#### **INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT**

### CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

July 18, 2024

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM: JIMMY KIM, General Manager

SUBJECT: VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications addressed to the Board have been received by the Board Office, and the action taken thereon is presented.

<u>From</u>		Action Taken
Griffith Park Pony Ride comments		Referred to General Manager
1) RAP's response regarding the RAP	#9659b	Referred to General Manager
Proposed Public Art Policy		
2) Brian Kaplan comments regarding	<b>#</b> 2000	Referred to General Manager
creating a Curb Cut at Veteran and	#9666	
Rochester near Westwood Park		
3) Michael Westbrook comments		Referred to General Manager
regarding Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers		Referred to General Manager
Still Being Used in Robert F. Kennedy	#9667	
Inspiration Park		
mophation rank		
4) Dawn Socha comments regarding		Referred to General Manager
the Bridge Home Shelter at Los Feliz	#9668	
5) Gerry Hans comments regarding the	#9668a	Referred to General Manager
Bridge Home Shelter at Los Feliz	#9000a	
6) Alison Wallce comments regarding	#9668b	Referred to General Manager
the Bridge Home Shelter at Los Feliz	# 0000D	
7) Kevin Mullican comments regarding	#9668c	Referred to General Manager
the Bridge Home Shelter at Los Feliz		
Q) Debre Methods comments regarding		Deferred to Coneral Manager
8) Debra Matlock comments regarding	#9668d	Referred to General Manager
the Bridge Home Shelter at Los Feliz		

9) Jennifer De Leon comments regarding the Bridge Home Shelter at Los Feliz	#9668e	Referred to General Manager
10) D Chew comments regarding the Bridge Home Shelter at Los Feliz	#9668f	Referred to General Manager
11) Scott A. Meyers comments regarding the Bridge Home Shelter at Los Feliz	#9668g	Referred to General Manager
12) Ron Bitzer comments regarding the Bridge Home Shelter at Los Feliz	#9668h	Referred to General Manager
13) Lacey Edwards comments regarding Griffith Park Pony Rides	#9669	Referred to General Manager
14) Nicole Revere comments regarding Griffith Park Pony Rides	#9669a	Referred to General Manager
15) Mars Green comments regarding Griffith Park Pony Rides	#9669b	Referred to General Manager
16) Evelyn Gray comments regarding Griffith Park Pony Rides	#9669c	Referred to General Manager
17) Susan Campbell comments regarding Griffith Park Pony Rides	#9669d	Referred to General Manager
18) Sara Feiss comments regarding Griffith Park Pony Rides	#9669e	Referred to General Manager
19) Cathy McCann comments regarding Griffith Park Pony Rides	#9669f	Referred to General Manager
20) Rachel Drabecki comments regarding Griffith Park Pony Rides	#9669g	Referred to General Manager
21) Los Angeles Alliance for Animals comments regarding Griffith Park Pony Rides	#9669h	Referred to General Manager
22) George the Great comments regarding Clean Up for Echo Park	#9670	Referred to General Manager

23) George the Great comments regarding using Solar Lights in Echo Park	#9670a	Referred to General Manager
24) Aurora Corona comments regarding Timeframe for the Dog Waste Station	#9671	Referred to General Manager
25) Marina Case comments regarding Tee Time Reservation Error	#9672	Referred to General Manager
26) Jacy Boo comments regarding Problems in Parks	#9673	Referred to General Manager
27) Alenoush Barfian comments regarding safety issues in Oro Vista Park	#9674	Referred to General Manager
28) Alisa Klein comments regarding Pickleball at North Atwater Park	#9675	Referred to General Manager
29) Jymie Darling comments regarding problems with LAEC	#9676	Referred to General Manager
30) Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council comments regarding the support of the Sherman Oaks/Encino Chamber of Commerce Lease Renewal	#9677	Referred to General Manager
31) Ben Loescher comments regarding Pershing Square Private Events	#9678	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Rosa Cartagena, RAP Commission Office

#### DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

#### **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

RENATA SIMRIL PRESIDENT

**LUIS SANCHEZ** VICE PRESIDENT

FIONA HUTTON MARIE LLOYD **BENNY TRAN** 

TAKISHA SARDIN **BOARD SECRETARY** (213) 202-2640

#### City of Los Angeles California



VC NO. 9659b

JIMMY KIM GENERAL MANAGER

**MATTHEW RUDNICK** 

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**CATHIE SANTO DOMINGO** ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

CHINYERE STONEHAM ACTING ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

**BRENDA AGUIRRE** ACTING ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

(213) 202-2633

Sent via Email:

June 27, 2024

Zaid Diaz-Arias, President North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council

#### RESPONSE TO CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS' PROPOSED PUBLIC ART POLICY

Dear North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council,

The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) is in receipt of your letter, dated May 15, 2024, detailing your concerns regarding RAP's proposed Public Art Policy.

See below RAP's responses to the various items discussed in your Letter.

#### ITEM 1:

The drafted RAP Public Art Policy aims to specifically address unsolicited, community-driven art proposals from outside entities for the installation of public artwork, murals, monuments, and memorial plaques on City parkland. As mentioned in RAP's report to the Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force, the stewardship and display of public art is not within the Department's primarily goals and mission. Within RAP, there is no official group or designated staff member whose sole responsibility is monitoring public art on RAP property. The comprehensive review, evaluation, and processing of public art requests is a time-consuming assignment. The purpose of the application fee is to cover a small portion of RAP staff's costs and to elicit serious applicants and proposals. After conducting diligent cost analysis factoring in the time internally processing the applications, sending proposed installations through the proper Maintenance, Planning and Construction channels for approval, including approval from our Board of Commissioners, as well as issuing the Right-of-Entry permit for the installation, it was determined that a reasonable estimated cost for processing a Public Art Application is approximately \$2,000. Therefore, RAP has determined that \$500 is a reasonable fee, especially given it only covers a fraction of the overall estimated cost.



North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council Response June 27, 2024 Page 2

#### ITEM 2:

Since 2014, RAP has required the submission of a signed Artist Waiver as part of its consideration of a proposed public art installation. The language in the Artist Waiver is consistent with the language of previous Artist Waivers and is consistent with what may be required by the Department of Cultural Affairs when they commission an art installation or incorporate a piece into the City's Permanent Art Collection. RAP has worked closely with the City Attorney to develop the appropriate language for Artist Waiver.

RAP is currently working on incorporating RAP's available data regarding public art installations into a new geographic information system. However, lack of recording keeping for previous installations or unauthorized installations continues to be a challenge for current RAP staff.

Under the proposed Policy, it is envisioned that RAP staff will contact the artist or entity identified as responsible for maintenance of the installation per the Public Art Application if there are any issues with the art during the installation period. If at that time, the issues are not resolved by the artist or entity then RAP will remove the installation. RAP needs to retain the right to remove, alter or modify any artwork at any time for any reason.

#### ITEM 3:

Although Public Art can be beneficial for local communities and the City, and can serve a recreational purpose, the installation, maintenance, display, and preservation of Public Art is not directly within RAP's current mission or staff expertise. That being said, RAP parkland has become a repository for memorial plaques and other monuments that have limited or no connection to the parks in which they are located and the maintenance, upkeep, and repair of Public Art requires an ever-increasing amount of staff time and resources and RAP does not have the resources necessary to take on the burden of maintaining unsolicited public art.

The purpose of this Policy is to protect RAP's assets, define RAP's role in the Public Art realm and the goals for the Public Art, and establish guidelines and procedures for proposed art. As mentioned in Item 1 and 2, RAP faces many challenges conserving these pieces with the resources currently available. In RAP's annual budget, there are no designated funds for the installation or conservation of public art. The maintenance and repair of art work also it not within the expertise of RAP staff. Additionally, it is important to clarify that, per the proposed Policy, maintenance does not necessarily need to be solely the responsibility of the artist. There are multiple examples of artwork that is commissioned and maintained by the entity who is funding the art installation rather than the artist.

#### ITEM 4:

RAP has been operating without a Public Art Policy. The drafting of this proposed Policy is a direct response to the challenges RAP has faced as a result of unsolicited public art requests. This new Policy will hopefully set a standard and clearly establish RAP's role in the City's Public Art sector and will protect the department's assets. The draft version of the Policy was made available to the public at a regularly noticed public meeting.

North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council Response June 27, 2024 Page 3

Thank you for your comments and insights regarding the draft Public Art Policy. RAP truly appreciates the input and feedback. RAP looks forward to discussing this Policy with you more in depth at an upcoming North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council meeting.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Meghan Luera, of my staff,

Sincerely,

JIMMY KIM General Manager

CATHIE SANTO DOMINGO Assistant General Manager

JK/CSD/NC:ar

#### Attachments

1) Letter from North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council dated May 15, 2024

Cc: Jennifer Clark, NHNENC, RAP Board of Commissioners Reading File



#### North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council

May 15, 2024

To the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners,

We applaud the efforts of the Board and Facility Repair And Maintenance Commission Task Force to solve a long-standing problem of the maintenance and restoration of public art on Recreation and Parks land throughout Los Angeles. Reviewing your proposed RAP Public Art Policy for temporary art as put forth in the May 2 meeting, the North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council urges the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners and Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force to reconsider the Drafted Policy in favor of a more equitable one.

Our concerns lie mainly on four points:

- Section VIII., Procedures for Temporary Installations, Number 1: Any Applicant proposing a Temporary Installation must complete and submit a Public Art Application form (Application), along with an application fee of \$500.
- Section VIII., Procedures for Temporary Installations, Number 4: The Application must include a signed Artist Waiver, which is included in the Application, (Exhibit B) in order to be considered complete.
- 3) Section IV., General Public Art Guidelines, Number 2: RAP shall bear no financial responsibility for the installation, maintenance or removal of any Public Art without exception. If any piece or portion of Public Art is vandalized or stolen, RAP shall be under no obligation to repair or replace the artwork. The Applicant shall treat Public Art with an anti-graffiti coating unless RAP determines that such treatment is unnecessary or infeasible for a particular installation.
- 4) Section III., RAP and Public Art, Number 2b: Public Art should create opportunities for community engagement and building for the park and its surrounding community. The creation and/or installation of any Temporary Installation on RAP property shall involve (1) community input via survey, community meeting, Neighborhood Council and/or Park Advisory Board; and (2) a community event commemorating the creation and/or installation of the artwork.

#### On the first point:

\$500 to simply submit an application that may, by your own admission, be rejected, is exorbitant. If the Department of Recreation and Parks is interested in reaching a varied set of artists and community



#### **North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council**

groups, then you must understand how this will diminish artists' and groups' abilities to participate. If the review of the applications and approval by the staff are truly that far outside of the RAP staff's purview, then this is a conversation worth having about what department's responsibility public art is; however, charging artists \$500 per application simply to pay your staff to review these applications seems outlandish, and arbitrary.

#### On the second point:

Asking artists to waive their Federal and State of California rights so the RAP can manage their land is not the root of the problem. Based on the summary included from the Task Force meeting, the root of the problem is a lack of appropriate record-keeping for the public art installations across the RAP land. Working to build and maintain a database for the Department, in addition to working together with the DCA and CAC to maintain any joint ventures, will allow the RAP with the information it needs to communicate with artists as needed when determining an artworks' needs, whether it be maintenance or removal. We suggest that you modify the following language in the waiver from "In accordance with the waiver set forth above, Artist agrees that the City has the absolute right to change, modify, destroy, remove, relocate, move, replace, transport, repair or restore the [describe the artwork/project: mural, sculpture, etc. and medium] ("Artwork")" to include a requirement that RAP will attempt to contact said artist for a set time period and with proof of such due diligence, and that after than time period has passed with no response from the artist, then they will have the absolute right to do all that is stated to the installation in that section.

#### On the third point:

It is impossible to understand the financial responsibility of maintaining a public piece of artwork, and to put that burden on an artist is unrealistic, both financially and logistically. As the RAP staff is regularly in the parks and public spaces, it's practical to assign this responsibility of oversight to the RAP. Again, if this is outside the bounds of the abilities of the staff, then other solutions that don't involve pushing costs to local artists need to be explored. This additional cost is an additional deterrent for installations to go through proper channels given that the RAP staff already are removing art that has been installed without RAP approval at their own cost.

On the fourth point:



**Board Vote Count:** 

**Motion Status:** 

#### **North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council**

The additional focus to utilize Public Art in community engagement and building is one we fully support. We appreciate the proposal that Neighborhood Councils and/or Park Advisory Boards (PABs) might be involved in the creation and/or installation of the temporary art. However, there was no input asked for from these community groups for the creation of this policy. Our recommendation is that the PABs and Neighborhood Councils be sent a survey now asking for input.

Again, the NHNENC firmly believes in the mission of the Department of Recreation and Parks, while equally valuing the importance of public art. We know that many of the city's departments are underfunded (simply look to the unpaid labor of the 99 neighborhood councils as an example). But we urge you to find a solution that does not add multiple layers of burden to any artist simply wanting to enrich their community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
The North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council

X

Zaid Diaz-Arias
President
North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council

Official Use Only

Date of Board Vote: May 15, 2024

Other

Aye: 7 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1

Failed

Passed X





#### Re: Curb Cut Needed at Veteran and Rochester near Westwood Park

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Brian Kaplan < >

Fri, Jun 14, 2024 at 2:50 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Fri, Jun 14, 2024 at 2:40 PM Brian Kaplan < > wrote: Hello - I was referred to you by the Department of Recreation and Parks (see below).

Would you please provide a curb cut at the crosswalk located at Rochester Avenue and Veteran Avenue. Presently, one side of the crosswalk has a curb cut but the other side does not, the side entering Westwood Park. Not having a curb cut makes it extremely difficult for baby strollers and wheelchairs and is a safety concern. Additionally, a sidewalk from the new curb cut to the park would be even better. Access from this crosswalk into the park is very difficult without a sidewalk. Please see attached photos and pictures. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Date: Fri, Jun 14, 2024 at 2:36 PM

Subject: Re: Curb Cut Needed at Veteran and Rochester near Westwood Park

To: Brian Kaplan <

Hello Brian,

Thank you for contacting us. You may reach out to the Board of Commissioners Department at (213) 202-2640 for further inquiry.

Thank you,

Caro

On Fri, Jun 14, 2024 at 12:37 PM Brian Kaplan <

> wrote:

I was referred to you by LA Public Works. Would you please provide a curb cut at the crosswalk located at Rochester Avenue and Veteran Avenue. Presently, one side of the crosswalk has a curb cut but the other side does not, the side entering Westwood Park. Not having a curb cut makes it extremely difficult for baby strollers and wheelchairs and is a safety concern. Additionally, a sidewalk from the new curb cut to the park would be even better. Access from this crosswalk into the park is very difficult without a sidewalk. Please see attached photos and pictures. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

**Brian Kaplan** 

--

	Public Information Office Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org Phone: 213-202-2700 Website: www.laparks.org			
Follow us on social media for everything under the sun at LA Parks!				
	, ,			
 Br	rian Kaplan			



#### Re: Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers Still Being Used

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Michael Westbrook

Tue, Jun 18, 2024 at 7:25 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Mon, Jun 17, 2024 at 8:56 AM Michael Westbrook < Hello,

> wrote:

Gas-powered leaf blowers are still being used in Robert F. Kennedy Inspiration Park (3400 Wilshire Blvd 90010). One was used by a Recreation & Parks employee on Monday, June 17, 2024 around 8:45 AM.

