

INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

February 06, 2025

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>		<u>Action Taken</u>
1. Cameron Flanagan comments regarding Riverside Bridge Home shelter	#9788	Referred to General Manager
2. Kevin Mullican comments regarding Riverside Bridge Home shelter	#9788a	Referred to General Manager
3. Bill Smith comments regarding the Riverside Bridge Home shelter	#9788b	Referred to General Manager
4. Victor Adjemian comments regarding the Riverside Bridge Home shelter	#9788c	Referred to General Manager
5. Lynne Hanson comments regarding Riverside Bridge Home shelter	#9788d	Referred to General Manager
6. Kim Baxter comments regarding the LAEC Board Increase	#9789	Referred to General Manager
7. Amy Hill comments regarding the LAEC Board Increase	#9789a	Referred to General Manager
8. Christy Blackman comments regarding the LAEC Board Increase	#9789b	Referred to General Manager
9. Pam Moeck comments regarding LAEC Board Increase	#9789c	Referred to General Manager
10. Sabrina Silver comments regarding LAEC Board Increase	#9789d	Referred to General Manager

11. Mauro Garcia comments regarding illegal dumping and Graffiti at Sycamore Grove Park	#9790	Referred to General Manager
12. Venice Neighborhood Council comments regarding the Design of the Ocean Front Walk Playground	#9791	Referred to General Manager
13. Helen Fallon comments regarding the Design of the Ocean Front Walk Playground	#9791a	Referred to General Manager
14. Betsy Goldman comments regarding the Design of the Ocean Front Walk Playground	#9791b	Referred to General Manager
15. Ginette Buffone comments regarding the Design of the Ocean Front Walk Playground	#9791c	Referred to General Manager
16. Robert Haro comments regarding the Design of the Ocean Front Walk Playground	#9791d	Referred to General Manager
17. Gia Quiroga comments regarding the Design of the Ocean Front Walk Playground	#9791e	Referred to General Manager
18. John Given comments regarding Rancho Park Clubhouse	#9792	Referred to General Manager
19. Taj Sullivan comments regarding Board Report 24-278	#9793	Referred to General Manager
20. Alex Crow comments regarding support for the Forest Lawn Safety and Mobility Project	#9794	Referred to General Manager
21. Michael Sterman comments regarding Homelessness Encampment at Dorothy and Benjamin Smith Park	#9795	Referred to General Manager
22. Domonic Paris comments regarding Tennis Courts at Tujung and Magnolia Park	#9796	Referred to General Manager

23. Valter Waldemar comments regarding Tennis Courts	#9796a	Referred to General Manager
24. George the Great comments regarding Clean up and Graffiti at Echo Park	#9797	Referred to General Manager
25. George the Great comments regarding a Complaint on Supervisors at Echo Park	#9797a	Referred to General Manager
26. James Williams comments regarding Hollywood land/Lake Hollywood	#9798	Referred to General Manager
27. Bongani M comments regarding Glassell Park Facility Lights	#9799	Referred to General Manager
28. Thomas Delfino comments regarding Changing Dog Park Cleaning Schedule	#9800	Referred to General Manager
29. Darren Gold/Highland Park Neighborhood Council comments regarding York Park Maintenance	#9801	Referred to General Manager
30. Mettabel Law comments regarding having Griffith Park Closed Due to the Fires	#9802	Referred to General Manager
31. Gerry Hans comments regarding Announcement about Griffith Park Closed Due to the Fires	#9802a	Referred to General Manager
32. Robert Young comments regarding having Griffith Park Closed Due to the Fires	#9802b	Referred to General Manager
33. Debra Matlock comments regarding having Griffith Park Closed Due to the Fires	#9802c	Referred to General Manager
34. Jason Greenwald comments regarding having Griffith Park Closed Due to the Fires	#9802d	Referred to General Manager

35. Juliet Snowden comments regarding having Griffith Park Closed Due to the Fires	#9802e	Referred to General Manager
36. Mollie Jones comments regarding Air Quality Concerns	#9803	Referred to General Manager
37. Jennifer Mandel comments regarding Air Quality Concerns	#9803a	Referred to General Manager
38. Suzanne Thompson comments regarding the Venice Beach Public Restrooms Renovation Project	#9804	Referred to General Manager
39. Debby Zhou/Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Board of Directors comments regarding Spring Street Park Security	#9805	Referred to General Manager
40. Amanda Miller comment regarding Toxic Ashes in Children's Sandboxes at Playgrounds	#9806	Referred to General Manager
41. Brain Averill and Venice Neighborhood Council comments regarding support of the creation of the Venice Oceanarium Pavilion Museum	#9807	Referred to General Manager
42. Brain Averill and Venice Neighborhood Council comments regarding the Restoration and Completion of Ceramic Tiles & Fish Murals on Ocean front Walk	#9807a	Referred to General Manager
43. Brain Averill and Venice Neighborhood Council comments regarding the Venice Pagodas Refurbishment and Historical Cultural Monument Nomination	#9807b	Referred to General Manager
44. Brain Averill and Venice Neighborhood Council comments regarding the Venice Lifeguard Station Repairs Needed	#9807c	Referred to General Manager
45. Bobbie Pearl comments regarding the Richard Alatorre Pool Heaters	#9808	Referred to General Manager

46. Rik Graulus comments regarding Ungated/Unmarked Park Entrance to Cactus Canyon Trail	#9809	Referred to General Manager
47. Ed Coghlan comments regarding the Golf Operations	#9810	Referred to General Manager
48. Ron Bitzer comments regarding Public Comment to the Project Update for the Park Needs Assessment	#9811	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Rosa Cartagena, RAP Commission Office

December 22, 2024

Dear Recreation & Parks General Manager Jimmy Kim, Assistant General Manager Brenda Aguirre, and Recreation & Parks Board of Commissioners,

This letter is in response to the December 18, 2024 CAO's letter, the subject of which was "Performance Metrics and Operations Update for a Bridge Home Shelter at 3248 Riverside Drive in Council District 4".

Neither the Rec & Parks Commission nor the general public had an opportunity to thoughtfully review, thoroughly analyze, comment or make subsequent inquiry about the CAO letter given it was produced a day prior to the December 19, 2024 RAP Commission meeting.

