solid career and bring plenty of income to the community.

Have a good rest of your day.

Erick Espinoza
Accounting Department
Narrator, Inc.
2436 Gates Street
Los Angeles, CA 90031

Councilmember Kevin de León,

I am reaching out to share my support of Tina and Josh Oreck of the media company, Narrator, that is new to the neighborhood of Lincoln Heights. This company has given me an opportunity to completely change my life for the better. Over the course of 18 months, through the opportunities that I have been given by Josh and Tina, my design & animation hobby has blossomed into a fruitful career in film / entertainment that will last me a lifetime. This is a creative organization that cares about the community and provides opportunities for young, hardworking creatives that are looking to become professionals in the industry. The spirit at the company is about growth, learning, and creative expression. With that said, I feel that this company will have a positive impact on Lincoln Heights by not only providing life-changing opportunities to folks who are looking for jobs in the film and entertainment industry, but by also creating an artistic hub in the neighborhood that is approachable, nurturing, and growth-minded.

Please keep this information in mind as you work with them in your future hearings.

Wishing you the best.

Respectfully,

Evan Bernardin
Freelance Motion Designer

February 17, 2022

Councilmember Kevin de León

200 N. Spring Street, Suite 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 473-7014

Dear Kevin De León,

My name is Geo Rivera, and I write to support Josh & Tina Carter and their company Narrator Inc.

Tina and Josh gave me the opportunity to start working for them almost 5 years ago. I was still finishing my Bachelor's degree in Accounting. Thanks to them, I later got my master's degree and now I'm a CPA. There are so many great qualities to describe Josh and Tina, but I think the most essential qualities are, they are great leaders, humble, Inspiring, but the trait that stands out the most is that they are both very generous/caring with everyone.

I am now the Head of Finance of Narrator Inc and have worked very closely with them for the last 4 years. I have seen how hard they work to make a difference in the Lincoln Heights community. They have created over 100 jobs since I started working here. They have gone to great lengths to make Narrator Inc a safe and healthy environment to work in. Everyone here admires them because they work so hard to keep the lights on even though they already have a full-time job at home since they have 3 kids. I know their long-term goal and vision is to make Lincoln Heights a better community than it already is and to be able to create hundreds of more jobs for this community. Josh and Tina have built a successful company with a strong core of employees because they treat every employee equally regardless of race, gender, gender identification, sexual orientation, national origin, native language, religion, age, disability, marital status, and citizenship. They are both a great blessing to my life and I'm always going to be beyond grateful for all the opportunities and help they have provided me since I started working for them.

Thank you for your time and understanding, and I hope you will take my thoughts into account when deciding on the company's future.

Feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Geo Rivera
(818)284-3817

Dear Council Member De León,

Greetings, I am Josselyn Lopez. I am writing to you to support Josh and Tina Oreck and their company, Narrator Inc. I am fourteen years old and last summer, they gave me the opportunity to be part of their company. This experience has given me a view of what I would really like to do in my future. They're always willing to help anyone with anything in and outside of work. They treat their staff equally and with respect.

I, as a young child, had the opportunity to work with Narrator Inc. It's difficult to get an opportunity like this and Tina gave me the chance to see what Narrator Inc. does, and is about. I was an intern learning about logging. Just the opportunity to work with Tina Carter has been a great experience. She's also a very great mentor and has advised me greatly for my future.

Now, they have the opportunity to do something good with a property that has a long history in our city. The previous owners knew they were selling the property to the right people. I really enjoy being an employee here at Narrator Inc. I'm sure that their project will bring benefits to our community and I hope you consider this letter while deciding the future of the company.

Best regards,

Josselyn Lopez
(213) 335-8268
j.rosmerryz08@gmail.com

Dear Councilmember de León,

My name is Keenan Rogers. I'm an employee of Narrator, Inc. and I'm writing to you in support of the company. I joined the team here in the early months of 2021 as the pandemic raged on. At that time, like most of us, I was feeling burdened and hopeless by the circumstances, stressed and unsure of the future. I was referred to the company through a close friend, I interviewed and was hired, and it proved a significant turning point in my life and career. I know I'm not the only one here who feels that way. Narrator gave me a much needed break in an extraordinary time and an invaluable opportunity to accrue union hours while honing and exploring old and new skills. Our team is an amalgamation of both Los Angeles and this community, as well as a participant in it, and I'm proud to be a part of this company.

Thank you for your time,
Keenan Rogers

Councilmember Kevin de León
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012
[\(213\) 473-7014](tel:(213)473-7014)

Dear Councilmember Kevin de León,

I am writing to you to voice my support for Narrator Inc., a local business in your community that I am incredibly fortunate to work for. Narrator has greatly impacted its employees and the local community and its presence provides a valuable service to the city of Los Angeles.

Narrator has created many great employment opportunities, many of which for people from the local community. The jobs at Narrator provide good pay, great training opportunities, and have helped its staff create sustainable careers and thriving professional lives. Narrator has also created an incredibly inclusive workplace that employs a diverse group of people from many different backgrounds and upbringings.