Thank you, Michael Westbrook





#### Re: A Deal Is A Deal/ Riverside Bridge Home

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Dawn Socha < >

Tue, Jun 18, 2024 at 7:28 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Mon, Jun 17, 2024 at 5:41 PM Dawn Socha < > wrote:

Why are the citizens of Los Feliz NOT entitled to the benefit of the agreement made 4 years ago, which was that the "temporary" Riverside Bridge Home Shelter would be used for a specific purpose and then be gone in 3 years?

We kept up our end of the bargain, forestalling the development of the property for the community, yet the city doesn't have to keep up its end of the bargain?!

The people living at this shelter are targets for anyone looking to profit from the vulnerable.

Nithya Raman's letter (attached below) is the exact opposite of what the community wants and what we were promised, yet our representation doesn't care.

Despite what Nithya Raman claims, community engagement is horrible. She may be speaking with the Neighborhood Council, but the Council does not listen to the constituents.

Please reject the extension of this lease. Please!

Dear Friends.

Our A Bridge Home shelter in Los Feliz on Riverside Drive is nearing the end of its lease term and the Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will consider a one-year extension at the June 20th board meeting.

As the city continues to respond to the Mayor's Homelessness Emergency Declaration, which is still in effect, I, along with Mayor Bass, maintain a steadfast commitment to urgently bringing our unhoused neighbors indoors.

The "A Bridge Home" program was created by Mayor Garcetti in 2020 to give people living on the streets a safe place to live, with supportive services while they await a permanent home.

During my three and a half years of office, our work together as a community on homelessness brought hundreds of people off the streets into interim housing, more than tripled access to shelter beds in the district, and sustainably housed residents at more than a dozen major encampments across the district through dedicated encampment-to-home efforts. Our efforts led to the first reduction of unsheltered homelessness in our district in six years.

However, our work is not done. Our housing supply remains severely insufficient and losing the 100 shelter beds relied upon at this location would be a staggering setback to our rehousing system.

We appreciate our partnership with the Office of Mayor Bass for this essential resource for our district and we look forward to the RAP Board's consideration in its <u>next meeting</u>. If you support retaining this shelter to keep people housed, we encourage you to let the Board know by emailing: <u>rap-gpab@lacity.org</u>.

Below, we have outlined some frequently asked questions and answers for your reference. Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at <a href="mailto:contactCD4@lacity.org">contactCD4@lacity.org</a> or 213-473-7004. For more information about our work on homelessness, we encourage you to <a href="mailto:visit our website">visit our website</a>.

Warmly,

Nithya Raman
Councilmember, 4th District

A Bridge Home Shelter in Los Feliz

#### Q&A

#### What about the South Griffith Park Master Plan?

Many of you have questions about what this means for the future of this site, including our plans for a South Griffith Park Master Plan. CD4's commitment to delivering a new, unified vision for South Griffith Park is stronger than ever. And we are excited by our progress as we introduced a motion to identify front-funding and direct RAP to begin a procurement process for a consultant by Fall 2024 (CF 23-1334). Funding has been specifically allocated, and RAP staff is currently working on a final RFP package to put out to bid.

#### Why not pursue other shelter sites?

We are. Council District 4 is a historically challenging district to identify interim housing options for a variety of reasons including high land costs. CD4 currently has two additional interim housing locations located at 7047 Franklin Dr in Hollywood and 7432 Reseda Blvd in Reseda (The Sieroty). The 74 interim beds at the Sieroty are temporary as they will be converted to Permanent Supportive Housing in the next year, and the site is currently being demobilized. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is an essential component of the rehousing system, however due to a lack of PSH supply, interim housing such as the A Bridge Home shelter in Los Feliz is another important piece in addition to existing resources to support current demand and ensure our neighborhood streets are not used as a waiting room for those in need of a permanent home.

## What steps are being taken to protect public safety and keep our streets clean around the A Bridge Home Shelter?

ABH Ambassadors – Our office is supportive of and actively working toward securing "Ambassadors"--staff on-site who are trained in trauma-informed care and will walk the perimeter of the ABH structure and can refer individuals who need additional mental health/ substance use support to DMH and other specialists as needed. We have secured funding for this additional support to address issues as they arise around the park adjacent to the ABH site and are in the process of procuring a contractor so they can begin as soon as possible.

Community Engagement – Our staff has worked closely with the Neighborhood Council, Los Feliz Improvement Association, RAP Board and other neighborhood groups to address concerns and keep the community regularly updated on the progress of the program at ABH Riverside.

CIRCLE Team Activation – Our office advocated for the successful expansion of CIRCLE to the area in January 2022, allowing community members to call the non-emergency LAPD line to dispatch outreach workers to support non-urgent situations with People Experiencing Homelessness in Los Feliz and around the ABH site.

#### Should the lease be extended, what will happen after the year extension is up?

We support extending the lease by a year to give the city and the community an opportunity for a checkpoint when the lease extension has terminated to assess whether or not we have sufficient interim housing resources online at that time, review the effectiveness and need of the shelter site at that time and consider how any community impacts are being adequately addressed. Upon that consideration at the RAP Board meeting, a decision will be made on whether to terminate the lease at that time or to continue.

\_\_



#### Re: Support for one year extension - A Bridge Home

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Gerry Hans <

Tue, Jun 18, 2024 at 7:30 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Mon, Jun 17, 2024 at 6:29 PM Gerry Hans < Dear Commissioners,

m> wrote:

We are residents of Council District 4 and recognize the accomplishments of Councilmember Nithya Raman and her work to bring hundreds of people off the streets and into transitional housing.

A Bridge Home on Riverside Drive was opened with community support in the Los Feliz neighborhood in Summer 2020 and has served more than 450 individuals.

We strongly support the one-year extension of the lease term for A Bridge Home shelter in Los Feliz. It is critical that we make housing a priority and give the people living on the streets a safe place to live and the supportive services they need. It is the humane and compassionate thing to do.

Most City Parks are not appropriate for interim housing, but this location is acceptable and does not impose on recreation or habitat. It's on the far outskirts of Griffith Park; it's already there as a built structure, so it is logical to continue its use.

We are still in a state of emergency with L.A.'s homeless crisis.

Sincerely,

Gerry Hans & Mary Button Los Feliz Oaks residents



### Re: YES for Bridge Housing on Riverside Drive

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> To: Alison Wallace &lt;</rap.commissioners@lacity.org>	Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 11:42 AN
Good morning,	
Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissio forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.	ners Office, your email will be
On Wed, Jun 19, 2024 at 4:04 PM Alison Wallace <	> wrote:
Hello!	
I strongly support retaining the Bridge Housing shelter in our Los Feliz neighb housed and encourage a YES vote on a one-year extension.	orhood on Riverside Drive to keep people
The Franklin Hills Residents Association has chosen this shelter as our charity appreciate what they are doing to help some of our most vulnerable Los Angeshelter and hope.	
Thank you for your consideration,	
AW	
Alison Wallace	



#### Re: Comment for June 20, 2024 meeting

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 11:51 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 9:07 AM Kevin Mullican < Greetings Commissioners,

> wrote:

Don't Let the Recreation and Parks Department become the Homeless in Parks Department

Stop Council District 4 from continuing to mislead you and the public about the Los Feliz Riverside Dr Bridge Home.

No memorandum of understanding for operation of the Bridge Home was ever created by CD4 as promised.

No timeline for closure of the Bridge Home was ever created by CD4 as promosed. CD4 actively ignores community input and vilifies those who speak out.

No Ambassador Program is forthcoming.

No annual reports or audits of the funds spent on the facility are available. The shelter operates with a blank check and no accountability.

468% increase in homelessness.

LAHSA and CD4 state that 20% of residents have been housed. What they don't tell you is 10% return to the shelter. PATH's contract doesn't even include a requirement to house residents.

300% increase in crime.

Recreation and Parks charter mandates that the department is to "support greater park access and equity". Everyone should be able to safely enjoy the park, and not be afraid of being attacked, or raped, or poisoned by drugs.

Your job isn't to house the homeless in the park. Your job is to protect access to the park for everyone. You alone have the power to stop this failed experiment by Council District 4. Do not grant a license to continue operation of the los Feliz Riverside Dr Bridge Home. It's that simple.

Sincerely, Kevin Mullican



#### Re: June 20 meeting, agenda item 24-140

1 message

Rap Commissioners <a href="mailto:rap.commissioners@lacity.org">rap.commissioners@lacity.org</a>
To: LFIA President <a href="mailto:rap.commissioners@lacity.org">rap.commissioners@lacity.org</a>

Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 11:50 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Wed, Jun 19, 2024 at 2:34 PM LFIA President < > wrote: Dear Commissioners,

In July 2023, the Los Feliz Improvement Association warned that, without major changes to the Riverside ABH site, the problematic issues surrounding the site will continue and we will all be back in a year with even less patience for this well-intentioned, but unsuccessful experiment (see attached letter). Unfortunately, this is where we now find ourselves.

LFIA was the first supporter of the Riverside ABH site and we acknowledge that closing the site immediately is not possible given the crisis we are currently in.

This commission is in receipt of an extensive analysis from its Griffith Park Advisory Board regarding the increase in crime and threats posed by this site, located in a heavily populated neighborhood and family recreation area, not to mention an adjacent nursery school.

While a noble experiment, we now know the ABH site hasn't accomplished its mission, and inflicts an unacceptable risk on park goers and adjacent neighbors. The LFIA implores the commission to insist on requirements for renewing the ABH lease:

- 1) implementation of the ambassador program which the council office committed to last year but has still not implemented,
- 2) installation of Special Enforcement Zone signage to allow for enforcement of existing laws, and
- 3) increased updates for the community regarding neighborhood safety and planning for sunsetting the site.

Thank you. Debra Matlock

--

#### Debra Matlock

President, LFIA Advocacy and Action for Los Feliz



2023-2024

President

Debra Matlock

First Vice-President

Amy Gustincic\*

**Second Vice-President** 

Lynne T. Jewell

**Coordinating Secretary** 

Donna Kolb

**Recording Secretary** 

Marian Dodge\*

**Treasurer** Donald Seligman\*

**Directors** Philip Gasteier

Ray Hovsepian

Melody King

Alex Kondracke

Chris Laib\* Elizabeth Lovins

Deanne Paul

Joel Rochlin

Karen Stetler Sam Wasserman

\*Past President

July 7, 2023

Councilmember Nithya Raman Via email

RE: Riverside A Bridge Home (v. 2 July 2023)

Dear Councilmember Raman,

On June 1st, 2023, the Recreation and Parks Commission approved a one-year renewal of the lease on the Riverside Bridge Home (ABH) site. At that meeting, Geoff Thompson, CD4's deputy chief of staff, stated that the Councilmember could decide to renew the lease for additional years "if she so chooses."

The Riverside ABH site has attracted criminal and dangerous activities to an area of Griffith Park that includes a nursery school and youth athletic fields/courts and is adjacent to a densely populated area. Without major changes to the Riverside ABH site, the problematic issues surrounding the site will continue and we will all be back a year from now with even less patience for this wellintentioned, but unsuccessful experiment.

The LFIA strongly recommends that the lease should conclude at the end of the current one-year extension and that a specific exit strategy be implemented for several reasons:

- 1. As representatives from CD4 stated, the Riverside ABH site utilizes an outdated congregate-shelter strategy. This strategy is no longer a best practice for transitioning unhoused individuals into permanent housing. Indeed, the Council office has committed to supporting the more effective strategy of housing people in individual rooms.
- 2. New permanent and supportive housing options are opening across the city. These new sites render options like ABH even more obsolete.
- 3. The decision to close the site after the one-year renewal should happen soon. Having time to gradually close the site over the next year is crucial to ensure that the residents of the Riverside ABH have time to transition to their next phase of housing.

There are several measures that could be put in place to ensure that the site can sunset effectively over the next year:

Attrition: Set benchmarks for the site's gradual closure, e.g. only 50 beds are allowed to be occupied at six months, 25 at nine months, etc.



#### 2023-2024

#### **President**

Debra Matlock

#### First Vice-President

Amy Gustincic\*

#### **Second Vice-President**

Lynne T. Jewell

#### **Coordinating Secretary**

Donna Kolb

#### **Recording Secretary**

Marian Dodge\*

Treasurer

Donald Seligman\*

#### **Directors**

Philip Gasteier
Ray Hovsepian
Melody King
Alex Kondracke
Chris Laib\*
Elizabeth Lovins
Deanne Paul
Joel Rochlin
Karen Stetler
Sam Wasserman

\*Past President

- Ambassadors: Expedite the creation of the ambassador program to monitor and engage with unhoused individuals in the area outside the Riverside ABH site. These ambassadors could assist with the transition to permanent housing, help to discourage bad actors who prey on the ABH residents, and respond to neighborhood issues.
- Safety: Ensure that the residents of the surrounding neighborhood and visitors to Griffith Park feel safe during the gradual closure of the site by following the LFIA's previous safety recommendations (outlined in our letter sent 5/25/2023). Installation of Special Enforcement Zone signage will allow for enforcement of existing laws, especially needed near the Los Feliz Nursery School, zip line playground and Mulholland Fountain.
- Accountability: As deputy chief of staff Geoff Thompson promised to the RAP Commission, CD4 will provide timely updates to all neighborhood organizations regarding progress on the site's closure and safety in the surrounding neighborhood in a format where the Council office can have a dialog with area residents.

LFIA was the first supporter of the Riverside ABH site and we acknowledge that closing the site immediately is not possible given the crisis we are currently in. But, given the numerous problems in the area surrounding the site and what we have learned about the ineffectiveness of congregate shelters, we would like to see a plan for closing the site in a safe and humane manner over the next year. We understand the ABH site was inherited from Councilman Ryu, but the community expects CD4 leadership to protect the area from unforeseen negative impacts.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of LFIA

ehre Mattoch

Debra Matlock President

CC: Renata Simril, President, LA Recreation and Parks Commission Jennifer Hull, Field Deputy, LA Council District 4 Sarah Tanberg, Sr. Homelessness Deputy, LA Council District 4



#### Re: Dear Commissioners and GM Kim,

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Jun 21, 2024 at 8:13 AM

To: Jenn Deleon <

Cc: "Jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <Jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, "Brenda.Aguirre@lacity.org" <Brenda.Aguirre@lacity.org>, "Rapgpab@lacity.org" <Rap-gpab@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Jun 21, 2024 at 8:10 AM Jenn Deleon <

> wrote:

## CALIBER COLLISION

June 18, 2024

Rec & Parks Commissioners and Gene era Manager Kim 221 N Figueroa Street Suite 350 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via email and mail

Dear Commissioners and GM Kim.

Being the Manager of Caliber Collision on Riverside Drive, Ai have has to repeatedly interface with police about transients drawn to Riverside Drive Bridge Home. I have over 20 videos and have witnessed numerous incidents of homeless fighting, doing drugs, roaming around in front of my office muttering to themselves or insulting my customers.

Recently, a woman from Hollywood was brought to the area by her boyfriend who is a resident and drug dealer inside the Bridge Home shelter. She attempted to encamp and police we called as she was verbally aggressive and threatening to my employees and passersby. The Bridge Home shelter attracts dysfunctional, violent, mentally ill/drug addled people to the area and it is negatively affecting my business.