The CAO Performance Review report and 2 page cover letter briefly top-lined at the December 19, 2024 RAP Commission meeting by CD4 Patrick Siggins and a junior staff member from the CAO's office is at best incomplete, and at worst obfuscative. Specifically:

- 1) The permittee (General Service Department) was not present at RAP Commission meeting and should be asked to attend to answer Commissioners' questions as the shelter lease flows through GSD for the property on RAP land in south Griffith Park.
- 2) There is no information provided as to turnover at the facility. From the topline information provided, it appears from 2023-2024, 19% of residents exited the shelter with 60 unaccounted for people. From July 1, 2024 to November 26, 2024, 8% exited with 10 left/unaccounted for. Based on my having worked at the facility for 2.5 years, anecdotally this is due to a lack of programmatic structure and implementation of PATH's own policies, as well as staff issues. Omissions such as not accounting for people left at the facility infects CD4 Siggins' verbal report, demonstrating a lack of "emergency" to get the homeless sheltered once they reach Bridge Home Interim shelter.
- 3) The statistics provided by the CAO do not match statistics published by LAHSA on their public dashboard (see discussion below).
- 4) The report is presumably based on LAHSA information, and only provides information from 7/1/2023 through 11/26/2024 yet metrics since the opening of the program in 2020 need to be furnished for a full review of the Riverside Bridge Home shelter program performance.
- 5) Further, it is unclear if "Clients Served" section equates with intakes, which is required information for the CAO report. Additional information needs to be provided by the CAO to clarify.
- 6) Currently, bed rate has been increased from \$42/day to \$89/day, with resultant operations budget increased to \$3.2M from \$2.2M. With a facility garnering nearly \$9M in 4 years with the slated increase and lower percentage of residents exiting the facility, this does not look to be efficacious performance. The shelter has requested nearly twice the current rate, yet has only managed to place half the individuals on a year over year rate. Without further information, it appears a dismal performance at the Riverside Bridge Home shelter is being rewarded.

P.1 of 3
(8 total)

- 7) Though a condition of the lease renewal per RAP Commission was the furnishment of the number of encampments outside the facility, the report omits that information. CD4 should provide that information to the CAO for follow-up with the RAP Commission and other parties in interest.
- 8) The "Occupancy Rate" mentioned in the report does not stipulate if that is an average percentage or constant percentage over the two time periods, 7/1/2023-6/30/2024 and 7/1/2024-11/26/2024 respectively. This is important information as the topline letter accompanying the report from the CAO to RAP GM Kim cites, "... (a client) may have enrolled or exited the program more than once." If the same person is serviced over 6 months (per the 180 max stay law), they are taking the space of another unhoused person on the street who needs help, allowing a "warehousing" or "babysitting" scenario to fester at the Riverside Bridge Home.
- 9) It is unclear the source for the "Current Site Operations" section in the top line letter from the CAO. A written response from the CAO or his presence at an upcoming RAP Commission meeting to clarify this point would lend additional needed insight.
- 10) There has been no written report on Councilperson Raman's Ambassador Program since August 2024. Clearly such a report is needed as CD4 Homelessness Director Patrick Siggins reported at the last RAP Commission meeting that Councilperson Raman's organization SELAH is the Ambassador Program. However, per Councilperson Raman's City Council Motion, SELAH is to pass out Narcan and call first responders. SELAH is not at the shelter in that capacity, the organization's sole function is to hand out clothing and donuts to area homeless. Such well-intentioned volunteers lack training and experience to add any measure of security or safety to the shelter outside SSA (specialty security) or City Guard security that is currently employed at the Riverside Bridge Home shelter.

The Council Office of District 4 and the CAO report purports to use LAHSA data. With that in mind, know that LAHSA no longer maintains the A Bridge Home dashboard like they did in 2023.

Here is the last update (2/24/2024):

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiMWMxMDYzNDItOTIiMy00M2UwLWE5ZTUtNGFhYiM0ZTE2ZDZjliwidCI6IjBiYWU1NDIiLTUyZDQtNGEzYi1hYTE5LWQ1MDY2MmlzMDQ5NyIsImMiOiZ9&pageName=ReportSectionf893b95985095e49b149>

This information does not match what is in the CAO report. Notice 98 enrolled clients as of February 2024 on the old LAHSA dashboard as one example.

LAHSA has a new interim shelter dashboard. If anything, LAHSA has made the data more opaque. For example, the names of the Bridge Home shelters are no longer included in the data. Here is the new site: <https://www.lahsa.org/data-refresh/home/datadashboard>

One issue here is that it isn't clear which shelter is the Riverside Bridge Home shelter, Bridge Home 8, Bridge Home 10, or Bridge Home 11 (the interim Bridge Home shelters listed in CD4, according to the online dashboard). Nonetheless, not one of those named Bridge Home shelters in Council District 4 (8, 10, or 11) matches the statistics provided in the CAO report of 12/18/24.

Simply put, the CAO reported performance statistics don't match what LAHSA has published publicly, which calls into question the CAO report to the RAP Commission. I hope and trust the RAP Commission will ask for the CAO and Councilperson Raman to appear in person to answer questions posed in the analysis letter sent via email and available in hard copy as well.

As well, please see attached the recent 5 page topline letter from LA City Controller Kenneth Meija, entitled "Homelessness Audit", incorporated herein for broader perspective substantiating anecdotal information provided in this letter.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter as an analysis of the CAO letter and accompanying 2 page topline accompanying the CAO report.

I am hopeful the RAP Commission will invite the CAO and a representative of General Services Department, and CD4 Councilperson Raman with knowledge of Riverside Drive Bridge Home to answer issues and questions posed herein regarding the resultant CAO report.

Sincerely,
Cameron Flanagan

Cc:

Darryl Ford, Superintendent of Planning and Construction Department of Recreation and Parks

Edwin Gipson II, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the City Administrative Officer

Federal Judge David O. Carter via Special Master Michele Martinez

Kenneth Meija, Controller for City of Los Angeles

Nithya Raman, Los Angeles City Councilperson District 4

P. 3 of 3
(8 total)

**kenneth
mejia**
LA CITY CONTROLLER



HOMELESSNESS AUDIT:

Pathways to Permanent Housing



December 10, 2024

Honorable Karen Bass, Mayor
Honorable Hydee Feldstein Soto, City Attorney
Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council

Re: Pathways to Permanent Housing

Until a person is permanently housed, that person's homelessness is not successfully ended. That is the guiding principle for the City and nation's homelessness strategy. Understanding this bedrock concept, our Office conducted this audit to identify opportunities for the City and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to improve the rehousing system and increase the likelihood that unhoused people are able to secure a stable, safe, and permanent place to live.

For this audit, we focused our analysis on City-funded interim housing programs that were operational between FY 2019 to FY 2023 which included crisis and bridge shelters, A Bridge Home (ABH), hotel and motel based programs, and tiny home villages. Auditors measured the performance of each interim housing program by using metrics such as permanent housing placement rates, utilization/retention rates, and returns to homelessness. Auditors then evaluated permanent housing destination types including Time Limited Subsidies, vouchers and other subsidies, unsubsidized permanent housing, and permanent supportive housing.

There are a woefully inadequate number of people moving from interim to permanent housing: **Less than 20% of people in interim housing secured permanent housing, and more than 50% of people exiting interim housing returned to homelessness or unknown destinations.** There are also major concerns about long term stability for people who have been placed in permanent housing. Furthermore, over the 5 year scope covered in this audit, **an average of 1 in 4 interim beds - which are the gateway to permanent housing - went unused costing taxpayers an estimated \$218 million.**

Achieving successful housing outcomes is exceedingly difficult because there is a chronic shortage of affordable housing in Los Angeles. Beyond inadequate supply, unhoused people frequently struggle with financial barriers, bureaucratic hurdles, and bias from landlords. Together, these obstacles contribute to long periods waiting to secure permanent housing. The delays and uncertainty compel many people to return to the streets, which places them at significant risk to their safety and wellbeing, and derails the hard work and resources that have gone into ending their homelessness.