Working at Narrator has honestly been unlike any other workplace that I have worked with before. When I started working here, Narrator and its staff have created an incredibly welcoming environment that makes working here such a positive experience and a great place to be everyday. Working here has also helped me learn so many skills for my career and has opened up so many professional opportunities for me.

Narrator Inc. has had an incredibly positive impact on my life as well as the lives of the rest of the staff and the surrounding community. With the support of the city of Los Angeles, Narrator would continue to benefit countless people and the community.

Thank you,
Kevin Chin

Dear Council Member Kevin de León,

My name is Luke Scheidemantle, and I am writing to you to express my appreciation and support for Narrator Inc.

I started at Narrator as an Intern fresh out of college. Now I am a Sound Engineer at the company. Since starting here, I have learned so much about post sound. The real-world experience has helped me to grow quickly, all while enjoying the work.

Narrator is a highly supportive company from the top down. They've fostered my growth both as a Sound Engineer and a person. Owners Tina and Josh Oreck gave me a job during COVID when I had no prior job experience.

I've known Tina and Josh for a long time, and they are hands down awesome people. They support creativity on all levels and create paths and connections for all the people in their world to achieve their goals. The community they have curated here at Narrator is supportive and genuinely unique.

Best,
Luke Scheidemantle

Dear Councilmember Kevin de León,

My name is Maria Luisa Ballon, a current Motion Designer at Narrator, Inc. in Lincoln Heights. I'm writing to you to express my support for the company.

It's been more than a year now since I started as an intern, and I still remember visiting the campus for the first time. I was relieved to know a company like this existed in the heart of Lincoln Heights. I've worked at other entertainment companies in other parts of Los Angeles like Culver City, Hollywood, and Burbank, and I always felt out of place. Here, I'm surrounded by businesses and people who are familiar to me as a resident of Westlake.

Narrator's willingness to take a chance on me as an intern has been instrumental to my career as a designer. The pandemic and unemployment left me unsure of what to do with my post-graduate life. Thanks to Narrator and their partnership with Para Los Niños, I got hired and received the opportunity to work just when I needed it the most. Now I get to work on exciting projects while I continue to explore and improve my design skills.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Maria

To Councilmember Kevin de Leon,

I started working at Narrator, inc mid-December 2021.

I was a freelance Post Coordinator at ViacomCBS before then. It was an easy job but I decided to leave for many reasons. A friend of mine recommended me to Narrator, and other friends working for them told me that they recommended the workplace. During my interview with Tina, I realized that I would learn a lot at Narrator. Growth and learning would be encouraged, so I left my corporate job.

There are many things I appreciate about Narrator as a creative agency that makes them stand out from other entertainment companies.

1. The diverse workplace. I have been in meetings where I am the only person-of-color and woman, and that's nearly impossible here.
2. The amount of people that are native Angelenos. The norm is that most people you work with in film are from other states, and they come to LA to pursue their dreams, and it's actually uncommon to find a local. I would say I was born here, and people would be surprised. A lot of people in the office are actually from here!
3. The ability to be a staff employee. It's so hard to find a stable job in the industry, but here so many people have made their way up to become a staff employee.
4. Their acceptance of young and new people. One of the hardest things to do in the industry is to get your foot in the door. Here, they offer internship to staff positions, and are always looking to hire.

All in all, I hope this letter speaks to the work Josh and Tina put into their company. I am relatively new to the company but I can see the effort they put into it to make it a welcoming workplace. I hope the letters from myself and my peers can convince you as well.

Sincerely,
Marianna Crisostomo
GRAPHICS COORDINATOR

Querido Councilman De Leon,

My nombre es Maria Del Carmen y estoy escribiendo esta carta para apoyar a tina carter & Josh Oreck.

Yo empeze a trabajar para ellos cuando pego la pandemia en 2020. yo habia perdido mi trabajo de limpieza y nadie me queria contratar pero Tina me contrato al instante. Tina y su family han sido una gran bendicion para mi y my familia. Ahora trabajo tiempo complete en su empresa. Lo que mas me gusta de Tina y su esposo, que yo no hablo ingles y eso no fue un ostaculo para contratarme. Ellos me tratan igual a todos los que trabajan en Narrator Inc. Lo que puedo decir es que ellos son una gran pereja y yo se que quieren aser una diferencia aqui en Lincoln heigts. Gracias a ellos tengo un trabajo seguro aqui.

Si tines alguna prejunta, por favor llamame. Gracias.

Maria Del Carmen

(818)448-1691

Communication from Public

Name: Paul Garry

Date Submitted: 04/15/2022 02:14 PM

Council File No: 22-0410

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of the Applicant, I am submitting a second batch of support letters for CPC-2019-4983-GPA-VZC (Attached)

Councilmember Kevin de León

200 N. Spring Street, Suite 425

Los Angeles, CA 90012

February 20, 2022

Dear Councilman De León,

I hope this letter finds you well.

My name is Marleni Lopez and I am an employee at Narrator Inc. I'm writing to share my experience at Narrator in hopes that it can give you insight as to the kind of company it is.

I started off as an intern from the L.A mayor's own Evolve Entertainment Fund program, which allows for the advancement of diverse and underrepresented communities in the film industry, to becoming a full time employee. Narrator is a place where tremendous growth and opportunities are acquired. To start off as a P.A to quickly advancing to an Assistant Editor in our Media department has become my most successful and proudest moment.