Either I or my employees have attended and written to your Board at every community meeting regarding Bridge Home shelter and I again am asking you again to close the shelter. People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) does nothing to secure the area outside these two shelters on Riverside Drive and it creates a dangerous environment for my employees and customers.

I look forward to a decision from your Board to close the shelter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer DeLeon Office Manager



Jennifer De Leon

Office Manager







## CALIBER COLLISION

June 18, 2024

Rec & Parks Commissioners and Gene era Manager Kim 221 N Figueroa Street Suite 350 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via email and mail

Dear Commissioners and GM Kim,

Being the Manager of Caliber Collision on Riverside Drive, Ai have has to repeatedly interface with police about transients drawn to Riverside Drive Bridge Home. I have over 20 videos and have witnessed numerous incidents of homeless fighting, doing drugs, roaming around in front of my office muttering to themselves or insulting my customers.

Recently, a woman from Hollywood was brought to the area by her boyfriend who is a resident and drug dealer inside the Bridge Home shelter. She attempted to encamp and police we called as she was verbally aggressive and threatening to my employees and passersby. The Bridge Home shelter attracts dysfunctional, violent, mentally ill/drug addled people to the area and it is negatively affecting my business.

Either I or my employees have attended and written to your Board at every community meeting regarding Bridge Home shelter and I again am asking you again to close the shelter. People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) does nothing to secure the area outside these two shelters on Riverside Drive and it creates a dangerous environment for my employees and customers.

I look forward to a decision from your Board to close the shelter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer DeLeon Office Manager



#### Re: Bridge Housing (24-140)

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: D Chew < >

Tue, Jun 25, 2024 at 7:18 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Fri, Jun 21, 2024 at 11:33 AM D Chew <

> wrote:

Recreation and Parks Commissioners,

I'm appearing again at this meeting on the discontinuation of the approval for the Bridge Housing on Riverside Drive.

I must remind you that Griffith Park was a gift to Los Angeles to the people of Los Angeles for recreation. Continuing this project is contrary to the goals of what Griffith Park is, a park.

This project is now subverting a long-planned Senior Center. The temporary 3-year use, being extended another year, has worn out its welcome to this Park and its neighbors.

The plans have long been approved; the Seniors are still in a decades old bungalow set on the parking lot of the Friendship Auditorium. This project has stopped the construction of a project that has been through the efforts of three Mayors and three Councilpersons as well as 5 RAP managers.

Your approval is not a simple request. It concerns the City of Los Angeles and the promise made to Giffith J. Griffith about using his gift to Los Angeles. Also a promise of this gift to Los Angeles, land for recreation, green open space, and assisting the people of Los Angeles. Time has come to give the Seniors of Los Angeles their due, and their promised Center. Just like the Valley Plaza Recreation Center, this Senior Center will address different needs but is still part of the overall complex that is on Riverside Drive.

Thank You for your time and please consider the consequences to the people for the continuation of this project



#### Re: Regarding the Riverside Drive Bridge Home Shelter

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "Law Offices of Scott A. Meyers" <

Tue, Jul 2, 2024 at 7:21 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Sat, Jun 29, 2024 at 7:33 PM Law Offices of Scott A. Meyers < Dear Folks:

> wrote:

On June 6, 2024 I addressed you at the public hearing regarding the frustration levels we have endured arising from a poorly misplaced shelter in a neighborhood that has been upended by decisions by our local government. It is increasingly known and clear that citizens of this city are finding that their government is unresponsive. You all have an opportunity to reverse this, even if slightly.

The extension of the Bridge Home lease is the **liability** of the Recreation & Parks and Commission. This deplorable situation is on your property where the homeless shelter has remained for four years. While the community has tolerated this unconscionable situation well past the promised term, there is a bargaining chip you must use if the shelter is to remain much longer.

I would strongly advise that you, as Rec & Parks management and the Commission obtain the right to demand random inspections of the Bridge Home shelter, without prior notice to Council District 4, or any other City entity. This is public parkland and your mission as City-affiliated Department is to ensure clean and safe parks.

What is happening at Bridge Home shelter is a drug problem - not a housing problem, despite how many times the City Council and Mayor attempt to classify the homeless situation as a housing issue. If this were a housing cost problem, there'd be homelessness in greater proportions in our wealthier neighboring cities.

Honesty demands we acknowledge this is largely a drug trafficking and drug availability and a drug tolerance problem.

You all know, or should know, there is open drug trafficking and drug usage at that shelter. Hugely important is that there is also **sex trafficking** at that shelter - and many do not escape. You ALL should familiarize yourselves with the phrase "being smoked out." Any drug-free young woman who enters that facility for what she thinks is safe shelter learns otherwise and learns it very quickly. Some escape. Some don't. The city has provided cover for criminals - all outside the view of law enforcement and civilians - and it is on your property.

But these problems are not confined to your property. The drugs and sex trafficking spill into our neighborhood. Our children see this. Our children are offered and sometimes purchase drugs that are sourced from the shelter on **your property.** 

The answer is spot inspections and confiscation of ALL illegal substances.

Please, seriously, discuss ways to implement this suggestion. Do it for yourselves, the city, the community, the neighborhood, and for all those drug and sex-assault victims whose names you will never know but are indeed someone's son, daughter, brother, sister, mother and father.

Thank you.

--



### Re: City-wide Council Motion from CD#11 following US Supreme Court Decision 1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Jul 2, 2024 at 7:24 AM

To: Ron Bitzer <

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Sun, Jun 30, 2024 at 2:41 PM Ron Bitzer <

> wrote:

Ms. Park, Please consider how homeless shelters on City park land by "temporary" and flimsy City authority have an impact outside CD#11 as documented by residents, groups and individuals in the attachment,

Recreation and Park commissioners already have seen much of this material, and been informed that "permanent" transfer of park property for this purpose would not work.

Ron Bitzer

## 333

#### MOTION

On June 28, 2024, the United States Supreme Court issued a decision regarding City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson, finding that cities may enforce rules pertaining to homeless encampments and the regulation of public spaces.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the City Attorney to provide an analysis of the ruling's impact on the City's existing rules relative to sleeping, lying and storage of property in the public right of way and other public settings, including but not limited to Los Angeles Municipal Code Sections 41.18, 56.11 and 63.44, as well as its impact on vehicle dwelling; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request the City Attorney to provide a confidential analysis regarding the ruling's impact on any existing litigation against the City related to homelessness, including how this ruling impacts the LA Alliance Settlement; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, to report to Council on current laws in the 87 other cities within Los Angeles County that restrict sleeping in the public right-of-way that will impact the City of Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY:

TRACI PARK

Councilwoman, 11th District

PAUL KREKORIAN

Councilmember, 2nd District

JOHKILEE

Councilmember, 12th District

MONICA RODRIGUEZ

Councilwoman, 7th District

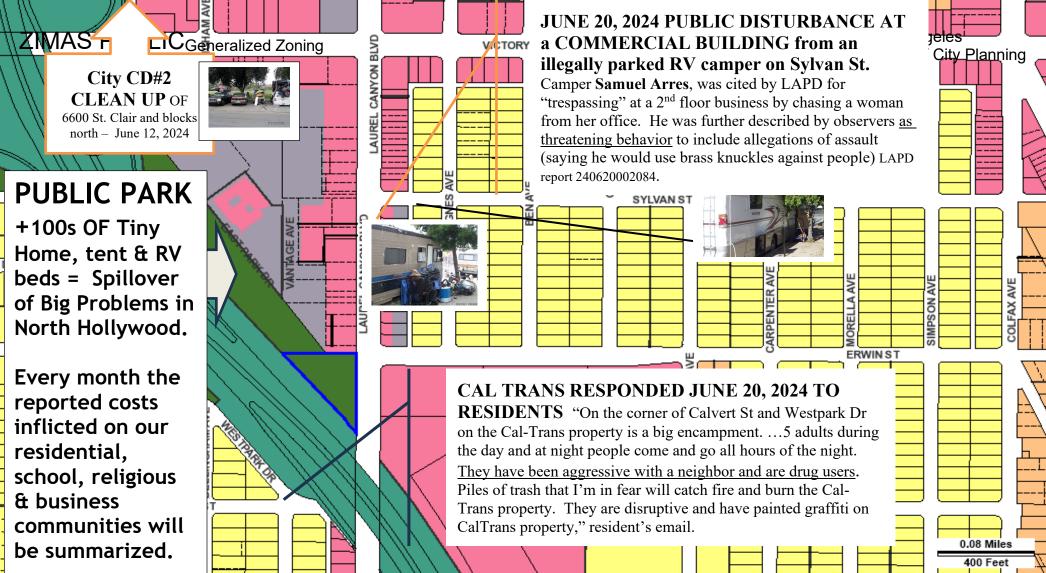
KEVIN DE LEON

Councilmember, 14th District

CURREN PRICE

Councilmember, 9th District

SECONDED BY: drubolifable



### Volunteer Now ----- Current Community Safety Strategies for Summer 2024

- \* RV Illegal Parking Reports by Phone: Call after 10 PM LA Department of Transportation dispatch center (818) 374-4823, to request immediate intervention
  - \* 9 AM Meetings of City Recreation and Park Commissioners (Request date and location of next meeting) Phone (310) 415-2796
- 1. \* Outreach to CD#2 candidates seeking Paul Krekorian's seat in November 2024



**OVER**, Please

November 2024 Candidates for Council District 2

Jillian Burgos,

Adrin Nazarian,

#### Elected Local Officials / Staffers

CD #2

Lorraine Diaz, <u>Lorraine.diaz@lacity.org</u>
Jeff Camp, jeff.<u>camp@lacity.org</u> (Major clean up issues)

State Assembly (specifically Cal Trans clean up issues at 170 freeway)

#### City Departments

Valley Plaza Recreation Center, (818) 765-5885

Abandoned Vehicles 1-800-222-6366

City Department of Transportation Valley Dispatch Office (Alleged violation must be occurring at the time of the call --- 24 hours / 7 days) (818) 374-4823

LAPD Community Police Advisors, Sheri Herman, Officer Castillo is the North Hollywood liaison to this group meeting monthly

# Griffith Park Advisory Board South Griffith Park Ad Hoc Committee Finding and Recommendations

May 2023

#### INTRODUCTION

We are focused to restore and enhance the safety and enjoyment of park patrons; increase recreational programming; support greater park access and equity ...

—Value statement from City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks website

The Griffith Park Advisory Board (GPAB) is a volunteer organization, seated by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to advise the department about matters pertaining to Griffith Park, the largest park in its system.

This ad hoc committee was convened by GPAB board Chair Michelle Grames in February 2023, after RAP received several letters, emails and board-meeting call-ins from neighbors in the area around the Riverside A Bridge Home site in Griffith Park about safety and other concerns. It is the practice of the board to form ad hoc committees, consisting of broad members and citizen volunteers, to investigate such matters and report back to the board with findings and recommendations.

The committee consists of two GPAB directors, Alex Crow and Chris Laib, co-chairs, and three community volunteers, Amy Gustincic, Indu Subaiya and Alexander Behar. The co-chairs considered and interviewed numerous volunteers and both agreed these were the best candidates, based on their established community work, availability and interest in the project. Mehmet Berker from City Council District 4 attended some meetings and also contributed. Each member researched and authored a section of this report, which we have published herein. While the committee members came at this project from different perspectives and life experiences, surprisingly, there was consensus on almost all of our Conclusions and Recommendations, which are in the final section of this report. Where there was disagreement, it is noted as such.



This report addresses the southernmost 8.9 acres of Griffith Park, which, at 4,200 acres, is a very large city park. While the bulk of Griffith Park is considered America's largest urban wilderness park, this southern section is isolated in the middle of a residential area. See appendix 1 for public records and satellite maps.

The south Griffith Park (SGP) area we are considering is bordered by Los Feliz Boulevard on the north, Riverside Drive on the east, a hillside ascending to Waverly Drive and Arbolada Road on the west, and the Park's southernmost border where the recently demolished LA Shares building was sited (approximately where the south bound I-5 Glendale Avenue freeway exits onto Riverside Drive). We confined the analysis to the west side of Riverside Drive, as that is the area about which we received the neighborhood complaints, and which is also substantially undeveloped and fallow, and offers RAP opportunities consistent with its charter.

There are four basic land plots:

- 1. LADWP: The plot at the north end of the site belongs to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and includes the historic Mulholland Fountain and Centennial Garden.
- 2. Equestrian Easement: The next plot to the south is a dedicated equestrian easement trail and fence, which circles the Mulholland Fountain.
- 3. SoCal Edison: To the south of that is the Southern California Edison transmission tower utility easement.
- 4. RAP: Finally, we come to the Recreation and Parks plots. The northern most is currently occupied by the Riverside A Bridge Home (ABH) site, a temporary transitional residential living facility, currently leased to People Assisting The Homeless (PATH). To the south are the remains of the historic Los Feliz Performing Arts/California Theatre site which was destroyed by fire in 1986. The southernmost area is where the LA Shares building existed, until recently. The western hillside rises at a steep elevation to a dense residential neighborhood above.

The RAP area south of the ABH site is fallow for the most part and populated by numerous mature older trees, some native, others not, including several highly flammable non-native eucalyptus trees. The site is unattended and not fenced. It is detached from the main part of Griffith Park to the north and does not receive the regular drive-throughs by the Park Rangers that the rest of the Park receives. The complaining neighbors have expressed concern about illegal fires here, and indeed the ultimate destruction of the LA Shares structure was determined by LAFD to be an act of arson. The entire area is rated a Los Angeles County very high severity fire area, as is all of Griffith Park.

The entirely of Griffith Park is zoned 'open space,' a Los Angeles County zoning designation that restricts its uses to recreation, reserves or water conservation. The Los Angeles City Council adopted *A Vision for Griffith Park* in 2014, to serve as the governing document for Griffith Park, in lieu of a master plan, and it makes recommendations for this area, as well as have prior City Council actions.

While the scope of this ad hoc committee has been to study the ultimate best and highest recreational uses for this specific area, our findings are also informed and influenced by the heavily used recreation and meeting spaces to the east and across Riverside Drive. We have endeavored to filter all of our findings and recommendations to adhere to RAP mission, county zoning laws, and the principles of *A Vision for Griffith Park*.

#### Public records, land use and entitlements

The entire area is zoned Open Space (appendix 1.1). This zoning is restricted to recreation, water conservation and nature reserve uses. The DWP and SCE easements are specific and restrictive in their uses. The DWP site is occupied by the Centennial Garden, installed in 2013 to commemorate the opening of the Los Angeles aqueduct. The Mulholland Fountain, built in 1940, at the site of William Mulholland's first home in LA, is LA Historic Cultural Monument 162. The Southern California Edison easement disallows any ground improvements or activities within 40 feet of the high transmission wires. The City site (Recreation and Parks) falls under the jurisdiction of their charter and mission.

The area south of the SCE easement is part of Griffith Park's historic

The area south of the SCE easement is part of Griffith Park's historic overlay (HCM 942).

In 2019, then City Councilperson David Ryu, sponsored a motion from the Health, Education, Neighborhoods Parks, Arts and River Committee, which the city council passed unanimously (appendix 1.2) and that directed the Recreation and Parks Department to formulate a plan for a community center and permanent home for the Griffith Park Adult Activity Center (GPAAC); to be built at the site of the current Bridge Home, upon completion of its lease. GPAAC currently occupies a temporary home of several mobile structures across Riverside Dr and due east of the subject site.