It is essential to scale up permanent housing resources and maximize the efficiency with which LAHSA and its contracted service providers are successfully moving people through the rehousing system (i.e., throughput). It is also critical to understand which interim housing programs and services are achieving the best permanent housing outcomes in the most cost-effective manner while still taking into account the experience of unhoused individuals.

* no mention of observed addiction + mental health needs or adequate wrap around services/ follow up once temporarily placed w/ TLS or other voucher permanently

Key findings on Interim Housing:

- Lagging occupancy rates - Interim housing/shelter bed occupancy is significantly below LAHSA's target occupancy rate of 95%. During the five-year scope period (FY 2019 - FY 2023), unoccupied beds cost an estimated \$218 million. Each unfilled bed represents a missed opportunity to provide critical assistance to unsheltered people who desperately need help.
 - Citywide Interim Housing Occupancy:
 - FY19: 78%
 - FY20: 68%
 - FY21: 64%
 - FY22: 74%
 - FY23: 73%
- Severe data quality issues - The lack of reliable information makes meaningful evaluation of system performance difficult, impedes LAHSA's ability to hold underperforming service providers accountable, and prevents the City from making informed decisions about where to direct future spending.
- LAHSA's program management and monitoring are vastly inadequate - The agency does not have a formal process in place to regularly review the performance of providers, including occupancy/placement rates, and hold underperforming service providers accountable by requiring significant corrective action.
- City restrictions on shelter bed availability - Elected Offices request reservations for shelter beds based on geographic zones ("catchments") and prior to encampment cleanups or 41.18 enforcement operations. The lack of formal policies guiding these reservations contributes to shelter beds going unused and compromises service provider efforts to equitably and efficiently house people.

Key findings on Permanent Housing placements and destination types:

- Low permanent housing placement rates: Fewer than one in five people enrolled in City-funded shelters have been able to secure some sort of permanent housing. Between FY 2019 and FY 2023, City shelters served 93,741 people and only 15,818 people (17%) secured permanent housing. On average, approximately 3,200 people per year were placed into permanent housing during the scope period.
- Time Limited Subsidies were the most common pathway to secure permanent housing, while permanent supportive housing was the least common
- Stability in permanent housing may not be sustainable - Data shows that some people who secured permanent housing placements using Time Limited Subsidies returned to homelessness in a short amount of time. For FY 2021, the most recent period for which a complete 24-month Time Limited Subsidy lifecycle is available, 12% of people returned to homelessness over the life of the subsidy. Of those that returned to homelessness, just over half did so within one year of moving into a unit using a Time Limited Subsidy. The initiative does not

** "revolving door" back to River-side Bridge Home shelter*

track data related to returns to homeless following the expiration of the subsidy, which may mean higher percentages of people returning to homelessness after subsidies expire.

- Factors for successful outcomes: Successful housing outcomes are less impacted by interim housing type, and more impacted by effective service delivery and other factors that help people become stable. Examples: consistent/communicative case management, housing navigation, access to mental health services, job training.

PATH operator of Bridge Home shelter lacks all four examples.

Key Recommendations:

- **Service provider performance:** LAHSA should revamp its contract and performance monitoring program to ensure the agency can promptly identify underperforming homeless service providers, and provide technical assistance or implement corrective actions when necessary.
- **New bed solutions:** Examine the feasibility of developing new, trauma-informed bed solutions for congregate settings that would provide more privacy and comfort to clients.
- **Performance-based incentives:** Develop performance-based compensation incentives for service providers tied to shelters' occupancy rates, permanent housing placement rates, and other relevant performance metrics.
- **Increase Housing Navigators:** To the greatest extent possible, increase the number of Housing Navigators so that more people staying in shelters have access to services that can connect them to permanent housing.
- **Consolidate contracts:** Clearly define the responsibilities of interim housing operators and Housing Navigation service providers, or assess the feasibility of consolidating interim housing and Housing Navigation services under single contracts to streamline case management responsibilities and make it easier for LAHSA to monitor performance and contract non-compliance.
- **Revise metrics:** Adopt permanent housing placement rate metrics that are not dependent on shelter occupancy rates in order to minimize instances where low occupancy at a shelter results in the appearance of improving permanent housing placement rates.
- **Formalize reservation policy:** Develop a formal policy for administering catchments and shelter bed reservations by City offices to ensure equitable access to shelter beds and maximize occupancy rates.
- **Monitor outcomes:** Monitor outcomes for people after their Time Limited Subsidies expire, and for people permanently housed with subsidies other than Time Limited Subsidies, and individuals that obtain housing without government assistance, such as an apartment without subsidies or moving in with a family member or friend.

As a City, we must do more to ensure that unhoused community members can move through the rehousing system, obtain permanent housing, and receive the support needed to stay there. Our office remains committed to researching and assessing system performance, and making recommendations for how we can more effectively bring our unhoused community members indoors for good. We hope this audit will be a vital tool for our City to understand the work that needs to be done on evaluating

programs and performance, and analyzing whether we are making the right decisions to get our unhoused population permanently housed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth Mejia".

Kenneth Mejia, CPA

City Controller



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Riverside Bridge Home shelter photojournalist video

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 7:44 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 Fri, Dec 13, 2024 at 6:50 PM Cameron Flanagan

wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners,

This is the video I referenced in my public comment at December 5th 2024 Rec & Parks Commission meeting.

My understanding is this video was done over a 1 week timeframe, with the information about what is going on around the exterior of the shelter on parkland across from recreation facilities in Griffith Park is true and correct.

https://www.instagram.com/share/reel/_mFlwUIQX

Our Councilperson Raman PROMISED a written report about the Ambassador Program intended efficacy, due outs/success metrics by August 2024, which has never been received. There has been a Motion passed in City Council however there are issues raised about the Motion passing money through the City Clerk (and not the City Controller with named funds management accounts) as well as the organization Councilperson Raman receiving a no bid contract for the Ambassador Program.

Further the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) is aware of the RAP Commission mandate for a written report about the efficacy of Riverside Drive Bridge Home shelter. I reminded the CAO of the written report on Nov 15, 2024 at City Hall.

I am hopeful the Commission will continue to track the requirements initially mandated June 2024 to ensure the deplorable conditions at Bridge Home shelter are not allowed to continue on park land in Griffith Park.

C. Flanagan



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please pass this along after reading...

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 7:42 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 Fri, Dec 13, 2024 at 6:44 PM Cameron Flanagan wrote:

Riverside Drive Bridge Home has never been full (almost full now) until RBH realized the community was paying attention and the residents realized/highlighted the facility conditions and poor management.

These Interim Bridge Home shelters like Riverside Bridge Home shelter have become human warehouses that do not offer programs that help people advance or grow. Drug use is rampant due to very little resident responsibilities.

This week in numerous meetings at City Hall, I saw:

There is a mayor who is either lying or delusional,

Councilwoman Raman believing she knows best in CD4 though a weak leader and allowing LAHSA roadblocking legit requests for information,

Nonprofit and other agency bureaucrats who want to continue getting paid, Homeless (many drug addicted/mentally ill) sitting and waiting w no programming/direction, and

The general public that is either not paying attention/flummoxed or fed up with the waste of funds and homeless not being helped and needing a conduit. All the while fast tracked developers are knocking down more buildings, making more homeless, only to develop "affordable housing" that is likely unaffordable.