I come from a neighborhood similar to Lincoln Heights, South L.A. I understand the struggles of being a minority very well. Opportunities to make a name out of oneself are extremely hard to come by but Narrator is an incredibly welcoming and diverse place. To have a place like that near high school is a rare thing. Something for young impressionable minds to look up to and be inspired by. Especially since Narrator is extremely supportive of finishing college, creating schedules that work around class schedules. In my own experience, coming from a neighborhood with very little resources made finishing college quite hard. However, landing a job in the film industry made every hardship worthwhile.

Lincoln Heights is a great community and I do love exploring the place. Oftentimes my coworkers and I go out for lunch supporting the local businesses, sharing and respecting the culture there. It is a mutually beneficial system.

I hope you take a chance to get to know us as a company as I have discovered, it is a gem.

Thank you for your time,
Marleni Lopez

Dear Councilman De Leon,

My name is Michael Washington and I am the creative director at Narrator Inc. I'm writing this letter because I think Narrator, Inc. would be a great addition to the neighborhood of Lincoln Heights.

In the time that I've worked with this company, I've seen their commitment to supporting their employees and giving opportunities to people who are not industry insiders. I've personally been given the ability to interview and hire new employees that started as interns and watch as they develop into full-fledged professionals. These are people from all ages and backgrounds--most of whom had no industry connections, but were eager to find a work home to call their own and pursue their creative ambitions.

I know that Narrator is committed to providing opportunities to members of this community. I hope we will have a chance be a part of Lincoln Heights and help contribute to this vibrant and beautiful neighborhood.

Best regards,
Michael

Councilmember Kevin de León

200 N. Spring Street, Suite 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 473-7014

Dear Councilmember de León,

I'm writing to you today in support of Narrator, Inc. I started at Narrator in April of 2021. Pretty early into the pandemic, I had been laid off from my company in another industry, and was missing working in media production. Hoping to make a career shift, I had just moved to LA, and picked up a few production assistant opportunities here and there doing equipment deliveries and runs, and ultimately had found a job at a major production company with a well known broadcast brand. I was at that company working for a show at an entry level position for 6 months and received absolutely zero education, technical or skill advancement or training, and had no opportunities to be able to ask for any skill building or advancement opportunities. By the time I left, I didn't even get to use what skills I already had at that job. Career wise, I felt like I had wasted my time. Feeling like I had maybe made a mistake shifting industries, I decided to try looking for another job within the industry once more before returning back to my old one. I was lucky enough to find a contact at Narrator, and it has changed my life.

Since I started in April, my skills and opportunities have exponentially increased. I often joke about how sometimes the learning curve feels like the 14 foot curved wall on American Ninja Warrior. It can be steep and challenging, but with the opportunity to try and grow you manage to climb on top of that learning curve wall every time. I have learned so many different skills and things that I couldn't have possibly learned elsewhere in the same place. I have gone from reentering the industry to now managing a department where I also get to help train aspiring filmmakers and post production personnel on all the things I dreamed of learning. For employees, the number one thing Narrator does is create an environment to explore, learn and grow in this industry while working hands-on with interesting and exciting content. That is so extraordinarily rare in an industry where it can be hard to even find entry level opportunities in the first place. Most of the time you're learning, you're not creating, or maybe you're creating something, but you don't get to learn new things, but here, you get both.

At Narrator, you're not a cog in a machine, or a person doing the same repetitive task on an assembly line. In the short time I've been here, I've watched myself and other skilled and new people grow so swiftly and be able to have hands-on experience and direct training to be able to launch and advance their careers. This kind of experience is something I have not seen elsewhere, and that I feel so fortunate to have been able to encounter. This place has absolutely changed my life trajectory in the best way, and I love that I don't only get to benefit from it, but I can help give back to the new people here who otherwise would face massive barriers to entry here. Narrator is one of the most diverse workplaces I have worked at, and in an industry that is known for having several glass ceilings, I love that we help uplift one another.

It truly is something special, and I really hope it can stay this way. Thank you so much for the consideration.

Best,

Nicole Price
Media Manager
Narrator, Inc.

Dear Councilmember Kevin de León,

I'm writing this letter to express my deep support and gratitude for Tina Carter and Josh Oreck, both as people and as my employers. My name is Sara Scheidemantle, and I am a queer, non-binary motion designer at their company, Narrator Inc. I grew up in Pasadena and graduated from Scripps College in 2017. I started working with Tina and Josh as an intern back in 2015. Unlike other internships in the industry, this one paid well and offered creative mobility. I wasn't just doing coffee runs - Tina and Josh supported my artistic interests and gave me the opportunity to explore my passions. After I graduated from college, they hired me, allowing me to work full time in my dream artistic career. I have been working for them full time ever since- for almost 5 years now. In the time I've been at Narrator, I've grown from someone who was searching for a passion to an expert in my field. I've even trained other interns who have advanced all the way from intern to junior designer to motion designer in the last couple years. I can genuinely say that I love my job and love coming to work every day, which I believe is rare - and I have Tina and Josh to thank.