At the time of this city council resolution, LA Shares was still an active entity, and that space, at the southernmost point of the park, does not have a designated replacement plan. Currently, about 31/2 acres of the site lie fallow and debris laden. It is populated with a number of large eucalyptus and other trees and heavy brush in the west portions, at the foot of the steep incline leading to Waverly Drive and Arbolada Road, both dense residential areas. There are fire concerns from adjacent residents, which will be discussed in another section of this analysis.

## LOS ANGELES CITY PUBLIC PARK EXISITNG AMENITIES AND POSSIBILITIES

The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks manages around 450 parks and public facilities throughout the City, including more than 16,000 acres of parkland. This includes neighborhood parks, regional parks, nature preserves, recreation centers, and cultural facilities.

Parks in Los Angeles offer a wide range of amenities. Some of the most common include:

- Playgrounds: Many parks in Los Angeles have playgrounds for children to enjoy, with swings, slides, and climbing structures.
- Picnic Areas: Picnic tables and benches are available in many parks, making them great spots for picnics and outdoor gatherings.
- Sports Fields and Courts: Many parks have sports facilities like basketball courts, soccer fields, tennis courts, and baseball diamonds.
- Walking and Hiking Trails: Parks in Los Angeles offer many walking and hiking trails, providing opportunities for exercise and nature appreciation.
- Dog Parks: Dog parks are becoming more popular in Los Angeles, and many parks have designated areas where dogs can run and play off-leash.
- Water Features: Some parks have water features like fountains, ponds, and lakes where visitors can enjoy boating or fishing.
- Fitness Equipment: Some parks have outdoor fitness equipment like pull-up bars, balance beams, and other equipment to help visitors get a workout.

One of the most well-known parks managed by Rec and Parks in Los Angeles is Griffith Park. At 4,200 acres it's one of the largest urban parks in North America. Griffith Park is a diverse and expansive park. Its natural beauty, numerous activities, and cultural attractions make it a beloved destination for residents and visitors alike.

The space at the southern end of Griffith Park affords some unique opportunities due to the availability of space within a densely populated city; accessibility to residents of the Los Feliz, Atwater Village, East Hollywood and Silver Lake neighborhoods, as it is located near major roads and public transportation; and the need for open space within a community that is densifying with the addition of multi-family buildings without much green space of their own.

Taken together, the spaces on the east and west sides of Riverside Drive could comprise a fantastic neighborhood park within the boundaries of Griffith Park. A neighborhood park is a small-scale park that is typically located within a residential community and designed to provide recreational opportunities for people of all ages and to promote a sense of community and social interaction.

One of the key features of neighborhood parks is their accessibility. They are designed to be within walking distance of nearby residents, making them easy to access and providing a convenient place for outdoor recreation.

Griffith Park and the surrounding area are missing some key amenities that are present in other Los Angeles parks/neighborhoods and could be added to this new neighborhood park, including:

- 1. **Basketball Courts:** Basketball is a popular sport that can be played by people of all ages and skill levels, making it a great way to promote physical activity and socialization. Basketball courts can also be used for other activities, such as roller skating and skateboarding, providing visitors with more options for outdoor recreation. Additionally, basketball courts can be relatively low-cost to build and maintain, making them an accessible and practical addition to the park.
- 2. **Recreation Center:** Recreation centers typically offer a range of facilities and programs that promote physical activity, socialization, and education. Some of the facilities that a recreation center could include are:
  - a) Fitness Center: A fitness center with exercise equipment and classes could provide visitors with a convenient and accessible way to stay fit and healthy.
  - b) Classrooms and Meeting Rooms: Classrooms and meeting rooms could be used for educational programs, community meetings, and social events.
  - c) Arts and Crafts Studio: An arts and crafts studio could provide visitors with a creative outlet and could be used for workshops and classes.
  - d) Kitchen facilities: Kitchen facilities can be used for classes or to support other activities happening in the recreation center or park.
  - e) Stage: A stage can be a versatile and valuable feature in a recreation center, providing opportunities for a variety of activities and events including performing arts, fitness classes, educational programming and community events.
  - f) Youth Programs: A recreation center could offer a variety of programs for youth, such as after-school programs, summer camps, and sports leagues.
- 3. **Skate Park:** Skate parks typically include various ramps, rails, and obstacles that can be used for skateboarding, inline skating, and BMX biking. They can also serve as a gathering place for the skating community, providing opportunities for socialization and camaraderie.
- 4. **Splash Pads:** Splash pads are a popular feature in many parks, especially during the hot summer months. Adding a splash pad to Griffith Park would provide visitors with a fun way to cool off and enjoy the outdoors.
- 5. **Outdoor Fitness Equipment:** Many parks have outdoor fitness equipment that visitors can use to exercise and stay active. Adding outdoor fitness equipment to Griffith Park would provide visitors with a free and accessible way to stay fit and healthy.
- 6. **Running Track:** There are currently no publicly accessible tracks in the area. While Griffith Park has many trails for runners to use, adding a track would give runners a safe place to train.

There are also many new and innovative ideas for neighborhood parks that are emerging around the world. Here are a few examples:

- 1. **Nature Play Spaces**: These are designed to encourage children to engage with nature and explore their surroundings. They often feature natural elements such as rocks, logs, and sand, as well as plants and water features.
- 2. **Urban Gardens:** Community gardens and urban farms are becoming increasingly popular in cities around the world. These can be located in small parks or other unused spaces, and provide a space for people to grow their own food, connect with nature, and build community.
- 3. **Outdoor Fitness Zones:** These areas are designed to encourage physical activity and provide a space for exercise and recreation. They often include features such as exercise equipment, running tracks, and sports fields.
- 4. **Public Art Installations:** Parks can serve as a canvas for public art installations, such as sculptures, murals, and interactive installations. These can add visual interest and create a sense of community pride in the park.

5. **Outdoor Learning Spaces:** These are designed to provide educational opportunities for visitors, such as interpretive signage, educational exhibits, and hands-on learning activities. They can also serve as a venue for community events and programming.

The Trust for Public Land's 2022 ParkScore Index, which ranks park systems in the 100 largest U.S. cities, ranked Los Angeles 78th overall and found that only about 63% of Los Angeles residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park, which is lower than the national average.

Los Feliz in particular does not have as many parks as other neighborhoods in the City. While Los Feliz residents relish the proximity to the wilderness of Griffith Park, they (and residents of the surrounding neighborhoods) desire accessible locations to recreate.

The city of Los Angeles also has a long-term goal of providing all residents with access to a park within a 10-minute walk of their home. This initiative is part of the City's larger effort to improve the quality of life for its residents and promote healthy, active lifestyles. To achieve this goal, the city of Los Angeles has been working to create and improve parks in neighborhoods that have historically lacked green spaces.

Parks provide a range of advantages for individuals and communities, including opportunities for outdoor recreation and exercise, improved mental and physical health, and social connection and community building. Parks also contribute to the quality of life in urban areas, providing a respite from the built environment and enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the City. Investing in park space is a long-term investment in the health and well-being of a community.

## SOUTH GRIFFITH PARK POTENTIAL USES

As we began this investigatory process into planning what might come next for the fallow land in SGP, what struck me most is the amount of space along each side of Riverside that is actually considered part of the park. Interestingly enough, there are several other bodies who claim strips of land in the general area—there's an LADWP site and an equestrian easement—other than RAP. I believe the breadth and depth of our recommendations can far exceed what had been—at least for me—initially envisioned.

I surveyed the local community to get a sense of how they'd like to see the space utilized and my work yielded the below results.

- 1. Adult Center: The current Griffith Park Adult Community Center sits on the east side of SGP and is currently housed in trailers—admittedly, not the most inviting milieu. There currently are a number of activities taking place including folk singing, mahjong, line dancing. watercoloring, hula, gardening, and exercise classes. Lunch is served Monday through Friday. There is also a hiking club that is run through the center. All of the amenities are free, but the center does take donations. The membership has shrunk significantly as a result of the pandemic, but is steadily coming back. A new facility would certainly be an enticement for increased participation.
- 2. **Community Center:** I think this is a preferable option to the Adult Center. A Community Center could service a wider array of Angelenos and still include many components of the Adult Center (meeting space, programming, etc.). The Community Center could feature both indoor and outdoor amenities such as an assembly room, cafeteria, and basketball court.
- 3. **Pickleball Court:** It looks like this is being fast tracked for the Griffith Park grounds, but if that plan is thwarted for some reason we could include on the site.
- 4. Community Garden: Griffith Park is a truly beautiful place. Riverside Drive as it runs parallel to the 5 freeway is not so much. A Community Garden would serve not only to beautify the area, but also provide another gathering space providing social interaction as well as intergenerational community building. We could have options available to volunteer as well as workshops that help community members learn to compost (an initiative the City has recently undertaken), identify native and non-native plants, and grow your own fruits and vegetables. The Community Garden could also be folded into the Community Center.
- 5. **Skate Park:** Supposedly there is a local push for a skate park to be erected within the Barnsdall Art Park grounds, but another interesting site for such a facility is in the SGP space. Skate parks are a great place for recreation and physical exercise, but more importantly they provide young people a sense of belonging.
- 6. **Pump Track:** Pump tracks provide another avenue of recreation for the community. Some of the benefits include they are relatively low cost, the facility can cater to spectrum of skill levels, they are great for birthday parties, they don't emit a lot of pollution, and they are relatively quiet.
- 7. **Permanent Supportive Housing:** While residential accommodations are nowhere to be found in the RAP's mission statement, Los Angeles as a city is facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis with its unhoused community. Including a housing project in our plan I believe is a necessity. The T. Bailey Manor affordable housing complex that opened in 2017 on Eagle Rock Blvd. is a great example of the kind of project that I think would slot in nicely. These are fully furnished apartment homes with community and computer rooms, supportive services staff and on-site professional property management.

## PUBLIC SAFETY AND FIRE CONCERNS

Griffith Park—A Place for "Safe Leisure" according to the charter of RAP

SGP (SGP) is suffering significant and ongoing damage to both safety and leisure since the installation of A Bridge Home (ABH). ABH was installed in June of 2020. Since then, the below has profoundly increased or occurred for the first time at this location:

- Fire
- Crime
- Drugs
- Gangs
- Encampments
- RV's
- Threats to children and adults
- Park property destruction

#### FIRE

There are three levels of fire hazards as ranked in California. All of Griffith Park including SGP is ranked highest as a very high fire hazard severity zone (VHFSZ) See appendix 3

Captain Albarran of Fire Station 56 and Chief Losorelli of SGP Rangers both recount the fires in SGP are greatly due to the installation of ABH. See appendix 4

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) records show ten recorded fires at ABH since its installation and none at that location for three years prior. Fires are also on record at the encampments induced by ABH that are set up along both sides and throughout SGP. Other, smaller fires as well are separately handled by SGP Rangers. Recorded fires do not include more fires also reportedly set and extinguished without calling authorities. See appendix 5

## **CRIME**

LAPD Crime Map shows little crime in SGP in 2019, particularly at the location where ABH will be located the following year. The next year, after the installation of ABH, a significant increase in crime is shown. See appendix 6

Records of SGP Park Rangers show a significant amount of crime at Friendship Auditorium, and also some crime at the Recreation Center, Adult Center, ABH and LA SHARES. See appendix 7

Apparently, ABH's in general do not screen for many types of (or any?) criminal records (nor sobriety). Ergo ABH here at SGP recently housed two violent sex offenders registered on the California Megan's Law Registry—one convicted of rape by force and rated 5 on the Static 99R Score, which put him at a higher-than-average risk for sexual re-offense; the other of rape by force or fear as well as two other sex crimes. In this context, note that ABH is installed across the street from the Recreation Center which include playgrounds, a nursery school, and a tennis center where very young children and women play. See appendix 8

After the installation of ABH there have been several occasions of electricity theft nearby, mostly done by owners of RV's who have parked along Riverside Dr. since ABH's arrival. See appendix 9

#### **DRUGS**

Since the installation of ABH there has been significant consumption of drugs in front of and nearby ABH. See appendix 10

#### **GANGS**

Several gangs have established their presence around ABH since its installation. See appendix 11

#### **ENCAMPMENTS**

A significant proliferation of encampments set up next to and around ABH after its installation, and which also spread across the street to other facilities of SGP, including the Recreation Center, its nursery school and tennis courts, and surrounding grounds of Friendship Auditorium. *See appendix 12* 

## RV's

RV's (and other larger vans and vehicles) set up along Riverside Drive in front of and around ABH after its installation. See appendix 13

## THREATS TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS / PARK PROPERTY DESTRUCTION

The transient population at the Recreation Center has peacefully coexisted for a very long time with the participants of the many leisure activities along its grounds, including the playgrounds, nursery school, and tennis center. The transient population has been a benevolent part of SGP's tapestry for several decades, perhaps 50 years or longer.

Around the same time as when ABH was installed across the street there was a very unfortunate, radical transformation of the homeless comunity into an aggressive, belligerent, threatening, sometimes naked, severely hyped on drugs and extremely mentally disturbed/psychotic population.

This has caused regularly occurring, quite disturbing confrontations between this new state of the transients and the very young children and adults at the recreation facilities. There is a real and present danger someone —as likely as not a very young child—will be harmed, or worse, by a significantly disturbed transient who may not even know what they are doing.

Furthermore, there is now an extreme, continuous, wanton, unrelentingly aggressive destruction, theft, and igniting on fire of park property throughout the Recreation Center at both the nursery school and tennis center. See appendix 14

Finally, all of the above in this report is apparently typical of ABH's in general, if we take ABH in Venice as an example. See appendix 15

## **POSTSCRIPT**

All of the above is not in any way, shape or form meant as an exhaustive account of every externality and damage to safety and leisure by ABH.

The above report should be taken by the community of Los Feliz as a beginning point, from which the good people must continue to make a full accounting of all externalities that have been linked to ABH and have been voiced by so many.

The limitations of this Ad Hoc Committee—due to both the allotted time and realistic scope in attaining verifiable data—made it prohibitive to broach, let alone verify, other reasonable and significant concerns from the lived experiences and traumas of many in Los Feliz over the past three years, prompting other concerns about ABH, such as its impact on the surrounding area beyond SGP. Examples:

- Waverly Drive—directly behind ABH
- Eastern hills above Los Feliz Blvd—directly north of ABH
- Los Feliz Blvd. along both sides of the boulevard— around the corner of ABH
- Hyperion, its bridge and surrounding areas—one block South of ABH
- Atwater residential streets— just across the LA River (different jurisdiction than Los Feliz notwithstanding)

It is reasonable to assume there is a likelihood, given unsavory events close to ABH listed in this report, that so too, behind, North, around the corner, one block South and just across the river, more mischief or worse has also taken place, especially given the various hues and cries expressed by residents in the above listed residential areas who have experienced various violations only after ABH was installed and they strongly believe it is due to ABH.

On the topic of the beliefs of residents, the subjects in this report which were in fact broached and verified herein were primarily first known due to awareness and notifications provided by the Los Feliz Community, and so it would be very well, indeed, that the other directions not yet explored in this report are given similar rigor of investigation and potential verification, then also made public.

And more fundamentally, Los Feliz residents need to be listened to far more than they have been by leadership.

