



De La Salle Santiago Zobel School

Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City, Philippines 1780, Tel. No.: 771-DLSZ Website: www.dlszobel.edu.ph

June 29, 2015

Re: **Possible Traffic Scenario – Expiration of AAVA on June 30, 2015**

To our dear neighbors and friends in the community:

As you are aware, we have been working diligently to improve the traffic situation in the immediate vicinity of De La Salle Santiago Zobel School (*DLSZ*). Since February 2015, we have been directly communicating with residents of the neighborhood around *DLSZ* to ensure that the interest of the concerned parties are considered in our initiatives. Our goal is to establish a collaborative relationship with our neighbors on a long-term basis to make sure that issues that we will face as a community will be addressed appropriately.

Further to our goals, we would like to advise you of a possible traffic scenario that may arise on July 1, 2015. On July 1, 2015, stickers issued by Ayala Alabang Village Association, Inc. (*AAVA*) to *DLSZ*-bound vehicles will cease to be effective, and unless the expiration of these stickers will be postponed until new stickers are issued, there will be uncertainty in how students who do not reside in Ayala Alabang Village will be transported to and from school. If *AAVA* and/or security personnel will refuse to honor the stickers, it is possible for long lines to be formed by *DLSZ*-bound vehicles both entering and exiting from Ayala Alabang Village during rush hours. We are concerned that this may affect residents of Ayala Alabang Village. Aside from the traffic issue, allowing a large volume of cars to enter Ayala Alabang Village based on verbal representations will expose residents to security risks.

We have sent *AAVA* a letter that expresses our concerns regarding the afore-described potential traffic and security issue. It is possible that *AAVA* might address the issue appropriately; however, if *AAVA* does not extend the effectivity of the stickers, we believe that Ayala Alabang Village residents should be advised of the possible scenario.

The delay in issuing new stickers resulted from negotiations regarding various issues relating to the issuance of stickers. The issues could have been discussed in a meeting today (or before the stickers expire) to which we invited *AAVA*; however, *AAVA* was unable to attend the meeting and can only meet with *DLSZ* next week.

Remaining issues include the following:

- (i) Whether to require application forms to be notarized and whether parents and guardians will be made to sign statements that reference possible criminal liability in relation to the application for stickers;
- (ii) Pricing scheme for the stickers that seeks to incentivize carpooling;

(iii) Number of stickers to be issued to families entitled to stickers to achieve the target maximum volume of approximately 960 vehicles during rush hours;

(iv) Signing of a memorandum of agreement that will provide for terms of the traffic management and community relations plan of the school, including a proposed student population cap;

(v) Creation of a multi-sectoral committee that will implement the sticker policy to be adopted by AAVA and DLSZ and will adopt policies regarding traffic management and community relations around the campus of DLSZ; and

(vi) Resolution of the lawsuits relating to the color coding scheme.

While we expect these issues to be trivialized by some sectors of the community, we also believe that the controversy between AAVA and DLSZ cannot be resolved unless these issues are fully addressed.

We are hopeful that DLSZ and AAVA will finally be able to resolve the controversy that arose from AAVA's color coding scheme once and for all. In fact, in a meeting held on June 4, 2015, AAVA presented a letter that sought to summarize the terms of a proposed sticker scheme, which I signed to express good faith and on the expectation that the mechanics of the sticker policy will be included in a binding memorandum of agreement (the *MOA*) that we have proposed since February 2015. The June 4, 2015 letter, which purported to summarize the intent of the parties, did not include mechanics for the implementation of the proposed sticker policy or the dismissal of the lawsuit between AAVA and DLSZ. Aside from serving as basis to show the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board the complaint filed by DLSZ has been rendered moot and academic, a signed MOA will, more importantly, create a framework for resolving traffic and other community relations issues among DLSZ and its neighbors. In the MOA, DLSZ proposes to commit to a student population cap and a target volume of vehicles that will enter the subdivision during rush hours. Moreover, under the MOA, a multi-sectoral committee that will consist of representatives of AAVA, DLSZ, the Parents Association, and the residents of the immediate vicinity of DLSZ will be created and empowered to adopt policies relating to traffic management and other community relations issue.

As of this writing, we are awaiting feedback from AAVA regarding a date when AAVA officers will be available to meet with us to discuss pending issues. Our aim is to immediately focus on building on the favorable results of our initiatives to improve the traffic situation around DLSZ that several residents have acknowledged.

We will keep you informed of developments.

Sincerely,



Br. Bernard S. Oca FSC
President

cc Board of Governors, AAVA
Board of Directors, DLSZ Parents Association, Inc.
Barangay Ayala Alabang
DLSZ Community