I've been loving working at the Lincoln Heights location. It's spacious and beautiful, and it inspires creativity. Most of all, it's giving the company a chance to grow and giving many more young people a chance to learn, explore their professional passions, and build a career. It's hard to find a job where people take you seriously in this industry, especially as a young person. It feels like so many jobs require 3-5 years of experience before they'll hire you. Josh and Tina give people a chance to get those key years, which is a huge leg up in this industry -- and they pay well and offer health insurance, which is vital. I have nothing but love and support for them and for this company. They're genuinely committed to diversity and supporting their employees in all sorts of ways. Even as they grow in numbers, they maintain the close personal support and connectivity of a small company. I hope that we will be able to continue growing in Lincoln Heights and can't wait to see what the future holds.

Best,
Sara Scheidemantle

Dear Councilmember de León,

In anticipation of upcoming hearings regarding my workplace's zoning status, the owners of the company have asked that we consider writing to your office to speak about our experience at Narrator Inc and why the business's placement at Little Flower in Lincoln Heights is beneficial.

I have worked at the company for seven years and have some perspective on how Narrator Inc hires and advances people in their careers. Narrator hired me at a rate that was higher than my previous media job and with benefits that I did not previously receive. They have paid for educational opportunities, expanding my abilities and the company's ability to handle more work in-house.

Early on, when the company was first growing, several of us raised the question of the company purchasing group health insurance, they did so. We also raised concerns about overtime and they were responsive to our concerns and made changes within the workplace. Whenever there have been concerns at the company, the owners have addressed them seriously and respectfully. I believe this comes down to Josh and Tina rightfully realizing that the balance of a worker/employer relationship comes down to mutual respect.

I understand that the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council is taking an active role in fighting gentrification in their community. It is my belief that Neighborhood Councils' decisions within their committees should be respected. Ultimately they represent the most direct form of democratic representation in the community. I hope that the pitch for the company I work for is one that they consider beneficial. I support the Neighborhood Council in its efforts to demand better from businesses that chose to locate within Lincoln Heights.

For their part, Josh and Tina are good employers who have sought to balance their goals for growth with what is decent behavior in a company: diverse hiring and promotion to leadership positions, responding promptly to concerns around work environment, and creating a pay structure and benefits package that shares what is being generated. Los Angeles is the media hub of the nation and the world. Companies that seek to grow within that environment face a multitude of challenges and I, personally as a media professional, need companies to exist that prioritize their workers and consider their role in creating higher standards within the industry.

Sincerely,

Sean Broadbent
Editor/Colorist, Narrator, Inc.
CADEM Assembly Delegate '21-'23

936-348-4419
seanbroadbent@gmail.com

02/21/22

Hello Councilmember Kevin de León,

My name is Takiya Coley and I work at Narrator Inc., located on Gates Street in Lincoln Heights, CA. I am writing this letter in hopes that my employers here at Narrator receive a classification change from residential to commercial. This company is a fantastic place to work and can bring a lot of great opportunities to this beautiful neighborhood of Lincoln Heights. In the ten months that I have worked here, I have witnessed in my employers Josh Oreck and Tina Carter, people who have given opportunities to others starting out in their careers (including me), people who have a great respect for this area and the neighbors that live in it, and people who have a deep love for what they do and a determination to try and take what they do and spread it out to help in the community. Narrator Inc. is not just a business, it is a place that centers around sharing, giving, diversity, caring, love and respect. It is not the type of place that will just come in, take up space and not be involved in the community. Nor is it here to bring problems to the area. A perfect example that I have witnessed happened last week, when one of the neighbors lost their cat, and Tina informed the entire staff to keep an eye out for it so we could help bring it home. That's the type of place Narrator Inc. is. So I would like to end this letter by asking can you please make Narrator Inc. a commercial establishment. I would have not known about beautiful Lincoln Heights without them.

Sincerely,
Takiya Y. Coley

To Councilmember Kevin de Léon,

I am writing to you in support of Narrator Inc and their on-going case.

My name is Ghita Sadoq and I am currently a Junior Producer for the company. I started off as an intern in March of 2021 and in less than a year was given the opportunity and knowledge necessary to move up in the company. I am originally from Marrakech, Morocco and moved to the United States in September of 2019 on my own.

Josh and Tina reached out to me a couple of days after I submitted my application for an internship at the end of February 2021; by March 1, 2021 I was in the office ready to start. I was worried that the fact that English was my third language, and lack of experience in the U.S.A, and my immigration status (I was on OPT) would prove to be detrimental, however, the community I found at Narrator and with Josh and Tina, gave me the knowledge, confidence, and trust to flourish professionally. I was provided with all the tools necessary to become an experienced industry professional at such a young age.

On a personal level, as an immigrant with no immediate family in the United States, life continents away from my support system is very difficult. However, the amount of support and kindness I received from Narrator, especially Josh and Tina, during what was probably the most traumatic year of my life literally saved my life, as I was severely depressed.