There is a perception among adjacent and greater Los Feliz residents that the political leadership has erred in its judgment regarding the location and effectiveness of this site. And perhaps there needs to be a reassessment of the A Bridge Home concept, as it is believed has already occurred in Mayor Bass's office.

Many Los Feliz residents feel their needs and interests have been subordinated to those of the unhoused and there is unease and anger accordingly. As well, the City may have a huge responsibility and liability regarding this site, and a direct abdication of its most important obligation to those it represents—the right to peaceful and safe neighborhoods and elimination of known risks by their elected representatives.

A tragic example of such subordination is sadly exemplified by political leadership recently voted out of office in CD11. At the beginning of the first Venice ABH town hall, the new Councilmember who replaced him mentioned the many people who entirely moved away from living near the Venice ABH, some losing lifelong homes. The new Councilmember could only offer her apologies—to the people who were gone, embittered, no longer needing to be heard. It was too late for them.

Los Feliz political leadership must not commit the same egregious error with respect to our ABH.

#### **CONCLUSION**

ABH must be closed as soon as possible and its occupant re-located.

According to the minutes of the first virtual town hall of the Venice ABH, this "decompression" can take up to six months.

However, SGP (and Griffith Park in general) faces several special vulnerabilities which make it especially unsuitable for ABH, as demonstrated in this report, therefore the need to close ABH far more quickly is paramount.

In the meantime, the following also must immediately be put in place:

A no-tolerance policy against encampments in all of SGP, including after closure of ABH. This
will not only remove all temptations to ABH residents during the remainder of its operation,
which is a significant reason special enforcement zones are legislated around homeless shelters
(see below) but will better protect the operations and patrons of the Recreation Center
(playground, nursery school, tennis center), and the Adult Center, Friendship Hall, and any other
operations now and in the future in SGP.

Park Rangers should use the essential and highly effective assistance of the newly expanded and increasingly funded homeless outreach organization CIRCLE— which provides same-day two- to three-person specialized and professional response teams suited to elements in play during such interactions. Using CIRCLE will also significantly relieve Park Rangers and LAPD of the workload. (If necessary, Griffith Park and RAP management should work with the City of Los Angeles to immediately expand CIRCLE's nearby and continually expanding boundaries of operation to include SGP.)

When necessary, LAPD will provide their customary support to Park Rangers and CIRCLE in removing encampments on Park grounds.

- 2. The "enhanced enforcement" policy by Hollywood Division Parking Enforcement along Riverside Drive continues indefinitely, to ensure full compliance with the "Tow-Away No Parking 10 pm to 6 am" signage all along both sides of Riverside Drive including in front of ABH.
- 3. A 1,000 foot special enforcement zone (SPEZ) around ABH until ABH is quickly closed.

CD4 Councilmember Ryu promised our community's initial supporters of an ABH placed in SGP that there would be a SPEZ. This element, the promise of a SPEZ, gave comfort to the Los Feliz Community and was a feature which helped garner its support. While both he and now his successor have not applied that concept, the new Councilmember at C11 installed a 1,000 foot SPEZ at the Venice ABH

41.18 (c) (3) specifically provides a 1,000 foot (instead of a more typical 500 feet under 48.18) special enforcement zone for "a designated facility, opened after January 1, 2018, that provides shelter ... to homeless persons" under which all ABHs qualify.

Note ABH's are provided a larger than usual SPEZ area. This indicates our legislators recognize how great the need for special enforcement zones around ABHs.

4. A 500-foot special enforcement sone under SEZ Law (different from the above SPEZ Statute) is automatically available to all ABH's.

Our Councilmember simply needs to request the signage from the CAO, and they are immediately sent. It beggars belief this has never been done. It must be immediately requested under SEZ Law, until the 41.18 1,000-foot SPEZ is installed, all while waiting for ABH to be quickly closed.

Furthermore, under this same SEZ Law, there are two other automatic benefits available to all ABH's:

- a) Extra LAPD overtime (OT) funds for extra patrols of ABH
- b) Extra LASAN funds for extra clean-ups at ABH

These funds are "use it or lose it", given back to the community of the other ABH's around Los Angeles for them to instead spend, if not used by our ABH. In some "nearby" cases the funds can instead be diverted rather than lost. If they are being diverted this must be explained and such diversions stopped immediately and be spent on LAPD and LASAN for our ABH. It's hard to say which would be worse—having not used the funds or diverting them.

- 5. LAPD presence 24 hours, 7 days a week at ABH in order to immediately and severely mitigate all of its externalities until ABH is quickly closed.
- 6. Security people and measures installed at the Recreation Center across the street from ABH which amply protects the (often very young) children and adults at the playground, nursery school and tennis center until the highly aggressive and extremely unbalanced state of the transient population returns back to normal enough it becomes reasonable to reduce or eliminate this security regime.

# STUDYING THE IMPACT OF THE ABH RIVERSIDE HOUSING PROJECT IN SOUTH GRIFFITH PARK

#### **PURPOSE**

As part of the GPAB Ad hoc committee's assessment of and recommendations for development of South Griffith Park, I conducted a series of interviews between 3/27/23 and 4/11/23 to learn more about the community impact of the A Bridge Home (ABH) housing project at 3210 Riverside drive.

#### **INTERVIEWS**

## Interviewees

- Suzanne Goldish, SELAH Riverside Engagement Lead
- Jon Deutsch, President, LFNC; Community Relations Coordinator, LAHSA
- Sarah Tanberg, Senior Homelessness Deputy, CD4
- Hayes Davenport, CD4
- Neri Rivas, Associate Director, Metro LA Interim Housing, PATH

## **Interview questions**

- Can you tell me a bit about the history of the ABH project and how it came to be?
- What is your vision for the future of this project?
- What are the strengths of this model?
- What weaknesses/ challenges have you seen with this model? Lessons learned?
- How have residents of the ABH responded to the facility? Positives and criticisms?

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

## **Overview and Background**

Per Sarah Tanberg, Senior Homelessness Deputy, CD4:

Griffith Park has historically housed hundreds of people. There's precedent from after WWI, such as 750 huts for veterans and their families, to house people on park land.

Last year, there was an actual decline in unsheltered homelessness (city-wide)—approximately 1.5%. The sheltered population grew about 9%. This reversed years and years of increases.

Since 2018, we've gone from having zero resources to opening this ABH in July 2020. We've added Tiny Homes (which added hundreds of beds) and Project Room Key (hotel shelters). We still don't have enough. There are at least 28,000 still sleeping on the streets. In general, this ABH has been at capacity at any given time.

Bridge Home sites are meant to be temporary. The certificate of occupancy is up in July 2023 as part of a three-year agreement with the City. Under a state of emergency, Mayor Bass could want to keep this online till we get through the crisis.

No other bridge home locations in the City are timed out to serve another use.

Per Jon Deutsch, President, LFNC; Community Relations Coordinator, LAHSA

This goes back to 2017 when Mayor Garcetti launched ABH, A Bridge Home. These were not intended to be shelters with people coming in and out, but as bridge housing. One was meant to be in each of the 15 council districts.

CM Ryu had tried a similar project in Sherman Oaks and Van Nuys but it was met with opposition. CM Ryu's Chief of Staff asked us if we could do this in Los Feliz. I told him we needed to build support for this project and to give us the time to do that before bringing it to the Neighborhood Council.

All ABH sites were meant to be temporary (three years). The idea was to use the time to build up the Senior Center. I think most civically-engaged neighbors realized very early on in the pandemic that the three-year timeline was unrealistic. Particularly as it was very evident that a feasibility study for the new senior center would not be a priority.

In February 2019, we had a public meeting at the LFNC Governing Board about the project and voted unanimously in favor. All the public comments were pro. LFIA, FoGP, Griffith Park Adult Community Club (GPACC) also wrote letters in favor of the project. It was real broad-based support and engagement.

One of the promises made by CD4 was there would be a no-camping zone around the area. A lot of service providers will tell you they don't want people congregating in front of bridge homes. We thought it was a very modest and understandable ask.

In February 2020 we had the groundbreaking of the site. And then the pandemic hit. In July of 2020, before Ryu signed off on the no-camping zone, Hugo Soto-Martinez sponsored a motion at LFNC to oppose the zone. It was a close vote—11 in favor (of sending a letter opposing the zone), 7 against. [Minutes of 07.01.2020 LFNC meeting accessible as public record]. CM Ryu then did not pursue the no-camping zone.

The system is flawed because there is no next step. No permanent housing options. It's an incredibly complicated process. We are hundreds of thousands of units behind. We need four to five options per person for it to work smoothly. There is simply no place for people to go

We don't have permanent winter shelters. We have five people dying each day. There are 1.5 million people in the SPA 4 (Metro LA) and almost 18,000 unhoused people and sometimes we have just 20 beds available for winter shelters. It's a moral outrage to discuss removing any beds till we get to a better place

But an opportunity was missed. This was supposed to be a model for how wealthy neighborhoods can make interim housing work.

## **Positive Outcomes and Community Benefits**

Since its opening in July 2020, ABH Riverside has offered transitional housing to more than 90 adults with a 26% transition rate to permanent housing (numbers pending verification).

ABH Riverside has had one of the best track records for exits from homelessness out of the ABH
program sites across the City. It has gotten people off the street who would otherwise be living

in encampments in Los Feliz. Impressively, it has retained residents in the program, especially individuals with a history of leaving other shelters in the City multiple times.

- The program uses a harm-reduction model and trauma-informed care and respects the agency
  of its residents while providing a sense of family.
- It offers storage for residents and amenities for pets including a dog run.
- Most residents feel safe, having their basic needs met and are happy to be sheltered indoors.

## Per Neri Rivas, Associate Director, Metro LA Interim Housing, PATH:

Whoever comes to the door is like family. We have to deal with them from A to Z depending on their mental state, depending on whether they're using or not. We have people coming in from different spectrums of life. Our job is not to be judgmental but to help them as much as we can. From getting an ID to getting them housed.

If they need counseling or rehab, we try to figure it out but we can't push it to them. We don't operate that way. A lot of people get frustrated with the program because of our harm-reduction model and our housing-first model. Harm reduction is one of our main goals—we meet them where they are at. Whatever they are doing, we make it safer not just for them but also for their environment. Sometimes our site is the last resort for them.

Knowing that someone cares about them, usually makes a difference. Usually, it works. I ask them: help me to help you. Many of them come with different types of traumas. One of the traumas is they don't have rapport with anyone.

We call them guests and we try to build that rapport with them. Some of them have been on the street for years and decades. We go with them to their meetings and appointments—not just housing—other resources. We have a ride service. It's rewarding when a guest wants the help. We try and give them a chance, an opportunity.

## Per Suzanne Goldish, SELAH Riverside Engagement Lead:

Some people would say it's great, there's AC, they let me have my dog, there's a dog run in the back, I get free meals, my caseworker is always there. I can keep my stuff locked up.

We had a woman who we were seeing on our route who had struggled for years in a domestic violence situation. She would break down and say I want to get out of here. We'd get her into a shelter and she would return to the streets. About a year ago, she was at her wits end. We got her into ABH. We were all still worried but we saw her walking around a week later. She looked really well put together. We asked, "How is it in there?" She said, "It's really good. People don't realize it's not bad in there."

I personally think these places help as a steppingstone from not having been inside forever, to learning to live in a community, to eventually living by yourself.

## Per Sarah Tanberg, Senior Homelessness Deputy, CD4:

What has surprised me consistently is that after months of working to get someone a bed, they are staying. Ascencia says they are getting document-ready, job-ready.

It's incredible what this setting is able to do for stabilizing people. The impact of sleep, shower and food has health impacts on them—their health was devastated when they were on the street.

## **Program Challenges and Gaps**

- Longer stays than intended for some individuals in the program
- Discharge procedures without adequate follow up lead to individuals returning to living on the streets in the neighborhood
- No extra resources to monitor and provide engagement outside the walls of the ABH

## Per Sarah Tanberg, Senior Homelessness Deputy, CD4:

The weaknesses are more of a systemic issue: housing navigation personnel and dollars are not going to interim sites.

Even when the money and resources are there, it's very difficult to find a unit. We've dedicated staff time to help people get permanently housed, but there is a small housing stock. It takes a very long time. There are long-term stayers.

If the site were demobilized, we would need to get people into permanent housing. Each bed serves multiple people over the course of a year.

## Per Suzanne Goldish, SELAH Riverside Engagement Lead:

People were there much longer than they were supposed to be. Two young guys who were there wanted permanent housing, but it went on for at least five months. One guy was very disappointed who'd been there for two years.

One man got kicked out and stayed on the green space outside the ABH. He was on his own. He got really sick and no one was helping him. One woman was staying on the field because her boyfriend was in the ABH.

## Per Neri Rivas, Associate Director, Metro LA Interim Housing, PATH:

[At discharge, if] they sign paperwork, then we can help them and do a referral. We try and do our due diligence then and there. If they're upset, we can't sign papers. If there's a discharge on a night or weekend, or holiday weekend then we can't do a referral. If they're still in the area after we discharge them, we'll try and refer them out. We let the referring party know: "We saw them outside two hours ago. Could you come down and talk to them?" I don't like that [discharge] process. But sometimes it's necessary. If it's a violent act, they need to be out immediately. Our staff is our priority. Safety first.

Our job is the site. Whatever happens outside, we can't really monitor it, we don't have 24/7 monitors outside. We can call the Park Rangers. We can go out and ask them personally to not be there. But it's kind of hard for us to manage what's going on inside, which is a lot, and then to do everything outside—it's difficult. The inside is our priority.

## Per Sarah Tanberg, Senior Homelessness Deputy, CD4:

If someone does an exit, they call the referring party but sometimes they don't really know where the person exiting is. People are falling through the cracks. If they call a case manager in Reseda—that case manager won't necessarily come down to Los Feliz.

## **Negative Consequences**

While the ABH's location near the LA River has brough benefits such as helping to reduce encampments along the river, it has also brought liabilities.

- Resident reports of individuals from outside the neighborhood who engage in criminal activity out of their cars, including reports of theft and drug sales (See appendix 16).
- Residents of ABH have social connections to other unhoused neighbors living on the LA River and go back and forth. According to some interviewees, some residents engage in drug use outside the facility, specifically in spaces on or near the LA River and/or try and maintain a dual residence.
- The site has drawn individuals who seek housing in ABH who then encamp in the green spaces around the facility.

## Per Suzanne Goldish, SELAH Riverside Engagement Lead:

Some tents outside the housing were from people who were friends with people who were inside. Some people on the inside were keeping a tent outside to do stuff that they weren't allowed to do inside.

One person said there are "bad people" indoors who rob the houses nearby. Not sure if this is true. He was one of the people who complained the most.

## Per Neri Rivas, Associate Director, Metro LA Interim Housing, PATH:

We try to crack down on dual residences. If we know that they keep an RV and they're also at our site, then it's a possible discharge. They can't have both. We give them an ultimatum. Some stay and some go. Usually when they are keeping another residence, they're hardly at our site. If they are AWOL for more than 72 hours, then we have to discharge them.