Keep reading...

C.

<https://www.citywatchla.com/los-angeles/30010-delivering-results-or-delivering-deception-2>



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Riverside Drive Bridge Home

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 7:45 AM

To:

Good morning,

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

On Fri, Dec 13, 2024 at 7:16 PM Kevin Mullican

wrote:

Dear Board of Rec & Parks Commissioners,

I want to thank you for taking seriously the ongoing health and safety concerns regarding the Bridge Home shelter. The requirement by the Rec & Parks Commission of Council District 4 for a written and oral report about the proposed Ambassador Program (initially due August 2024) and a report from the City's CAO (Chief Administrative Officer) relative to the operations and performance of Bridge Home shelter (due December 20, 2024) as required at the June 2024 meeting were a step in the right direction.

Interestingly enough, recently, there have been multiple complaints by Riverside Bridge Home shelter residents about staff behavior, facility cleanliness and safety, and lack of programmatic goals (defined as necessary steps to housing) at Bridge Home shelter. Residents of the shelter have been there at a minimum of a year with many staying up to 3 years now. Additionally, many of the residents' historical complaints were going unanswered and have now been filtering through operator People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) yet the temporarily as built structure, per Bureau of Engineering, was only meant to last 5 years and is deteriorating.

The answer lies in housing the people at the facility and closing it as the building is well past the intended lifespan. The temporary facility was inappropriately placed on public parkland in a recreation space, and has not been successful in housing homeless (10% over 4 years), while property crimes in the area has increased exponentially, causing more harm than providing any good.

We look forward to the Commission following up on the long overdue mandated written report about the Ambassador Program and the CAO report (due December 20, 2024) about the shelter efficacy that we expect to include community input (not simply the viewpoint of CD4 and PATH).

Please agendaize Bridge Home shelter at the next RAP Commission Board meeting December 19, 2024 or the January 2025 meeting.

Sincerely,
Kevin



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Riverside Bridge Home shelter

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 7:49 AM

Good morning,

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

On Sat, Dec 14, 2024 at 5:16 PM Bill Smith

wrote:

Bill Smith

December 14, 2024

City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation & Parks
221 N. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Board of Rec & Parks Commissioners,

I want to thank you for taking seriously the ongoing health and safety concerns regarding the Bridge Home shelter. The requirement by the Rec & Parks Commission of Council District for a written and oral report about the proposed Ambassador Program (initially due August 2024) and a report from the City's CAO (Chief Administrative Officer) relative to the operations and performance of Bridge Home shelter (due December 20, 2024) as required at the (date) meeting were a step in the right direction.

Interestingly enough, recently, there have been multiple complaints by Riverside Bridge Home shelter residents about staff behavior, facility cleanliness and safety, and lack of programmatic goals (defined as necessary steps to housing) at Bridge Home shelter. Residents of the shelter have been there at a minimum of a year with many staying up to 3 years now. Additionally, many of the residents' historical complaints were going unanswered and have now been filtering through operator People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) yet the temporarily as built structure, per Bureau of Engineering, was only meant to last 5 years and is deteriorating.

The answer lies in housing the people at the facility and closing it as the building is well past the intended lifespan. The temporary facility was inappropriately placed on public parkland in a recreation space, and has not been successful in housing homeless (10% over 4 years), while property crimes in the area has increased exponentially, causing more harm than providing any good.

We look forward to the Commission following up on the long overdue mandated written report about the Ambassador Program and the CAO report (due December 20, 2024) about the shelter efficacy that we expect to include community input (not simply the viewpoint of CD4 and PATH).

Additionally,

People Assisting the Homeless...PATH has a lot of money and continues to seek more from City of LA to continue to warehouse people in the largest and greatest parks in America, Griffith Park, at the Riverside Bridge Home shelter.

Meanwhile, Councilperson Raman refuses to acknowledge her June 2024 Motion to front more money to nonprofits who haven't produced receipts or invoices for "work" and who have poor results of housing people- PATH and other nonprofits' contracts do not even have such a requirement!

Homeless folks are trapped at Bridge Home shelter interim sites.

Additionally, vendors like Healthcare in Action, which saw revenue increase from \$1M to \$7M in one year, run by Indu of the LFNC, are charged with trying to house people from Bridge Home shelter. PATH and HIA have no requirement of "you get paid based on how many you house" (performance-based agreement) so very little results remain.

Now same nonprofits and people like Sarah Dessault from Garcetti administration are overseeing Measure A funds distribution. That is another corrupt group.

It is time to close Riverside Bridge Home shelter and build the new Senior Center.

Cordially

Bill Smith



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Bridge Shelter of Riverside Drive

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 7:59 AM

To: Victor Adjemian

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Dec 16, 2024 at 11:15 AM Victor Adjemian

wrote:

Please accept our letter concerning your Griffith Park Bridge Homeless Shelter on Riverside Drive.

Victor Adjemian

December 15, 2024

Via email: to Jimmy Kim, Brenda Aguirre, Takisha Sardin, RAP Commissioners, RAP-gpab,
RAPPublic info

City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks
221 N. Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you about the Bridge Homeless Shelter (BHS) on Riverside Drive, in Griffith Park. Your commission has required that Council District 4 provide written and oral reports regarding an "Ambassador Program". This report was due in August of 2024, but as yet undelivered. Also, at the June 2024 RAP meeting, a report was requested from the CAO regarding the operations and historical performance of the Bridge Homeless Shelter. Both reports are a great step forward in monitoring the many issues associated with the Bridge Homeless Shelter.

There have been many complaints by residents of the BHS regarding staff misbehavior, facility hygiene, and a total lack for preparing residents for their move to permanent housing. There are many residents that have been at the BHS for at least one year, and some that have been there for up to three years. The stated time limit for residents at the BHS was supposed to be three months in which time they would be prepared to transition to permanent housing. No such migratory program has ever been implemented.

This temporary facility has a stated lifespan of five years and is showing its age with deterioration evident in many areas. The shelter was inappropriately placed within the confines of Griffith Park and within close proximity to a nursery school. It's performance has been dismal, and historical occupancy has been equally very low. Crimes statistics in and around the BHS have soared, causing a general deterioration of the surrounding neighborhood.

Your commission should demand that the requested reports be delivered and mandate that the facility operator (PATH) be held accountable for their horribly poor performance. Despite leases, and other managerial documents, the facility is on RAP property and it is your responsibility to monitor, manage, implement performance reviews, and assume your responsibility as overall owner of the abysmal facility.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Very Truly yours,
Victor Adjemian



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Riverside Drive Bridge Home Shelter

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 18, 2024 at 7:48 AM

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 2:11 PM Lynne hanson

wrote:

Dear Board of Rec & Parks Commissioners,

I want to thank you for taking seriously the ongoing health and safety concerns regarding the Bridge Home shelter. The requirement by the Rec & Parks Commission of Council District 4 for a written and oral report about the proposed Ambassador Program (initially due August 2024) and a report from the City's CAO (Chief Administrative Officer) relative to the operations and performance of Bridge Home shelter (due December 20, 2024) as required at the June 2024 meeting were a step in the right direction.