One example of their help included providing me with a car for my personal use; it was their daughter's car that they chose to give to me. However the most important example of their support and help includes sponsoring me for a work-visa so that I am able to not only advance my career but build a life for myself in this city and country. Besides providing documentation, reaching out to acclaimed producers and studios on my behalf, they also provided financial support with what is one of the most financially draining situation I've ever been in; they provided legal fees in order to keep a lawyer on retainer, filing fees with USCIS, and also paid for premium processing so that I would not risk going out of status. I received an extraordinary ability O-1 visa, two weeks later because of their help.

I urge you to vote in their favor because the thought of losing Narrator means way more to everyone at this company than just losing a job. Narrator provides so much for all of us on a personal level.

Thank you,
Ghita Sadoq

Councilmember Kevin de León,

My name is Eric Randolph, and I work in Lincoln Heights at a great company called Narrator, Inc. Put simply, Narrator is a really unique creative agency that provides marketing materials for films from major studios. It has grown at an exciting pace just since I was hired here in May of 2021, and continues everyday to develop into a larger home for a diverse group of creatives.

One of the greatest qualities this company has is that it gives opportunities to people in a way other companies don't. In the time since I was hired, I have been promoted from an assistant editor to a lead assistant editor, and now to a junior editor. While I definitely put in very hard work to warrant these promotions, it is unheard of to be given that kind of recognition in that short time. While another company might have stuck to a rigid practice of forcing employees to remain at one level for a strict time frame before rising up, Narrator gave me chances proportional to my ambition and talent. This will reflect very well on my resume and open a lot of doors in the future.

All of this experience has not only given me priceless training, but has given me union days required to apply for the Editors Guild. This is incredible for a person beginning a career in post-production because being a member of the Guild opens the door to having a career editing the types of studio TV and films that we market here at Narrator. I went to college so that I could gain some of the skills needed to join the union, and Narrator has continued to help me accomplish that goal. I'm not alone in this - many people come through this company, gaining incredible experience and connections on their way to assistant editing and editing TV and films.

Our office is located in what used to be a church, which gives us a massive and unconventional space to convert into offices. While I don't have much experience working in other office buildings, I understand that this is not the standard setup for a workplace. However, what Josh Oreck and Tina Carter (Narrator President and Vice-President) are doing with the space lends itself to a lively and creative place to work. We all have individual offices to work in, we have community rec spaces, we have beautiful spaces to house company-wide meetings, and each space still maintains the beauty of the original architecture. It's all really lovely.

Narrator also does a great job at finding talented employees from all backgrounds, creating a diverse staff that is not usually seen elsewhere in the entertainment industry. It truly is special to walk into an office and see a group of people that accurately reflects the diverse population of this country in a way that statistically just does not happen as often as it should.

I hope this email finds you well, and please reach out to me if you want to know more about the value of Narrator and the opportunities it has to offer people like myself.

Have a great weekend,

Eric Randolph
Nr8r // Junior Editor
919.610.0356



Kenneth Borgerding
BOY SCOUTS TROOP 342
LOS ANGELES AREA COUNCIL
SOUTH PASADENA CA 91030

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Tina and Josh Oreck

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter of Recommendation on behalf of Tina and Josh Oreck and for the many benefits they have provided the Boy Scouts Troop 342 and other Troops in the South Pasadena, El Sereno community. Tina and Josh have provided funding for a number of scouts who were able to go to Boy Scout Summer Camp, without their tremendous assistance, these scouts would not have been able to participate in the many activities Summer Camp offers.

In addition, Tina and Josh provided financial assistance toward tents and sleeping bags for other Boy Scouts who didn't have the means to purchase these items themselves. The sincere kindness offered by Tina and Josh demonstrate the positive outreach they provide for the community.

Besides being a Scout Master of Troop 342, I am also the Vice-Principal at Our Lady of Guadalupe Rose Hill School. Tina and Josh have reached out to me on numerous occasions providing the school with donations toward books and material needed by the students.

I am always overwhelmed by the attentiveness Tina and Josh demonstrate and highly recommend them as tremendous stewards of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kenneth Borgerding".

Kenneth Borgerding
kborgerding@olgrhschool.org



Markus Brox
M Brox Insurance Agency inc
Pasadena, CA 91101

1/25/2022

To whom it may concern:

This letter was written as a letter of recommendation for Josh Orick and Tina Carter whom I have known since 2003 when I moved to my home in Lincoln Heights. Being practically neighbors to their organization I can attest to the immaculate operation and success of the organization and the impact it has in the community. Josh and Tina's character and their involvement and sacrifice in several volunteering projects in the surrounding neighborhoods show the pride, integrity and the ethical involvement in the community they serve in. If additional information is needed please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'M. Brox'.