#### **Suggestions for Improvement from Interviewees**

Per Neri Rivas, Associate Director, Metro LA Interim Housing, PATH:

I think having someone dedicated (or a team dedicated) whose sole purpose would be to look at what's going on outside. That would alleviate a lot of the stress and tension with the community. If we could have a liaison who knows how to talk to the population and empathize without being so aggressive. That comes a long way in building that trust and rapport. Then if they're discharged from our site, train [this team] to have the capacity to do referrals to other sites. CD4 is pretty big so there are a lot of shelters and hotels we can place them at.

There was a committee where they were planning to build a community center that could be run by the homeless. Where we select people who've gone through the program that are now housed, or who are exceptional guests, that are working or in school—and they would have this program run by them and for them.

Should we have an enforcement zone? I believe no, it's not a good idea. People come to us seeking information and that's how we get a lot of people. We welcome people to come in. We try to get you in or refer you somewhere else. Or we ask them to stay in the area because outreach is going to come in the next couple of hours. If it's a school or park, then yes, we should have a zone.

Per Sarah Tanberg, Senior Homelessness Deputy, CD4:

In the past few months, we've asked PATH to focus on "what is your exit policy." Are you referring people to other shelters before you discharge them? What we've solidified with them is a new exit policy where they have to refer people to one, two or three sites.

Camping in the park is not legal. Rangers need to hire up/staff up and lock fences. We have advocated for those funds but they are having a hard time recruiting and hiring for these positions. Rangers should be able to call the CIRCLE team.

It is not built into PATH's contract to do outreach to the surrounding area.

We are exploring what would it take to have exterior ambassadors for PATH who could walk around the perimeter. There is currently no funding for that. It would require programmatic policy changes.

The additional funding secured by Schiff and Raman is an encampment resolution grant for the LA River. It may not be possible to dedicate funds to this. But if the idea of trained ambassadors came as a proposal from the community, where there is a will there's a way.

A design firm was brought in to figure out what we can do to activate the space around the area. What I would love to come up with as a community is a positive vision that does integrate the bridge home site, that promotes resident ownership and stewardship.

Per Jon Deutsch, President, LFNC; Community Relations Coordinator, LAHSA

It's a fascinating question to consider whether interim housing can co-exist with other uses of the space including a Senior Community Center, etc. People who've been through life can help people going through life. But you could run into problem with people's rights. A lot of it has to do with the programmatic model.

If it were a permanent supportive housing (PSH) site, we could imagine more integration like this, with theater groups, community events etc.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

We recognize the years of hard work, resources, and multi-stakeholder negotiations that went into establishing an ABH site in Los Feliz. We recognize the importance of every single shelter bed in LA City as we address our homelessness crisis with urgency and commitment. We recognize that despite new programs coming online, we are tens of thousands of units away from having the housing our City needs.

However, a number of improvements are required to ensure the sustainability and positive impacts of transitional housing.

Prior to renewing the ABH lease, we recommend the following measures:

- 1. Reconsider advocating for a special enforcement/no-camping zone.
- 2. Install an ambassador program to monitor and engage with unhoused individuals in the perimeter area outside the ABH.
- 3. Improve discharge procedures to ensure closed-loop referrals and avoid having individuals return to the street.

- 4. Increase monitoring of dual residences and eliminate the need for those who maintain them for using drugs (see #5).
- 5. Provide behavioral and addiction support services at the site to help residents who still use but would like to stop.
- 6. In parallel, evaluate sunsetting this model of a congregate shelter and replacing with either motel-based non-congregate transition housing like Highland Gardens and/or Permanent Supportive Housing on South Griffith Park land, which has the support of this committee.
- 7. Accelerate encampment resolution along LA River.
- 8. Facilitate more engagement and collaboration with Park Rangers to utilize CIRCLE and provide funding and training for increased patrolling of this area of park land.
- Facilitate more engagement and collaboration with LAPD to provide security in this area given proximity of both LA River and ABH to nursery school and recreational areas servicing children and youth in our community.
- 10. Consider using a portion of the new site toward demonstrating a new model of community center engagement with formerly unhoused individuals to promote shared learning and fellowship, job training, education and more.

We believe Los Feliz can lead the way in collaborative, compassionate and effective responses to ending homelessness in LA. We believe the ABH Riverside housing project has taught us a lot about what works and what doesn't work. It is time to make critical improvements to retain the support of all stakeholders so this location can best serve its residents without negatively impacting the wider community, while we plan for more innovative and sustainable models of permanent supportive housing and non-congregate housing.

We have an opportunity to redefine the narrative around high-income neighborhoods welcoming projects for the unhoused. We can engage in collaborative redesign and improvements that work for all, with strategic, targeted use of funds and transparency in planning and implementation.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is a tremendous housing shortage in Los Angeles. And, we also have a green space deficiency. In fact, the city of Los Angeles ranks a sad 78th in the U.S. in park-to-population ratio according to the Trust for Public Land's 2022 ParkScore Index.

One of our strongest recommendations is that this particular area of Griffith Park be considered a neighborhood park. While the greater 4,200 acres, north of Los Feliz Boulevard, matches the concepts in the *Vision for Griffith Park* as a wilderness park, SGP distinctively presents itself as an accessible, walk-to neighborhood park.

It is uniquely segregated from the rest of Griffith Park, bifurcated by Los Feliz Boulevard and a dense residential neighborhood. There is also a burgeoning new multi-family neighborhood growing all around it, particularly along Riverside Drive, where two new four-story buildings are now tenant occupied and several more are in construction, all the way south on Riverside Drive to Fletcher Drive. There is also an established and adjacent dense apartment neighborhood for blocks along each side of Los Feliz Boulevard.

There has been much discussion about the successor use of the A Bridge Home site being a **permanent home for the Griffith Park Adult Community Center.** Promised by two prior Councilmembers and approved by the City Council (*See appendix 1*), the committee agrees this is the best and highest use of the space. The current Adult Center is heavily utilized but its structure is two side-by-side aging trailers plucked down in an asphalt parking lot. Created as a temporary space during Councilmember Tom La Bonge's administration, the center includes no green outdoor space, even though outdoor organized exercise and gardening are two of the most popular senior activities. The model in other Los Angeles parks for adult centers often combines with a community center. This is our recommendation. Such a venue could be used by various civic groups, for example, the Council Office, Los Feliz Neighborhood Council, Los Feliz Improvement Association, the Griffith Park Advisory Board and other entities, as approved and scheduled by RAP staff.

Due south of this adult/community center, we recommend a bio friendly permeable parking lot and south of that, a skate park. The passion for a skate park is quite strong, and there is potentially grant money available for building them, from the former *Tony Hawk Foundation*, now called *The Skate Park Project*. There is also mention of basketball courts, a running track, a community garden (which could be run by the adult center), a pump track and pickle ball courts. Pickle ball is the fastest growing sport in the U.S. However, SGP cannot accommodate all of these uses, but some combination of the adult/community center and the other choices, meet the zoning criteria and the RAP mission, and is our recommendation.

The ABH lease has an option for two one-year extensions. The original three-year lease expires in in July of this year. Whether the lease is extended or not, our recommendation for the long-term use of this space in the park includes sunsetting the ABH.

When the ABH is gone, an affordable housing component should be considered when planning for the Greater Griffith Park area. As mentioned earlier, there already are numerous residential projects in construction in this corridor, and affordable supportive projects would be compatible in this area, sitting

along the southernmost edge of Griffith Park. Currently, SGPis not zoned for permanent housing and it is not our committee's direct recommendation that it be placed here, but we do think it mandatory that an alternative site for a permanent supportive housing complex be identified in the greater LA River area, prior to the closing of ABH to ensure that beds and resources are available to fit the needs of the local community.

An example of a successful affordable supportive housing project is T. Bailey Manor that opened in 2017 on Eagle Rock Boulevard, not far from the river. These are fully furnished apartment homes with community and computer rooms, supportive services staff and on-site property management—a superior scenario to the ABH model.

However, should the City decide to exercise the lease options for the expiring original lease at the Riverside Drive ABH, we strongly recommend modifications:

- Ambassadors, particularly for the outside activity
- Implementation of a special enforcement zone
- Improved resident discharge and exit procedures
- Acceleration of LA River area housing
- Disallow dual housing for residents
- Megan's Law database screening of residents and prohibition of any offender residing at this location, as it is in an active area of the park.

This report and its conclusions are submitted with the express aim to serve our founding document, *A Vision for Griffith Park*, and comply with GPAB and RAP's stated missions. It is our goal to advocate for safe and accessible activities for all of the park's visitors and stakeholders, and we hope that these recommendations can be viewed and implemented to that end.

## Statement of Ron Bitzer

## What is the Future of Alexandria Park & Sister Parks?

## **February 6, 2024**

North Hollywood ...Prior to 1960 a large 171 acre City park in North Hollywood ---- acquired with taxpayer financing beginning in the 1920s --- was named Victory Vanowen Park. This park and its name no longer exist except in the history books. Destroyed in the 1960s by the State Highway Department (now Caltrans), a 171 acre park became small "remnant" parks on either side of a new freeway, including the 5 acre <u>Alexandria Park</u> at 6099 Laurel Canyon Blvd., North Hollywood.

Residents near Alexandria, Laurel Grove, Rhodes Avenue and Valley Plaza Parks have become more vigilant about what other non-park projects the City, State or public utility have for City-owned open space.

## City Action Built Temporary Shelters at Alexandria Park in 2020:

**August 26, 2000**, letter excerpts from Councilmember Paul Krekorian to Community Members concerning the installation of 100 Tiny Homes for shelters for homeless people at Alexandria Park in North Hollywood:

"These <u>temporary measures</u> are important interim steps to provide shelter and get homeless individuals off the streets while the city is in the process of building 10,000 Permanent Supportive Housing units - funded by Measure HHH - that will come online in the next 3 years.

■ "The surrounding neighborhoods will be provided enhanced sanitation services, with regularly scheduled comprehensive cleanings of public areas, and enhanced police patrol."

**City Bureau of Engineering Project at <u>Alexandria Park</u> begins mid-2027 through 2029: "The Project consists of installing a 1-acre underground infiltration gallery to capture and infiltrate stormwater at <u>Alexandria Park</u>. Construction of the underground infiltration gallery will include installation of a diversion structures storm pipe, pump station, flow measuring device, and education signage. Runoff will be collected from** 

approximately a 175-acre tributary area and diverted into the infiltration gallery. The galleries shall be sized to store approximately 400,000 cf," BOE SCP 0007.

<u>The project will include restoration of existing park components as well as new improvements.</u> Budget for project SCP 0007 is \$18,395,122.

# City Government's Strategy for Semi-Permanent Residential Use of Public Parks for A Bridge Home and Tiny Homes including <u>Alexandria Park</u>

Recreation and Park Commissioners are approving continued use of City park land for homeless shelters and cite different justifications. Which justification for the extension at Alexandria Park in 2024 is unknown.

- 1. A one-year extension for A Bridge Home in Griffith Park (CD 4) was approved June 1, 2023, as follows: "....County Assessor's Parcel [ No. 5434-016-900 and 5434-016-901) (Project Site) as a temporary homeless shelter and personal storage site, is <u>consistent with the use of a portion</u> of Griffith Park for park purposes ..." RAP 23-110.
- 2. A one-year extension for A Bridge Home in Lafyette Park (CD 10) was approved February 1, 2024, (RAP 24-037) because a temporary extension <u>avoids the pitfall of permanent residential housing</u> on public park property, which is illegal (commentary of Ms. C. Santo Domingo).
- 3. In North Hollywood (CD 2) an October 25, 2023, CAO letter to Recreation and Parks referred to the December 2022 City emergency order on the need for homeless shelters. "The Mayor declared a local emergency on December 12, 2022 (C.F. 22-1545), which aims to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness citywide (approximately 41,980). In an effort to support the local emergency, the Homelessness Group within the Office of the City Administrative Officer requests to extend this site for one year and respectfully requests RAP to take any necessary actions or receive necessary approvals for this extension. The site information is as follows:

11471 Chandler Blvd.

Service Provider: Hope the Mission Bed Count: 75

Structure type: Pallet (Tiny Home Village) Expiration date: January 21, 2024 Extension request: 1 year 4. Thus <u>far no referral to the full City Council</u> of a permit extension for a purpose other than recreation or park use has occurred in public discussions. The City Charter provides as follows:

SECTION 594 Control and Management of Recreation and Park Lands

SECTION 594 (d)

- (d) **Transfer to Purposes other than Recreation and Park Purposes.** No sites under the management and control of the department shall be devoted or transferred to any other purpose in whole or in part, except in compliance with all of the following:
- (1) *Procedure*. Any transfer shall require a resolution of the board, approved by the Council by ordinance, incorporating the prescribed terms and conditions to be observed by the permittee. However, <u>Council approval shall not be required for the granting of leases of property not immediately needed for the purposes of the department for a term **not to exceed three years**.</u>

## **Observations**

 Residential neighborhoods hosting park-based shelters for the homeless report persistent problems inside and outside the shelters.

**Example:** Five pallet homes at Alexandria Park were set on fire and replaced at a cost of \$223,929.00, May 31, 2023 Report, Amy Lin, BOE, (213) -485-1646. **Example:** People experiencing no home continue to set up camps outside Tiny Homes at Alexandria Park; program services for this Tiny Homes Village report only 55.9% of available beds were occupied, September 20, 2023 report.

**Example:** Personal property reported crimes are now the number #1 crime compared to 30 months prior to the opening of Tiny Homes in Alexandria Park ---- for residents & businesses between Radford & Laurel Canyon Blvd. (For example, reported theft of a bicycle from outside a business).

- The current City-County goal for additional interim housing beds in CD#2 is 225 beds as reported by the Chief Administrative Officer on December 1, 2023, RAP 23-1022.
- The semi-permanent nature of operating a shelter on Alexandria Park property (i.e. annual extensions of a permit) calls for annual inspections of both the shelter site itself and neighboring conditions by the City Department of Building and Safety. Monitoring of sanitation and personal theft crimes is also appropriate.



# Re: Pony rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Lacey Lee Edwards <

Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 11:42 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Wed, Jun 19, 2024 at 2:48 PM Lacey Lee Edwards <

> wrote:

Hi.

Please use animal-free entertainment at Griffith Park. Pony rides are not a good time for ponies and they deserve better than to be bred and confined for children's entertainment.

We must stop teaching children that animals are here to entertain us, serve us, and carry us around because it results in their objectification, commodification, mistreatment, and exploitation.

We need children to learn to respect animals as fellow living beings and using them for entertainment will only hinder that understanding. Please make a kind, animal-friendly decision to choose an animal-free alternative to pony rides. Thank you.

All the best, Lacey Edwards



# Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Nicole Revere

Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 11:42 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Wed, Jun 19, 2024 at 5:05 PM Nicole Revere <

> wrote:

Hello.

I urge the commissioners to not have pony rides in Griffith Park. It is an inhumane way to treat the ponies.

Thank you!

Nicole Revere



## Re: Animals at the park

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Mars Green < >

Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 11:44 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 1:49 AM Mars Green <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I am contacting you and asking "please", only accept a non-animal model at the park! All of the animals there suffered terribly, as they were not treated or cared for properly. Animals do not belong as props for entertainment.

It's animal cruelty! They do NOT enjoy it.

Respectfully, M Green



# Re: NON-ANIMAL MODEL to replace pony rides Griffith Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Evelyn Gray < >

Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 11:44 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 7:01 AM Evelyn Gray < Hello Commissions,

I have spoken to you previously and I cannot make the meeting today. I wish to express my deepest concern about returning live animals to the pony rides.