Interestingly enough, recently, there have been multiple complaints by Riverside Bridge Home shelter residents about staff behavior, facility cleanliness and safety, and lack of programmatic goals (defined as necessary steps to housing) at Bridge Home shelter. Residents of the shelter have been there at a minimum of a year with many staying up to 3 years now. Additionally, many of the residents' historical complaints were going unanswered and have now been filtering through operator People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) yet the temporarily as built structure, per Bureau of Engineering, was only meant to last 5 years and is deteriorating.

The answer lies in housing the people at the facility and closing it as the building is well past the intended lifespan. The temporary facility was inappropriately placed on public parkland in a recreation space, and has not been successful in housing homeless (10% over 4 years), while property crimes in the area has increased exponentially, causing more harm than providing any good.

We look forward to the Commission following up on the long overdue mandated written report about the Ambassador Program and the CAO report (due December 20, 2024) about the shelter efficacy that we expect to include community input (not simply the viewpoint of CD4 and PATH).

Please agendize Bridge Home shelter at the next RAP Commission Board meeting December 19, 2024 or the January 2025 meeting.

Sincerely,
Lynne Hanson
Los Feliz



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: laec board increase

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 7:53 AM

To: kim baxter

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, Dec 16, 2024 at 8:13 AM kim baxter

wrote:

December 16, 2024

Dear Commissioners,

Please allow this email to speak for many beyond myself. I am a trainer at LAEC. My barn is filled with hard working, regular people that make financial sacrifices to have their horses at LAEC. We are not in the rich club. The direction that ASM is looking to take regarding raising the board is troubling to us.

Upon ASM taking over LAEC, those of us boarding our horses at LAEC were optimistic that an entity was coming in with the financial resources to right a listing ship. Previous management had run the place into the ground, compromising the safety, productivity and functionality of LAEC. The transition between previous management and ASM was not amicable. That was cause for concern. The biggest downfall to this, was is ASM truly knowing what they are getting into financially? Were they able to do a full comprehensive analysis of what it was going to cost to rehabilitate LAEC? How would the Dept. of Parks and Recs participate in the new partnership? ASM does have other horse properties in their "portfolio" but they are staggeringly different from LAEC.

To fast forward to where we are now, ASM has good marketing skills- the packet ASM made up to justify their requested rate increase has a good PR spin. The presented financial accountings lack some key components as to how they arrived at their numbers. Basically, A, B and C barns are carrying the load for the other on-site stabling options that are in the red. The comparison ASM did to show how LAEC and it's rates measure up to neighboring facilities is an exercise in comparing apples to oranges. There is no standard for the industry.

A board increase is not the issue. We all know things only get more expensive but the devil is in the details and implementation. For example, dramatically, upcharging to feed the cubes is absolutely absurd. Faith is being lost as to the direction ASM is traveling towards. Because LAEC is a city owned enterprise/experience the need to not hand over all decisions to ASM is crucial. It will be challenging to have all parties, ASM, Parks and Recs and us boarders get what we thinks is needed and right, but a three legged stool is more user friendly than a unicycle.

Thank you for your time,
Kim Baxter



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: LAEC board

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Dec 20, 2024 at 8:48 AM

To: Amy hill

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Dec 18, 2024 at 8:25 PM Amy hill

wrote:

To whom it may concern,

I am a horse owner and trainer. I find that the increasing costs of board, hay, care, etc combined with the cost of rent, housing, utilities, groceries, ins, retail goods, etc going up and wages going down is systematically killing horses and making horse ownership almost impossible to sustain. Unfortunately it is ultimately the animals who suffer. Many being put down. Do not raise the board. Horse stalls are sitting empty. Not because people don't want to own horses, but because the board is too high. Or like myself, have moved their horses elsewhere to less expensive barns. To put in perspective, I pay 425 for a fully covered 24'x24' stall with large bucket automated water, hay (not cubes) fed 2x/daily, a large private tack room, turn out, arenas, and a round pen, access to miles of trails, daily cleaning. Just 10 minutes away from the LAEC. LAEC is frankly unaffordable. It is was, I may keep my horses there. I am part of the LAEC community and A trainer there. Just this week we considered moving a horse to a different barn because the board is too high and it is hurting our business. As it is, trainers don't make a living wage, literally fast food workers make more than us because the cost of keeping the horse and paying board is so costly that there simply isn't money to pay staff.

This leads to trainers needing to work other jobs or leaving, not bringing money into the barn, which again leads to the horses suffering. I beg you, LOWER the board! Dont raise it!



Re: Dec 19, 2024 Board Report No. 24-278: LAEC Board Increase

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Christy

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Dec 18, 2024 at 9:03 PM Christy

wrote:

Dear President Simril, Vice-President Sanchez, and Commissioners Lloyd, Hutton and Tran,

Please Vote NO to an Exorbitant Board Increase

- 1. The Effective Boarding Rate Increase will still be greater than 20 to 29%. This is exorbitant especially for lower income and fixed income boarders.
2. Today's Boarding Rate Increase remains unchanged from the market price-point originally presented last July 18, 2024. Alfalfa cubes, at varying prices, have been added / subtracted out the while remaining predicated on unchanged inaccurate comps.
- That original proposed price-point was based on inaccurately selected facilities that were not comparable in amenities, size, or economic communities (distance).
- ASM shared that these numbers were made-up, yet they remain in use today. Why?
- The city accepted them without requiring resolution of these unfounded numbers. Why?
- Please resolve to determine a reasonable board increase, then perhaps use the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for going forward.
3. LAEC as a public facility that should remain affordable for diverse communities allowing lower income and fixed income boarders.
4. Note, the impact from this proposed board hike is OBSCURED again, this time because revenue versus expenses are reported under different cost groupings. This is NOT COMPARABLE transparency!
5. Since RAP Staff approved and supported these numbers, an audit by RAP would appear biased. Can we please get an independent audit, or include boarders on the audit team?

Please see below transparency questions regarding this latest Board Report 24-278:

- Key Takeaways: a) Different Cost Categories b) No transparency nor traceability into the Proposed Board Increase

Diagram comparing 2025 Draft Revenue Projections and 2025 Expense Projections. Revenue total is \$7,036,573 and Expense total is \$8,808,383. Includes handwritten annotations and a 'May 5, 2022 Agreement' reference.

I appreciate your patience and attention to this matter, Respectfully,

Christy Blackman

Enclosure: My previous Dec 5, 2024 Email for BR No. 24-254



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Dear City Commissioners

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Dec 20, 2024 at 8:50 AM

To: Rob Moeck

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Dec 18, 2024 at 11:06 PM Rob Moeck

wrote:

Dear City Commissioners

I ask you to vote to table LAECs rate hike proposal until basic feeding of cubes is included. As of now 145 horses, 30 percent, of horses boarded eat cubes. However ASM and the city are getting paid for cubes on the other 60% of horses that eat owner purchased hay. For as long as I've been at LAEC, 25 years, the center has always fed cubes. You know coming here to board cubes are fed. In Our boarding contract with ASM it includes cubes, Eliminating the cubes from the board and selling them back to boarders will increase the proposed rate hike to 29% not the 7% that is in the proposal. I had a conversation with Joe and a compromise could be that a set amount of cubes is included in board fees while additional cubes could be bought at a per pound amount. Thus adding revenue to ASM as some horses do eat multiple buckets but still allows for horses to be fed a basic ration.