Markus Brox
President/ CEO
M Brox Insurance Agency Inc



225 S. Lake Ave
Suite 300
Pasadena, CA 91101

PHONE 323-841-5079
FAX 323-544-6053
EMAIL markus@broxins.com
WEBSITE www.broxins.com

Councilmember De Leon,

I am writing in support of Josh Oreck/Narrator's adaptive re-use of their Lincoln Heights property from a former nunnery to a production studio. I have worked with Josh/Narrator on several behind-the-scenes video projects for my films at Warner Brothers over the past 20 years. He and his team have shown that they create top-notch creative content while also creating a supportive community. At a time when many productions are leaving Los Angeles and California, what Narrator is doing will help to create local jobs and build the local economy. At my company Rideback, we have done something similar in Historic Filipinotown and I look forward to seeing what Narrator can do for Lincoln Heights as well.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Best,
Dan

DAN LIN
CEO & HEAD WRANGLER



1660 BEVERLY BLVD
LOS ANGELES, CA 90026
323-785-5301 DIRECT

Rideback.com

GROUP EFFORT INITIATIVE

GroupEffortInitiative.com

March 11, 2022

Councilmember Kevin de León
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 473-7014

Subject: GEI Support of Narrator's Lincoln Heights property

Dear Councilmember Kevin de León,

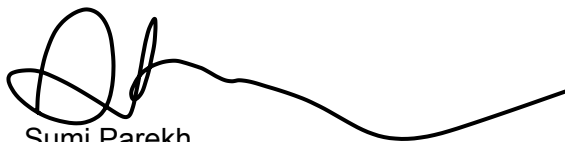
Group Effort Initiative (GEI) is writing in support of Narrator's adaptive re-use of their Lincoln Heights property from a former nunnery to a production studio.

GEI exists to create a pipeline for members of underrepresented communities to establish a long-term career within the entertainment industry. Narrator has been involved with the Group Effort Initiative and its predecessor, the Evolve Entertainment Fund, for over two years and has provided internships and jobs to dozens of GEI's participants.

At a time when many productions are leaving Los Angeles and California, Narrator's production studio in Lincoln Heights will help create local jobs and build the local economy. Narrator is also committed to other neighborhood and community-based hiring programs to create high-paying jobs in underserved sectors of the city and its planned campus in Lincoln Heights will be a hub for employment, production and creative pursuits in a vibrant neighborhood with very few similar businesses.

GEI is excited to continue its partnership with Narrator and help them train, mentor and hire young Angelenos from Lincoln Heights that have been born in Hollywood, but never had the opportunity to work in Hollywood. Located in the heart of the Lincoln Heights community, the Narrator campus will be an asset to the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sumi Parekh', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Sumi Parekh
Executive Director
Group Effort Initiative

Dear Councilmember Kevin de León,

I am writing this letter in support of Tina and Josh Oreck and their company Narrator Inc.. I've been working with Narrator for a year now and not to exaggerate but this job literally saved my life. Right before I was offered the position I was unemployed, I had been let go from my previous job as a result of the pandemic. I had been unemployed almost a full year, struggling to pay rent, and barely getting by with very little assistance from the US government. I was applying for all kinds of jobs everyday, just looking for something to get me out of the trenches.

I interviewed with Tina and some other Narrator employees and was thrilled when she offered me a position as an assistant editor. I was thrilled for multiple reasons, one I knew the constant anxiety from questioning "how am I going to pay my bills this month?" was finally over. Second, I was so grateful I was offered a full time job in my preferred industry. It honestly all felt like a miracle I had been praying for, for months. My bachelor's degree is in film and video production and after graduating college in 2018 and having no luck finding a stable job in my industry I settled with the fact that I may never actually put my degree to use. A heartbreaking realization. My job at Narrator was my big break into my dream industry and for that I will forever be grateful for Josh and Tina for seeing something in me and believing I can achieve my goals. Fast forward to the present day, I am now an associate producer at Narrator. Which is still mind blowing because I'm relatively young and now my career possibilities are endless. This kind of professional growth does not and could not happen at any other company besides Narrator. Josh has been so supportive in coaching me and my 3 other team members how to be successful and reliable producers. The amount of the things I have learned and been able to accomplish in my short year at Narrator still blows my mind. This is truly an opportunity of a lifetime. Many of my coworkers relate to this sentiment and we talk about it often. I will forever support them both even when my time at Narrator comes to an end.

Aside from Josh and Tina giving me a *huge* jumping off point for my dream career, they have been so helpful in my personal life. When I first started working for their company I was using public transportation and this was during the second big wave of COVID cases rising in Los Angeles. I was beginning to get paranoid about my health. One night on my way home I was verbally assaulted on the bus by an unmasked passenger and it was incredibly scary. I shared with Tina what happened and immediately she and Josh allowed me to borrow one of their personal vehicles for 6 months until I was financially stable enough to get my own. They were even extremely helpful in helping me get the best deal on my own vehicle as well. After that, in November, I was involved in a very traumatic car accident that resulted in my new car being totaled. I was incredibly sad and scared and they were so supportive through that experience as well. Tina was the first person I thought to call during my crisis and she was the first person to help. She got my destroyed car out the street, helped me get a tow, the whole nine. It was so reassuring and comforting to know that I had this kind of support by my side, especially because I am a long way away from my relatives.

I've worked closely with Tina and Josh this past year and I know no matter what they always lead with good intentions. Narrator has no intention of disturbing the neighborhood or even making drastic changes to the neighborhood. We are just looking for a cool and inspiring place that is covid safe that allows us to collaborate with one another.