> wrote:

As today is the first day of summer, we know we will have many hot days. How can you in good conscience permit innocent beings to run in the heat? There is also the issue of public safety and how the animals are treated by children on their backs.

I also spoke to you how terrified I was to be placed on the back of a large animal when I had no agency as a child.

I am requesting you consider one of the many non-animal options to replace the live pony rides at Griffith Park.

Thank you.

Evelyn Gray Lake Balboa



# Re: Recreation & Park Board Meeting

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Susan Campbell

Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 11:44 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 8:35 AM Susan Campbell < > wrote:

I urge you to maintain a NON-animal model at Griffith Park and Pony Rides.

In 2024 there is no reason for animals to be exploited in any way for entertainment.

Regards,

Susan Campbell



Sara Dusenberry

# Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

# Re: Attn: Recreation and Parks Board Meeting

1 message

•		
Rap Commissioners <rap.c <<="" feiss="" sara="" th="" to:=""><th>commissioners@lacity.org&gt; &gt;</th><th>Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 11:54 A</th></rap.c>	commissioners@lacity.org> >	Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 11:54 A
Good morning,		
Thank you for contactin forwarded to the Comm	Č	nd Park Commissioners Office, your email will be
On Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 11 Hello,	I:48 AM Sara Feiss <	> wrote:
		lel proposal for Griffith Park in the area where pony rides were ring away from using any animals as entertainment in or around
Thank you,		



## Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Cathy McCann

Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 3:42 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 2:54 PM Cathy McCann <

> wrote:

Good afternoon. I'd like to voice my opinion ahead of the RAP board meeting regarding potential animal entertainment at Griffith Park.

Pony rides are cruel to the animals. They are tethered, subjected to loud noises, pollution next to the freeway, subject to extreme heat in the summer, and don't have the ability to rest when needed.

Please explore non-animal entertainment options.

Cathy McCann

Sent from my iPhone



# Re: Griffith Park & Pony Rides

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Rachel Drabecki

Tue, Jun 25, 2024 at 7:31 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Sat, Jun 22, 2024 at 1:44 PM Rachel Drabecki < Hello LA Recreation & Park Commissioners,

> wrote:

As a born and raised Los Angeles native and long-term resident, I am sending this correspondence in an effort to urge a decision to replace the Griffith Park pony rides with a non-animal, family-friendly option. Please consider the incredible mistreatment endured by the ponies at the previous pony rides attraction. Among the ideas I have heard and would strongly support are a mini golf course, go karts, a splash pad area during the summer, and a frisbee gold course.

Sincerely, Rachel Drabecki Resident of Sherman Oaks

Rachel Drabecki,



## Re: Reimagining the Griffith Park Pony Ride -without animal cruelty!

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Los Angeles Alliance for Animals

Fri, Jul 12, 2024 at 11:03 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Jul 12, 2024 at 7:22 AM Los Angeles Alliance for Animals < July 12, 2024

> wrote:

Jimmy Kim, General Manager Commissioners City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

Nithya Raman Council Member Los Angeles City Council

Via e-mail: jimmy.kim@lacity.org; rap.commissioners@lacity.org; mehmet.berker@lacity.org; jenn ifer.hull@lacity.org; Chinyere.Stoneham@lacity.org; brenda.aguirre@lacity.org; cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org; noel.williams@lacity.org; matthew.rudnick@lacity.org;

Dear Mr. Kim, Commissioners, and Ms. Raman:

On behalf of thousands of concerned Los Angeles residents, we urge the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks to recommend that the city exclusively consider animal-free options to replace the former pony rides and petting zoo at Griffith Park. L.A. took an important stand by shutting down the last exhibitor there, but now the city needs to commit to offering only animal-free entertainment.

Subjecting sensitive animals to interactions with noisy crowds and forcing them to haul riders in circles perpetuates the same issues identified with the previous operator. These issues not only pose potential legal liabilities for the city but also raise significant concerns regarding child safety, animal welfare, and neglect. No level of improvement or modification will eliminate these risks. Municipalities across the country are moving away from animal entertainment models because it's nearly impossible to ensure full compliance with local and state regulations, as we saw with Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo. Even with oversight elderly ponies suffered from urgent, neglected dental issues, hoof problems, saddle sores, and lameness, yet they were still forced to work, even when the temperature soared to 100 degrees.

L.A. Animal Services is in a state of crisis and doesn't have the time or resources to monitor the treatment of vulnerable animals at a municipal park. These problems underscore a pressing need for intervention and change. Committing to a business model that doesn't rely on animals is the only way to ensure that no more animals will be neglected or exploited in the park. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Los Angeles Alliance for Animals Coalition Partners:

**PETA** 

Social Compassion in Legislation

Animal Defenders International

In Defense of Animals

Animal Alliance Network

**CAFT** 

Elephants Guardians of Los Angeles

Slaughter Free Los Angeles

Saffyre Sanctuary

LA Farm Animal Save

Our Planet Theirs Too

People for Reason in Science and Medicine

Progress for Science

**Animal Wellness Action** 

Center for a Humane Economy

Animal Legal Defense Fund

Feel The Burn Los Angeles County

Zohra Fahim

President and Founder of Los Angeles Alliance for Animals



## Re: Power Washing of Filthy Areas

1 message

Laila Molina <laila.molina@lacity.org>

Tue, Jul 9, 2024 at 3:10 PM

To: George The Great

Cc: edwin.canales@lacity.org, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org

Thank you for reaching out. We are in receipt of your email.

On Tue, Jul 9, 2024 at 3:03 PM George The Great <

> wrote:

- This is another follow-up of a previous follow-ups.
- 1. Power Washing and general cleaning of the area mentioned in the video.
- 2. Most of the signs in city park limits have graffiti on them.
- 3. We have been observing and recording the work painters have been doing. They are touching up and not necessarily painting benches, walls and other areas completely. We advice that a supervisor checks restrooms and washing areas, benches around kids play area. Dirt/grime in corners and gaps on benches were left as it was. Should have powered wash benches to remove any dirt, leaves, and or gime.
- 4. All the resources going into preparing the park for the Lotus Festival. Why not do it right away? This is the only time the park gets this much attention.
- 5. Restrooms stink even in early hours. They are filthy.

<u>—</u>	powerwashingwherebirdpoop.mp4
As a	lways,
Taxı	payers

On Mon, Jul 8, 2024, 4:16 PM George The Great

> wrote:

We are following up on this issue.

Reported a few times to park's commissioner.

We hope that something is done this time since today a lot of parks and recreation activities are going on, due to Lotus Festival.



On Mon, Jul 8, 2024, 3:39 PM George The Great < Follow-up regarding this issue reported before

> wrote:

> wrote:



Park Goers

The Community United

birdsindange.mp4

On Mon, Jul 8, 2024, 8:33 AM George The Great < We are following up regarding the email below

----- Forwarded message ------From: **George The Great** <

Date: Wed, Jun 26, 2024, 2:34 PM Subject: Fwd: Solar Lights

To: laila.molina@lacity.org <laila.molina@lacity.org>

-----

Ms. Molina.

Please pass this email to your immediate supervisors.

Dear City Officials.

We are contacting you with a very important request.

We mentioned it last year to supervisors and other city employees who were doing electrical work at Echo Park during the Lotus Festival.

In the last two years, we have noticed about a dozen employees including Electric Engineers working countless hours using our resources to provide electricity to all the canopies representing the different public works in the city.

We feel that it is a waste of resources paying thousands of dollars in labor when we should be using solar energy by now and put the resources where most needed. Hint, new restrooms in Echo Park.

We addressed a solution to supervisors last year. We suggested substituting the above mentioned with solar lights (see below).

Each department/canopy should be responsible for using their budget money to buy a couple of \$40 or less LED solar lights. Imagine how much money will the city save the tax payers. We think it's time to go solar. Let's start saving money and put it where it's most useful.

We hope to see solar lighting this Summer for the so much expected Lotus Festival.

We will meet you at Echo Park in July.

We will follow up before the event.

Tax payers Community members Park goers



let's gogreenledlights.jpg

----- Forwarded message ------From: **George The Great** <

Date: Tue, Jun 25, 2024, 7:23 PM

Subject: Solar Lights

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Dear City Officials.

We are contacting you with a very important request.

We mentioned it last year to supervisors and other city employees who were doing electrical work at Echo Park during the Lotus Festival.

In the last two years, we have noticed about a dozen employees including Electric Engineers working countless hours using our resources to provide electricity to all the canopies representing the different public works in the city.

We feel that it is a waste of resources paying thousands of dollars in labor when we should be using solar energy by now and put the resources where most needed. Hint, new restrooms in Echo Park.

We addressed a solution to supervisors last year. We suggested substituting the above mentioned with solar lights (see below).

Each department/canopy should be responsible for using their budget money to buy a couple of \$40 or less LED solar lights. Imagine how much money will the city save the tax payers. We think it's time to go solar. Let's start saving money and put it where it's most useful.

We hope to see solar lighting this Summer for the so much expected Lotus Festival.

We will meet you at Echo Park in July.

We will follow up before the event.

Tax payers
Community members
Park goers



## Re: Follow-up

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: George The Great

Tue, Jun 25, 2024 at 7:27 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Mon, Jun 24, 2024 at 11:55 AM George The Great < Good morning city Officials.

> wrote:

Here we are again doing another follow regarding bird poop in park areas where people exercise.

Also, we would like to report that as you all are probably aware, there are too many new geese in the park. Many roam the north west area of the park. In some cases, they go across Glenda Blvd to feed on greener grass. We were informed that unfortunately, some have been ran over. This may not be your department but you may report it to the correct department for the sake of the birds.

We hope you got our previous emails with other follow-ups.

We will appreciate all your cooperation in this very important matter.

The community
Tax payers
Park gooers
The Geese population



## Follow-up

1 message

## **George The Great**

Fri, Jun 21, 2024 at 3:11 PM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Good day city Officials

This is a follow-up after the other follow-ups regarding

- 1. Park area which is always filled with bird poop. See video attached.
- 2. Wash area in restroom area. Bad painting. See video attached. Please send someone with better skills to do a better job. We first suggested for the area to be sanded/paint stripped completely and add Cristal Clear Epoxy Resin. No more painting.
- 3. Water doesn't stop running.
- 4. We sent you in previous emails all the graffiti around park sagn.



The community, park goers and tax payers will appreciate your attention to this matter.



# Re: Another follow-up regarding graffiti in the Echo Park area, filthy restrooms, filthy benches in the kids play area.

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: George The Great

Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 11:43 AM

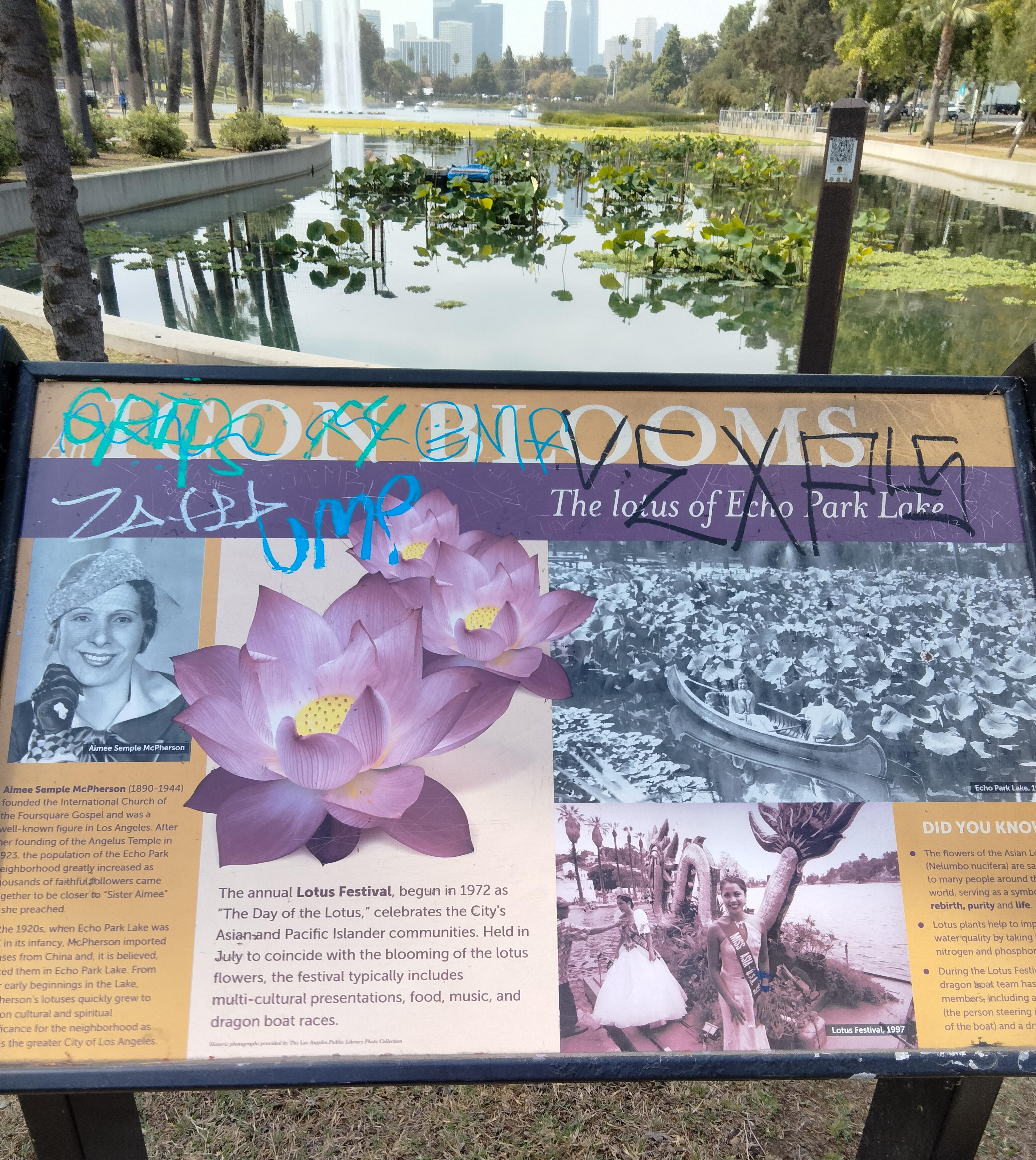
Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Wed, Jun 19, 2024 at 6:23 PM George The Great
Please let's not wait until the Lotus Festival to beautify our park.

> wrote:

































































## Re: Solar Lights

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: George The Great

Wed, Jun 26, 2024 at 7:57 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Tue, Jun 25, 2024 at 7:24 PM George The Great Dear City Officials.

wrote:

We are contacting you with a very important request.

We mentioned it last year to supervisors and other city employees who were doing electrical work at Echo Park during the Lotus Festival.

In the last two years, we have noticed about a dozen employees including Electric Engineers working countless hours using our resources to provide electricity to all the canopies representing the different public works in the city. We feel that it is a waste of resources paying thousands of dollars in labor when we should be using solar energy by now and put the resources where most needed. Hint, new restrooms in Echo Park.

We addressed a solution to supervisors last year. We suggested substituting the above mentioned with solar lights (see below).

Each department/canopy should be responsible for using their budget money to buy a couple of \$40 or less LED solar lights. Imagine how much money will the city save the tax payers. We think it's time to go solar. Let's start saving money and put it where it's most useful.