If cubes were taken away, and an owner opts to feed their own hay, there is no plan for boarder hay storage. No plan for feeding of the horses who opt to buy hay. There is simply no plan.

Cubes are important to my horse and a 29-30% raise in board is unattainable to me and many others. I don't want to leave LAEC it's my home away from home, my happy place. I want to see it returned to its former glory.

I am hopeful that you commissioners hear what we are saying and simply ask Joe, Rachel and ASM to rewrite their proposal and keep cubes as part of our board cost.

Thank you.

Sincerely

Pam Moeck

Sent from my iPad



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: In response to BOARD INCREASE REQUEST NO 24-254

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Dec 20, 2024 at 8:51 AM

To: Sabrina Silver

Good morning,

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

On Thu, Dec 19, 2024 at 1:13 AM Sabrina Silver

wrote:

Dear RAP Board of Commissioners,

I am resending my comment regarding Board Report 24-254.

A new financial picture including more transparency has not been submitted.

There continue to be outstanding questions regarding backup and how the numbers were obtained.

The Department of Rec and Parks is now having an audit of ASM's numbers conducted.

Please continue this item until after the audit is complete, the financials are verified, and more transparency in boarding revenue and expenses is shown.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Silver

Please do not read, copy or disseminate this communication unless you are the intended addressee. This e-mail communication contains confidential and/or privileged information intended only for the addressee. If you have received this communication in error, please e-mail me immediately, and destroy all copies of the communications. Thank you.

On Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 04:48:21 PM PST, Sabrina Silver

wrote:

TO: RAP.COMMISSIONERS@LACITY.ORG

Renata Simril, President

Luis Sanchez, Vice President

Fiona Hutton, Member

Marie Lloyd, Member

Benny Tran, Member

Takisha Sardin, Board Secretary

CC: Jimmy Kim, RAP General Manager
 Matthew Rudnick, RAP Executive
 Cathie Santo Domingo, Assistant General Manager
 Chinyere Stoneham, Acting Assistant General Manager
 Brenda Aquirre, Assistant General Manager
 Joe Salaices, RAP Special Projects
 Stefanie Smith, Superintendent-Griffith Park
 Rachel Ramos, Concessions

FR: Sabrina Silver

RE: ASM / RAP BOARD INCREASE REQUEST NO 24-254

Attachments: this letter, a work-in-progress markup of the board report with highlights and notes regarding issues having unanswered questions.

Commissioners,

Please do not approve this boarding increase. Please continue the item and request additional information instead.

ASM's presentation omits revenue streams, does not break down expense line items, contains unsubstantiated claims and comparable facility rates that are not actually comparable and lower facility comp rates are ignored. When this last item was questioned during a boarder meeting, ASM's response was: "It's fun with numbers."

Please request line-item verification, supporting documentation, and inclusion of omitted revenue before deciding whether to approve boarding rate increases requested for LAEC.

- The report is inaccurate, incomplete, and misleading.
- LAEC is NOT underpriced for the region.
- Line items are not broken down; claimed expenses are high; no backup substantiates expense line-item claims; revenue streams have been omitted.
 - Line-item breakdowns are missing. For example, omitted are the number of people at what pay category (worker, supervisor, management executive, etc.) in stall maintenance and overhead.
 - High and unsubstantiated expenses. For example, shavings: The material cost is not broken out. Price per bag and average number of bags used per horse is omitted. We ran an estimation based on a cost of \$2 – 4/bag, using 1.33 bags per day per horse, and our result was lower. Stall maintenance materials are high.
 - Omitted revenues:
 - Boarder trailer storage, for example, conservatively brings \$60k a year. \$81k calculated at \$150/month for 35 boarding clients and 300/month for 5 non-boarders.
 - Trainer /school fees per horse are not included – currently \$45/horse/month. At a conservative number of 10 horses per trainer at their stated 20 trainers plus 29 schooling horses equals revenue of \$11,205 a month or \$134,460 a year.)
 - Revenue from dry stalls and trainer reduced rate stalls are not included. Expenses for these should be minimal as they're not occupied by horses.
- Board is being raised & services are being reduced: ASM lists Feed / feeding as an amenity. Feed/feeding are not amenities – they are essential. The claimed rate increase of 5%-7.5% is misleading. After feed / feeding is factored back in, **the actual increase is closer to 20-30%**.
- Under this proposal, food/feeding is not considered to fall within board. Does this mean that ASM can raise rates whenever they like? The rates for this 'optional service' have not been disclosed.
- Boarders already pay for additional services, such as blanketing, turnout, feeding owner provided hay. Those who provide their own hay had hoped for a break in the current boarding rate. This extra cost of feed/feeding comes to about \$300/month, on top of their current rate.
- Single at 5% vs. double at 7.5% There is no need to tack on an additional 2.5% above the 5% requested for the other stalls. Double stall board rate is ALREADY higher. It does not cost more in expenses such as materials and services to care for one horse in a double vs. single stall. (Excluding set up costs.)
- The comparable facilities listed are not comparable. Lower board rates at listed facilities were ignored.
 - Shadow Hills has a new, beautiful 80 horse facility on several acres. They offer box stalls, in and out stalls, 12x24 pipe stalls. Board for a 12x24 stall is \$800; shared pasture board is \$600/month. Board rate includes stall cleaning 2x day, shavings, hay and feeding of hay 2x a day with a reasonably priced alternative for a 3rd feeding (their or owner provide hay - different rates). Amenities include: 3 large and 1 small arena, multiple sunpens (3 times larger), more wash racks, lockers, showers, etc.
- Boarding needs in the 75 acres are being run by 3.25 overhead individuals. A smaller facility would have 1 person running: an owner or a manager.

- Listed amenities are not available to all boarders. There is a lot of competition for the amenities. Some are privately owned.

When RAP needed community support in favor of not renewing the old contract, they made a lot of promises to boarders. We rallied to help support them. The community called in and wrote letters. Now, they are not keeping their promises.

- They told us that they could run the facility more efficiently because of their experience running the Greek.
- They promised that rates would not increase for several year (estimated 3).
- That said they would take care of boarding structures and facilities that had been neglected and were falling apart – and that that cost would not fall on the boarders backs as it was due to RAP's lack of oversight in holding their concessionaire to their contract.
- They first told us that boarding did not need to make a profit and that other revenue streams were expected to cover board shortfalls. Then they said board expenses and revenue needed to break even. Now, profit has been added to the requested board rate.

It was known that it would take several years to make the Center profitable again.

Private events, filming, and horse show related revenue streams have not come to fruition, leaving ASM without a profit. They need profit to exceed their \$250 management fee in order to collect 20% of profits over that as stated in their contract.

Not enough progress has been made to rectify the years of maintenance deferment and neglect to warrant another board increase

Priority spending so far has been on projects not related to boarding. Priorities do not make sense. The Saloon, which was remodeled with no liquor license, therefore not able to operate as planned. The executive offices and boarding manager office have been fully redone. Barn B's electrical wiring is faulty – causing life and safety issues: the lights spark during rain events. There has already been one fire this year. Yet Barn C was chosen as the first to tackle.