Sincerely,


Maya George

Dear Councilmember De Leon,

My name is Max Berry and I am an employee of Narrator, Inc. I have worked with this company for over six years, throughout growth from a small studio to the expansive creative agency it has become. In this time I've gotten to know the company's owners (one of whom is a third-generation resident of this side of the city, in Echo Park) as great people with a thoughtful and generous spirit. Specifically, over the past two years, they found a way to keep their employees paid and taken care of through a crisis that shuttered many similar vendors. Now, with their expansion into the property between Gates St and Thomas St, they have made conscious plans to incorporate Lincoln Heights' interests into their business model, offering internships and employment to local students and recent graduates. It is with all this in mind that I ask that you support their relocation to this property and this neighborhood.

I hear the neighborhood council's desires to resist gentrification and seek self-determination for Lincoln Heights, but I feel that targeting this company is misguided. The area stands to gain many employment opportunities at a company based right here as opposed to malevolent gentrifiers representing outside influences, such as corporate franchises and employers based elsewhere in the city/county. I believe deeply in empowering communities and I feel that in this case, Narrator is prepared to invest in the neighborhood and truly engage with the community in a mutually beneficial way. I hope that you will agree.

Thanks for your consideration,

Max Berry
Narrator, Inc
maxberry@nr8r.com

The Honorable Kevin De León
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Council-member Kevin De León,

I'm writing to express my support of Narrator Inc. as a positive and friendly group of individual creatives that operate in ways that are beneficial to the community and integrity of Lincoln Heights. Personally, I and other young students/graduates have had intern and mentorships that have offered amazing hands-on learning and work opportunities. While operating in Lincoln Heights, I and so many others have grown to love the history and importance of Lincoln Height's community. With that being said, I believe Narrator is a stand-up company that has found a great home in Lincoln Heights while knowing to keep the foundations of this beautiful neighborhood true. In order to do so, I'm writing for your support of Narrator Inc. to continue to be a part of Lincoln Heights and operate and grow with your help.

Thank you for your attention,

Best,

Evan Gradillas

February 21, 2022
Councilmember Kevin de León
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 473-7014

Dear Kevin De León,

My name is Dell'Daniel Haley. I am writing to you to express my support of Josh & Tina Carter and their company Narrator Inc. I joined Narrator in September of last year and was immediately greeted with a sense of care and concern that is seldom shown at a workplace. At the time I was preparing to be a new father and they were beyond supportive on both the personal and employer level. I was hired as the Graphics Coordinator but after nearly a year, expressed interest in shifting positions and they were very supportive of that decision as well. In short, Narrator is a fun place to work with caring and supportive employers that will bend over backward to make their employees feel as welcome as possible. There have been few companies that I've been a part of that express the level of concern that I see this company express. Narrator and the people working here are a beacon in these tough times we face as a community/people and I am blessed to be a part of such a place.

Sincerely,
Dell'Daniel Haley
(310)896-1092



Local 600
International Cinematographers Guild

March 2, 2022

Councilmember Kevin de León
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 473-7014

Dear Councilmember Kevin de León,

We are writing to express our support for Josh Oreck at Nr8r and their request to be approved as a production facility in Lincoln Heights. Nr8r employs union members all over the country and is a signatory employer who makes sure the jobs they provide are covered by fair wages and working conditions, including health and pension benefits. We believe Nr8r will be an asset to any neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Rhine
National Executive Director
International Cinematographers Guild, IATSE Local 600

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216 S. Jefferson St., #400
Chicago, IL 60661
(312) 243-3841
(312) 243-4275 Fax

New Orleans

(504) 708-4224
(504) 324-0727 Fax

Councilmember Kevin de Leon,

I am writing to you regarding *Narrator, Inc.* which operates out of Lincoln Heights. There are so many words I can use to describe the company and those who operate it. However, one word in particular that encompasses the values, outreach, and spirit of the company and that word is ***honest***.

I started working at *Narrator* in July of 2021. I had just moved from North Carolina to Los Angeles and was, of course, overwhelmed. I had nothing to fall back on if my very risky move failed. Then, within seconds of arriving in the city and catching up with a close peer of mine they offered to forward my name to Tina Carter and Josh Oreck and let them know that I was available for hire. Cut to my interview with Tina and I knew *Narrator* was the place for me. She explained that the company was a place to learn and explore career opportunities just as much as it was a chance to work on big Hollywood productions (something I didn't think would be possible so early in my career). It was with that transparency that I felt the company was a safe space. Even after working for the company several months in, I was implored to take a freelance job outside of *Narrator* to network and absorb different facets of the vast entertainment industry by Tina herself.

The working environment that Josh and Tina have curated has also been elite. Everyone that I talk to on a day-to-day basis is kind and hardworking. They are great workers as well as people, something that translates upwards to the people in charge. I can't thank them enough for supplying me with a job in the industry I dreamed of being in while also pushing me to be better each time I clock-in.

I hope this brings to light the character of the company as well as those bringing the company to life. They are conscious of their choices and strive to make the choices that best benefit their employees as well as the city of Lincoln Heights. Thank you for your time and reading this letter.

Best,

Bateman Lewis

Assistant Editor at Narrator, Inc.