We hope to see solar lighting this Summer for the so much expected Lotus Festival.

We will meet you at Echo Park in July.

We will follow up before the event.

Tax payers
Community members
Park goers







Visit the Store

4.3 \*\*\*\* 304

SOLPEX Solar Flood Lights Outdoor IP65
Waterproof Motion Sensor Lights for Outside 3
Modes with Remote Control Security Floodlights
for Porch, Garage, Yard, Outdoor Lighting(2Packs)





prime

Unlock fast, free delivery on millions of Prime eligible

items. Join Prime

**Delivery** 

Pickup

\$36<sup>99</sup> (\$18.50 / Count)



# Re: CD1 Letter of Support - Alvarado Terrace Park - Donation of Dog Waste Station

1 message

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 7:34 PM Secretary Council < > wrote: Good evening, Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners:

Hoping all is well. It has been over 8 months since the Pico Union Neighborhood Council (PUNC) submitted a letter of support, documentation and photos with a request for the approval of a Dog Waste Station at Alvarado Terrace Park as a Community Improvement Project. This is our first park proposal so we would be very grateful if you could give us an approximate timeframe to get this type of project agendized rather than sending the Board emails every 3 months.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Aurora Corona

Secretary
Chair, Quality of Life & Safety Committee
Budget Representative

From: Secretary Council <

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:40 AM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cc: Jose Rodriguez <jose.a.rodriguez@lacity.org>; Louie Leiva <louie.leiva@lacity.org>;

>; Jovita Carrillo < >; TJ Spaur <

>

Subject: Re: CD1 Letter of Support - Alvarado Terrace Park - Donation of Dog Waste Station

Good morning,

I hope this email finds you well. We have yet to hear from the Board. Please forward our request again for the donation of a Dog Waste Station at Alvarado Terrace Park to the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office for consideration on their upcoming agenda.

Thank you kindly,

# Aurora Corona

Secretary Chair, Quality of Life & Safety Committee Budget Representative



### From Pinky's Phone

On Dec 13, 2023, at 2:50 PM, Rap Commissioners < rap.commissioners@lacity.org > wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you again for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at 2:29 PM Secretary <

> wrote:

Happy Friday,

Just circling back to see if there has been an update from the Board of Commissions regarding our proposal to donate a Dog Waste Station at Alvarado Terrace Park.

Thank you, and have a great weekend.

# Aurora Corona

Secretary & Chair, Quality of Life and Safety Committee

From: Rap Commissioners

Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:01 PM

To: Aurora Corona

Cc: <a href="mailto:councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org">councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org</a>; <a href="mailto:ivette.serna@lacity.org">ivette.serna@lacity.org</a>;

jose.a.rodriguez@lacity.org; Louie Leiva; Wendy Castro;

Jovita Carrillo; T. J. Spaur; Darryl Ford;

<u>Tremell Parker</u>; <u>kevin Reagan</u>; <u>Bert Huerta</u>; <u>Raul Leon</u>; <u>Juan</u>

Guzman; Marilu Guevara; alfonso.manzo@lacity.org;

#### javier.solis@lacity.org

**Subject:** Re: CD1 Letter of Support - Alvarado Terrace Park - Donation of Dog Waste Station

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Nov 14, 2023 at 1:01 PM Aurora Corona < > wrote:

Honorable Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners,

Attached please find the Letter of Support for the Dog Waste Station at Alvarado Terrace Park from our Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this project.

Best,

# Aurora Corona

Secretary Chair, Quality of Life & Safety Committee Budget Representative

From: Rap Commissioners

Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 9:39 AM

To: Aurora Corona

Cc: councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org;

<u>ivette.serna@lacity.org</u>; <u>jose.a.rodriguez@lacity.org</u>; <u>Louie</u> Leiva; Wendy Castro; j ; Jovita Carrillo;

T. J. Spaur; Darryl Ford; Tremell Parker; kevin Reagan; Bert Huerta; Raul Leon; Juan Guzman; Marilu Guevara;

<u>alfonso.manzo@lacity.org; javier.solis@lacity.org</u> **Subject:** Re: Alvarado Terrace Park - Donation of Dog Waste

Good morning,

Station

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Mon, Oct 2, 2023 at 5:37 PM Aurora Corona < > wrote:

Honorable Recreation and Park Commissioners,

Hope this email finds you well. Attached please find a letter from our President requesting authorization to donate and

install a Dog Waste Station at Alvarado Terrace Park. Please let us know if you require more information or clarification about this community improvement project.

Thank you kindly,

# Aurora Corona

Secretary Chair, Quality of Life & Safety Committee Budget Representative

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza

221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640 Fax: (213) 202-2610 Mail Stop: 625/15

Website: <u>www.laparks.org</u>

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640 Fax: (213) 202-2610 Mail Stop: 625/15

Website: <u>www.laparks.org</u>

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



### Re: reservation error Acct.#103187

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Jun 21, 2024 at 8:08 AM

To: Marina Case <

Cc: RAP Golf <rap.golf@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Jun 21, 2024 at 6:55 AM Marina Case <

> wrote:

Hi,

I did not get a response from my email below sent on May 31, 2024. Just to reiterate, I made a silly mistake and accidentally booked wrong date. You can see my reservation booking records, I never book on for Saturday play. The whole booking system has been very stressful over the years, first going through 3 years of being shut out of optimum times at preferred City courses because of the broker scandal and now the non refundable policy.

I am actually very pleased about the non-refundable policy. It gives us all a chance to play Rancho and the Griffith Park courses.! The first time that has been possible in years!

But I made a mistake and I hope you can credit my card back the \$40 charge. You can see I cancelled almost immediately and booked for the Sunday of that weekend. I am clearly not a broker and this was just human error.

I hope you can consider my request, Marina Case

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Marina Case <

Date: Fri, May 31, 2024 at 7:43 AM Subject: reservation error Acct.#103187

To: <rap.golf@lacity.org>

Hello,

I really don't know how this happened but I always try to book a tee time Friday AM at 6:00 AM sharp for the following Sunday. To my horror, I accidentally booked Saturday at Woodley. (I thought I was booking Sunday).

When I realized my error, I cancelled immediately and was able to book a time on Sunday.

I am obviously not a broker and this was just a human error (yes I feel like a bozo!). For that reason, I am requesting a refund of the \$40 charged to my credit card.

I applaud the Department for coming up with a system that allows all of us to finally get tee times and I totally understand the no cancellation policy is necessary but I also hope that there is a way to make an exception for what was clearly just a human error. If you check my playing records, I never play on Saturday and it was a silly mistake!

Thank you kindly for considering my request for a refund. Regards, Marina Case



# Re: Problems in parks

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Jacy Boo < >

Tue, Jun 25, 2024 at 7:36 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Sat, Jun 22, 2024 at 2:46 PM Jacy Boo <

> wrote:

Fireworks are killing most of ducklings, loose big house dogs chase after ducks, coyote and abandoned house cats have been eating parks native animal, squirrels, past 10 years, water pollution kills ducklings more than 20 ducks without paws because of fishing lines most of the restrooms are locked all the time etc. I need to show you my photos.

I am 63 year old Korean woman, please call me to see me immediately. Police should post no fireworks at the parks



# Re: "Oro Vista park" safety issues in Sunland

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: alenoosh barfian

Wed, Jul 3, 2024 at 7:52 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Tue, Jul 2, 2024 at 1:57 PM alenoosh barfian < To Whom it may concern:

> wrote:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I live in Sunland exactly in front of the "Oro Vista Park". We have problems with the **safety issues** of the park almost everyday during the day and even midnight.

Young generation come to the park and use drugs and do drifting since there are no speed bumps in the park ( there is barely one bump which is not enough). they drift and do not care about the kids and people in side the park and make so muchhhh dust in the air which causes problem for the neighbors and people. once I was coughing for a long time because of the dust. **Pleaseeeeeeeee** do us a favor and add lots of speed bumps inside the park and close the gates at nights to prevent them coming inside and use drugs at midnights. this park has safety issues for the neighborhood.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this regard and waiting for your solutions. Yours very Truly,

Alenoush (one of the Oro Vista Park neighbor)

**Oro Vista Park** 



# Re: Paining pickleball lines on basketball court

1 message

Rap Commissioners < rap.commiss To: Alisa Klein <	ioners@lacity.org> >		Fri, Jul 5, 2024 at 10:51 AM
Good morning,			
Thank you for contacting the E forwarded to the Commissione		Park Commissioners Of	fice, your email will be
On Fri, Jul 5, 2024 at 10:44 AM Ali Hello,	sa Klein <	> wrote:	
I was advised to contact this offi court. The court is located at No			n an underutilized basketball ed during weekdays or weekends

and there are people in the neighborhood who would be interested in using it as a shared space.

Thank you,

Alisa



## Re: Legality Problems

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <a href="mailto:rap.commissioners@lacity.org">rap.commissioners@lacity.org</a>
To: Jymie Darling <

Tue, Jul 9, 2024 at 7:19 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Sat, Jul 6, 2024 at 11:08 AM Jymie Darling <

> wrote:

This year, Leigh Ann Claywell and Karla Sommers while representing the City of Los Angeles, committed the following litigious actions:

- 1. Threw me out of the LAEC in vague, unsubstantiated allegations while quoting zero tolerance policy. In the meantime, Jim Suard was caught viciously attacking another persons horse by management and zero tolerance was not applied. Why? Because LAEC targeted and with extreme prejudice decided to only apply to me, a disabled, LGBT veteran. Giving me 5 days when they were aware I had a broken leg.
- 2. They sent a letter to my employer. Resulting in the loss of my job.
- 3. My housing was connected to my job. They made my rent skyrocket and thus almost homeless.
- 4. They illegally banned me from a city park without due process.
- 5. They have slandered me within the equestrian world, which resulted in my losing a horse sale today.

All in all, the LAEC has cost me over a million dollars in damages and emotional distress. This distress has resulted in a heart procedure 2 weeks ago.

Kaelya Sommers and Leigh Ann Claywell should be immediately suspended from representing the city as a sign of good faith prior to my lawsuit against the city of Los Angeles.

Jymie Darling Sent from my iPhone



## Your Community Impact Statement Submittal

1 message

**LA City SNow** <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>
Reply-To: LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>
To: RAP.Commissioners@lacity.org

Tue, Jul 9, 2024 at 10:02 AM

A Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) has been successfully submitted to your Commission or City Council. We provided information below about CISs and attached a copy of the CIS.

We encourage you to reach out to the Community Impact Statement Filer to acknowledge receipt and if this Community Impact Statement will be scheduled at a future meeting. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers and it would be helpful if they received confirmation that you received their CIS.

The CIS process was enable by the to Los Angeles Administrative Code §Section 22.819. It provides that, "a Neighborhood Council may take a formal position on a matter by way of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or written resolution." NCs representatives also testify before City Boards and Commissions on the item related to their CIS. If the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so, the Neighborhood Council representative must provide the Commission with a copy of the CIS or rResolution sufficiently in advance for review, possible inclusion on the agenda, and posting on the Commission's website. Any information you can provide related to your agenda setting schedule is helpful to share with the NC.

If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *listed on the Commission's agenda*, during the time the matter is heard, the designated Neighborhood Council representative should be given an opportunity to present the Neighborhood Council's formal position. We encourage becoming familiar with the City Councils rules on the subject. At the Chair's discretion, the Neighborhood Council representative may be asked to have a seat at the table (or equivalent for a virtual meeting) typically reserved for City staff and may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more time than allotted to members of the general public. They are also permitted up to five (5) minutes of time to address the legislative body. If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *not listed on the agenda*, the designated Neighborhood Council representative may speak during General Public Comments.

We share this information to assist you with the docketing neighborhood council items before your board/commission. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at <a href="mailto:empowerla@lacity.org">empowerla@lacity.org</a>.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\* This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Sherman Oaks

Name: Lindsay Imber

Email:

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(10) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(1) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 07/08/2024

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information Date: 07/09/2024

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

Council File Number: City Planning Number:

Agenda Date: Item Number:

Summary: The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council supports the Sherman Oaks/Encino Chamber of Commerce request to extend its lease for the offices located at in Encino.

Ref:MSG10681663



## **Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council**

July 9, 2024

City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Commission

### SONC Supports Sherman Oaks/Encino Chamber of Commerce Lease Renewal

To City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Commission,

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) at its July 8, 2024 meeting voted unanimously (10-0-1) to adopt a motion to support the Sherman Oaks/Encino Chamber's request to renew its lease for offices located at in Encino.

The present lease is set to expire in 2025. The lease was originally set at \$1 a year in compensation for the donation of the building and property to the city by the Encino Chamber sixty years ago.

The Sherman Oaks Chamber's past offices on Ventura Boulevard were too small for meeting space while the Encino Chamber space has proven ideal for supporting both Chambers' services and programs. In order to plan adequately as well as cover the costs of relocation, the Sherman Oaks Chamber would like to be able to obtain an eight-year lease extension under its current lease rate for the newly merged entity.

Both Chambers provide space to other neighborhood groups for community events like group meetings, senior programs, health and wellness training, disaster preparedness, the annual homeless census and other programs.

We believe the merger and continued use of the Encino offices for the new Sherman Oaks/Encino Chamber is a good plan as it will provide much needed economic assistance and enable both organizations to better serve our communities. We would like to see the new organization be able to continue its programs at the 4933 Balboa Boulevard location and urge the Commission to grant an eight-year extension to the existing lease.

Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

With Pride and Determination—

Lindsay Imber President Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council



## Re: Pershing Square Private Events

1 message

Ben Loescher < > Thu, Jul 11, 2024 at 1:53 PM

To: LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Cc: RAP.COMMISSIONERS@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org

Thank you - I just got off the phone with them and they stated that Pershing Square is not under their jurisdiction. Can you please forward this message to someone responsible who I can talk to about improving their communication to the public?

On Thu, Jul 11, 2024 at 10:42 AM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello

Thank you for contacting us. You may reach out to the Metro Regional Office at 213-485-1310 to inquire further.

Thank you,

Neyda

On Thu, Jul 11, 2024 at 10:30 AM Ben Loescher < Hello.

> wrote:

I'm a DTLA resident and frequent user of Pershing Square which as you know is one of the few public open spaces in our area. Is there a way that Rec & Parks can improve their communication around closures of Pershing Square for private events? I was surprised last week to find that the park was being fenced of for a private event. Some examples:

- The Park closure dates on the Pershing Square website are consistently wrong. The park was closed starting on Monday, 7/8 and remain closed while the website notes that the Park will be closed 7/12-15. Based on prior experience, I am certain that the park will not be actually open to the public on 7/16 as the website indicates. This has been a longstanding issue.
- Private security associated with this week's closure stated that they were unaware how long the closure would remain and did not know who I should contact for more information.
- There is no signage advertising these events at the park. Seems like a missed opportunity to engage the public and also advise park users. The permanent signs at the park about "Coming Events" have been blank for as long as I can remember.
- No one answers the number listed on the Parks website and on the permanent signage at the NE corner of the park (213-847-4970). Voicemail messages are not returned.

I am a huge supporter of public open space in Los Angeles but feel that either through mismanagement or underfunding this critical public resource is being squandered. Would someone please get back to me with what is being done to improve this?

Best,

Ben

--

Department of Recreation and Parks
Public Information Office
Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org