This proposal threatens urban horsekeeping in the Rancho neighborhood.

ASM's presentation is insufficient to support their claims. Without accurate information this increase is arbitrary. We urge the Board of Commissioners to continue this until accurate information is confirmed.

Sabrina Silver

Please do not read, copy or disseminate this communication unless you are the intended addressee. This e-mail communication contains confidential and/or privileged information intended only for the addressee. If you have received this communication in error, please e-mail me immediately, and destroy all copies of the communications. Thank you.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK ILEGAL DUMPING LA COUNCIL HERNANDEZ

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 8:26 AM

To: Garcia Incareal

Good morning,

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

On Sat, Jan 25, 2025 at 11:41 AM Garcia Incareal

wrote:

JANUARY 25-2025

LA Council Eunisses Hernadez

There is illegal dumping on N. Figueroa St. along the Sycamore Grove Park

Attach picture.

Mauro Garcia





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: GANG GRAFFITI SYCAMORE GROVE PARK CD1 EUNISSES HERNADEZ

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 7, 2025 at 7:43 AM

To: Garcia Incareal

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, Jan 6, 2025 at 10:52 AM Garcia Incareal

wrote:

JANUARY 6

LA COUNCIL Heunisses Hernandez

The Sycamore Grove Park has Gang Graffiti

Attach Picture

Also there is illegal dumping

Across from the sycamore Grove Park

Attach picture

Mauro Garcia



Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GRAFFITI CD1 LA COUNCIL HERNANDEZ

F Å ^ • • æ ^

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

Tue, Dec 24, 2024 at 8:16 AM

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On Sat, Dec 21, 2024 at 11:32 AM Garcia Incareal

wrote:

DECEMBER 21-2024

LA Council Eunisses Hernandez

LA Council the Sycamore Grove Park has gang graffiti again.

Attach picture

Mauro Garcia



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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Agenda Item Number: 24-265

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 7:55 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, Dec 16, 2024 at 11:02 AM LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com> wrote:

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 empowerla@lacity.org.

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

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Venice

Name: Helen Fallon

Email:

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(20) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(1) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 11/19/2024

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

Impact Information

Date: 12/16/2024

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

Council File Number:

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date: 12/19/2024

Item Number: 24-265

Summary: Motion: VNC requests alterations to the most recent design of the Ocean Front Walk Playground: • Omit surfboards between some swings • Blue shade sails instead of green (blue like the sky; this is not in a tree canopy) • Provide picnic tables for the enjoyment of the community • Shade over seating • Shade over swings • Natural boulders in lieu of fabricated fiberglass • Do either of the boats provide a challenge for children? If not, perhaps replace the catamaran with something more engaging such as a slack rope or spinners. • The Rose Ave playground on Ocean Front Walk is well liked except for its proximity to bathrooms which raises safety issues. Please draw from that playground design, perhaps in a blue green palette.

Ref:MSG11577203



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Agenda 12/19/24, item 24-265 Venice OFW regional playground

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 8:11 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, Dec 16, 2024 at 12:22 PM Bert F

wrote:

Dear Commissioners: The stated goal of the City of Los Angeles' Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) is to develop additional "Accessible Play" playgrounds (laparks.org/uap). Allocating over \$4 Million to the **regional** Ocean Front Walk (OFW) playground must result in the creation of a universally accessible and fully inclusive playground. Unfortunately, that is not what is currently being proposed.

Children need a great deal of free play to develop. The current design proposal was influenced by a few parents of toddlers who rejected the initial inclusive "circus design" because they do not understand that a playground should provide opportunities that help ALL children master their fears and develop physical competencies. The result is that the current proposed "coast guard design" contains a number of static, space hogging and useless design elements. As proposed, Los Angeles will not end up with a universally accessible and inclusive playground at Ocean Front Walk.

The following design elements inhibit play, provide no physical benefits and in the case of item 2 actually create safety/liability issues.

1. installation of not one but two static "boats" that serve no purpose other than being decorative. The proposed catamaran is not even symbolic of Venice, at least the coast guard boat (which also offers very limited physical challenge) ties in to the proposed theme.
2. surfboards installed around the swings that block sight lines and create a safety hazard around the swings.
3. surfboards designed for climbing that merely provide an opportunity to climb a few steps up and then down as they do not lead anywhere. This is neither challenging to any child over 4 feet tall, nor is this universally accessible.
4. Installation of a space hogging fiber glass octopus that offers limited physical challenges to even very young children and certainly none to older children.
5. space devoted to a sand pit even though this playground is located at the beach which offers children endless opportunities to play and explore sand.
6. no universally accessible spinning apparatus that would enhance play opportunities for ALL children.

7. a theme specific playground with equipment that does not promote creative imaginative play.

Please carefully review the plans for this regional playground and ensure that a State of the Art, fully universally accessible playground, that will meet the needs of ALL children between two and twelve, will be installed. You have a unique opportunity and the funds to engage in best practices and to ensure that Venice Beach ends up with a world-class universally accessible playground for ALL the families that come to Venice Beach.

Helen Fallon

Venice, CA



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Dec 19 Agenda - OFW Playground

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 8:42 AM

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 8:34 AM Betsy Goldman

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

As a 40 year resident of Venice, having served on Venice Neighborhood Council committees and as a founding member of the Venice Historical Society, I am extremely disappointed that the proposed playground design for Ocean Front Walk is not representative of our distinctive world renown character and is not on the level of world class design as are other features of Venice Beach.

The Department of Recreation & Parks original replacement design, the "Circus Theme," was creative, challenging, ADA engaging, low maintenance and appropriate to our unique Venice Boardwalk, "Coney Island of the Pacific."

The vast majority of Venice families indicated their strong support for the Circus design, as was evidenced by the survey distributed by the Neighborhood Council:

<https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/committee67609e47b8ff0.pdf>

The current design, which seemed to be developed by a few angry uninformed neighbors pushing our new (non Venetian) Council staff, does not do justice to Los Angeles' #1 Tourist Destination.

Catamaran's have never beached at Venice. Surf boards belong at Huntington Beach, "Surf City USA" and not here, collecting graffiti and blocking views between swings. The fiberglass octopus, boulders, and pier pylons shouldn't be fiberglass - Santa Monica has real boulders and the like at their beach playgrounds. Your budget is huge. We can afford better design.

There is no engaging universal equipment, merely things for wheel chair bound children to touch. That's a huge shortcoming for such a prominent Los Angeles playground. Parents have suggested spinners for all access - that something this playground should have.

If not the circus theme, Venice images could include gondolas, the winged St. Mark Lion, capitals from our historic Italian colonnade, our Red Car Trolley, Tongva turtles, or even our unique Grunion fish.

Despite repeated requests, the design in your motion has not incorporated any of these suggestions.

The world visits Venice Beach. Please, let's make a playground that Venice families will love and the world will remember, fondly.