To Kevin De Leon,

My name is Esmeralda Fernandez and I work at Narrator Inc. located at 2434 Gates St. as an Assistant Editor. I am a current CSUN student and it's my fourth and final year there. I was always worried that after college I wouldn't be able to find my dream job or a location that would be able to see my true talents as an editor. I then found out that GEI (Group Effort Initiative) were actively giving internships to young creatives like me. I was able to find a position here at Narrator Inc. as an intern assistant editor. Starting from the interview process to the first day it was nothing but positive attitudes and pure support from Josh, Tina and the rest of the team here. I would arrive early everyday because I was excited to start my day. Not only is there so much to do but working here has improved my skills in editing and communication, this helped a lot in school.

The schedule is flexible and Tina always made sure that I put school first. They gave us a place to work and especially during these times with covid they were always on top of protocols and safety procedures. I also have really bad social anxiety and I feel as though when it comes to mental health both Tina and Josh make it possible to be able to talk to them with confidence about any situation and would be able to work something out whatever it may be. After finishing my internship I was heartbroken that I was almost done and I would not be able to work in an environment that cares and isn't always just the same routines all the time. I've worked at past internships before and I never felt as though I belonged or was seen. I wasn't able to do what I wanted to do but was only looked at as a person to run errands for but that wasn't the case here. Everyone I know that works here has moved up or has even changed their area of interest and to me that's what the film industry is all about!

I was able to ask both Tina and Josh for a part time job here and they were glad to have me on board. I was greeted with open arms. I was finally seen and heard and ever since then I have only grown so much more and I'm finally doing what I want to do which is become an editor. As someone who lives with a single mom that always pushed me to chase my dreams and not get stuck working at a job that didn't see my potential I was ecstatic to start my journey here and my mom couldn't be prouder. Thanks to Tina and Josh for giving me a chance I am able to see something in me that I couldn't see before. I hope you can get to visit and see how truly amazing everyone here is at Narrator Inc.

Councilmember Kevin de León
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Kevin de León,

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of the company Narrator Inc., whom I am currently freelancing for as a Storyboard Artist. As a person whose English is the third language to speak, it wasn't always easy to find job opportunities within my industry where I wouldn't feel judged based on my background. In Narrator, my feelings are entirely opposite. The whole company, through every member, is a very creative, supportive, opened minded but most importantly, a fair member of society, and I felt very welcomed ever since I first came. Narrator focuses on giving all its members the same treatment and opportunities no matter the age, race, ethnicity, gender, or even financial status. Thus I understand it might be challenging to see true intentions of new companies coming into your city; I can with 100% certainty say that having Narrator in your community is only beneficial, as it brings multiple job opportunities and a very fair work environment.

In conclusion, I deeply support the effort and values of Narrator Inc. and can't wait to see it grow and enrich your community even more.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best,
Zuzana Martinkova
sjumartinkova.com
5418018006

February 18, 2022

Councilmember Kevin de León
200 N. Spring Street, Suite-425
Los Angeles, CA.
(213) 473-7014

Dear Kevin de León,

My name is Matt Somerville, and I'm writing you in support of Josh Oreck & Tina Carter's company, Narrator Inc.

When I came to Los Angeles to work in the film industry, I did so with no job leads and a generally limited amount of training and schooling. After roughly 3 months of fruitless job searching, I was introduced to Josh through a mutual friend. Though he was a bit trepidatious at first, Josh decided to take a chance on me, hiring me as the first employee of his new company. I started as an assistant, but soon became an editor, a producer, a director and ultimately the company's post-production supervisor. Thanks to my time at Narrator, I've had the privilege of working on major studio films, tv series, standup comedy specials, and have worked closely with industry professionals I've considered inspirational heroes for most of my life.

It's not just a great place to work for me. I've witnessed every single employee hired for the company since I came on, some of which have been working for Narrator almost as long as I have, and they're still filling prominent roles. Others have used their time at Narrator to elevate their abilities and status to secure new jobs at major studios like Warner Bros and Netflix, or on huge show gigs like Brooklyn 99, Naked & Afraid, 30 For 30 and so many more. Additionally, Narrator brings a lot of business to a lot of places, from our home base here in Lincoln Heights to places all over the world. We're consistently doing business in several states here in the US, several provinces in Canada and even continents outside of North America.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this and hope you consider all of Narrator's qualities when deciding the future of our company remaining in Lincoln Heights.

Sincerely,
Matt Somerville
(925) 336-0445

We are the neighbors probably most impacted by the zone change.

Our extended family owns the land and lives in the residential properties on Thomas Street between Alta and Altura Streets { along the same stretch of Thomas Street that Narrator now owns on the other side of the street }.

We strongly support Narrator and the Zoning change.

Like many other neighbors we were very concerned about what kind of development might take place once the nuns left their property.

There was a collective sigh of relief in the neighborhood when we found out the nature of the new owners' plans.

The folks at Narrator have proven to be thoughtful and inclusive neighbors operating in a respectful and harmonious manner. Their behavior, plans and designs have justified and reinforced our optimism that our unique part of Lincoln Heights will be protected and preserved in collaboration with these new and welcome members of our shared community.

John Ladner
Mark Lipscomb 2434 Thomas Street

Adan Lopez-Marquez
Ruby Vaquiz 2456 Thomas Street

Ivan Lopez-Marquez 2458 Thomas Street