Sincerely,

Betsy Goldman



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: OFW Playground - Dec. 19 Agenda

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 10:12 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, Dec 17, 2024 at 10:04 AM Ginette Buffone

wrote:

Hi, I recently became aware that there will be a Recreation and Parks Commissioners meeting this Thursday and that funding for the OFW Playground is on the agenda. I had shared some thoughts back in October about the newly proposed design and wanted to resubmit them to ensure they were seen and taken into consideration.

One key suggestion I'd like to highlight is the addition of a **group-oriented spinning feature**, which always seems to be a big hit at playgrounds. Currently, I don't see any spinning elements in the design, and these types of features are particularly valuable for sensory-seeking kids (especially ages 7–10).

It might be worth considering replacing the octopus, catamaran or lifeguard boat with something like this, as it would take up a similar footprint while encouraging group play. A few examples that come to mind include:

- [the spinning feature](#) similar to what they have at Marine Park
- [this spinning rope "pyramid"](#) from North Beach Playground in Santa Monica
- [this spinning "globe"](#) as an homage to the raddest playground that never was

Other than the absence of spinning features, I think the current design looks fine. Many of us locals are just excited to see this project move forward. Thank you so much for your hard work and for considering this feedback!

Best regards,
Ginette Buffone



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Venice OFW Playground Commission Meeting

1 message

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

Fri, Dec 20, 2024 at 8:46 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, Dec 18, 2024 at 1:10 PM Mexican Heritage

wrote:

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I am 3rd generation Venetian. I've raised my children in Venice with grandchildren on the way. This is a special place. The playground design for Ocean Front Walk at Windward does not fit Venice. This should be something special. The design in your \$4 Million Dollar funding motion is not worthy of Venice Beach. I made suggestions on zoom.

Thank you for seeing that our parks are special.

Robert Haro



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: OFW Playground - Dec 19 Agenda

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Dec 20, 2024 at 8:47 AM

To: Gia Quiroga

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, Dec 18, 2024 at 3:07 PM Gia Quiroga

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the design for the Ocean Front Walk Playground replacement. As a Venice mom of an active 3 year old boy, we've missed not having the old playground, but would hope that the replacement would be something special.

I participated in zoom discussions, providing suggestions of wonderful playgrounds and playground equipment that we find.

Like most families, we enthusiastically supported the original design that you suggested. My son would climb and swing and be happy as a clam in the Carnival Themed design.

That playground, like Pollywog Playground in Manhattan Beach, and many that we have visited around Los Angeles, and around the world, by Kompan, was a quality and imaginative design.

As we have tried to express over the past several months, your current design is quite ordinary and lacks the creativity of contemporary playgrounds and a theme unique to Venice. We would hate to have fiberglass climbing elements when natural materials are possible. Swings are always wonderful but not with surfboards blocking access. Two stationary boats seem like missed opportunities. Shade was so beautifully integrated into the original design; not so much here. Ordinary is the best description I can give for this current design.

Your budget allows for the OFW Playground to be something that my son, and visitors from around the world, including those with limited access, will write home about.

Let's make it every bit as talked about as the Skate Park, Muscle Beach, the Boardwalk performers and our beautiful Venice Beach coastline.

Sincerely,

Gia Quiroga



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Rancho Park Clubhouse

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 12:16 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 Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 12:06 PM John Given wrote:

At the end of October the City made a difficult decision take over the financing and construction of the stalled Rancho Park Clubhouse. It is understood RAP must mobilize a project management team simply to go organize bid documents, go to bid and select contractors. It is now time to expect answers: What sort of timeline with milestones can we expect from this point forward, including: having bid documents ready, going to bid, final cost and funding, selection of contractors and start of construction? Can construction start in March, 2024 and be completed before the end of the year? When will a partnership be formalized with a restaurant operator so that restaurant and clubhouse operational plan and design can be incorporated into the build-out, allowing the restaurant to open as the construction is completed? And, in the meantime, what is being done to shore up the level of temporary food and beverage service?

The urgency behind these questions and desire for accountability and transparency is understandable under any circumstance. But imagine the perspective of hundreds of thousands of golfers annually and the surrounding community that has also seen the Clubhouse as a meeting place. We are coming up on six years since the clubhouse and restaurant closed. Rancho Park Golf Course, among the busiest in the country, has two single stall bathrooms, two outhouses and a bare bones food and beverage service from a food truck. We enter and exit thru a single file pathway. The corner of Patricia and Pico is a high traffic activity hub from sun up to 9PM that operates around a missing middle. Mistakes were made in the original scoping and financing plan. Circumstances beginning with Covid delayed and then radically changed the cost structure. It is now time to get it done. Finishing the project and opening before the end of the 2025 is a wonderful dream. Let's make it a reality.

Sincerely,

John Given
Golf Advisory Committee, Rancho Park Representative



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Item 24-278

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 18, 2024 at 12:23 PM

Good afternoon,

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

On Wed, Dec 18, 2024 at 11:59 AM Taj Sullivan

wrote:

Dear Board of Commissioners

Please know that the shared goal is for the success and long-term sustainability of the LAEC, so it can continue as an Equestrian Center / event space for years to come.

It is understood this meeting is to vote on the proposed board increase but without looking at the facility holistically, how can a decision be made? The decisions about the board increase should not be made in isolation. The LAEC's success as an equestrian center and event space requires a comprehensive strategy that looks at the entire facility, not just individual components like boarding fees.

The **board of commissioners** needs to understand the full scope of the facility's financials, including event revenue, marketing efforts, and the role of ASM Global in managing operations, expenses, and promotions.

Revenue and expenses need to be itemized to see a complete financial picture. Particularly with regard to what is considered boarding expenses (e.g. manure disposal, shavings allocation, labor - for horse shows & polo should be a percentage - everything is being lumped into the boarder bucket) and capital expenditures - audit needed

All I am really asking is that you please look at the venue in its entirety and request a strategic plan that details what the playbook is for marketing and promotions of the facility. If this already exists then what is happening?

Thank you,

Taj Sullivan



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: GPAB Letter - Forest Lawn Drive

1 message

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

Fri, Dec 20, 2024 at 8:52 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 Thu, Dec 19, 2024 at 10:16 AM Alex Crow

wrote:

Good morning, RAP Commission. As the Chair of GPAB, I wanted to provide our board's support for the Forest Lawn Safety and Mobility Project led by Council District 4 and LADOT. Please see our letter in regards to this matter attached.

Many thanks,
Alex Crow
Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board



Griffith Park Advisory Board

Community Stewards of LA's Largest Park & Great Urban Wilderness

Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles

www.laparks.org/griffithpark/advisory

December 16th, 2024

Dear Commissioners,

We, the members of the Griffith Park Advisory Board, write to you as a committee whose purpose is to provide advice and oversight on matters affecting our city's largest and most visited park. As such, we urge you to support the Forest Lawn Safety and Mobility Project proposed by LADOT and Council District 4. It is our belief that this initiative, as currently envisioned, will make the park a more welcoming place for visitors, limit cut-through automobile traffic, and expand access to the park by way of alternative transport — all goals outlined by our guiding document, *A Vision for Griffith Park*.

Specifically, the project objectives seek to

- Improve traffic safety and reduce frequency and severity of collisions
- Encourage safe speeds by reconfiguring roadway, including adding a center turn lane
- Upgrade existing bike lanes to encourage ridership through more comfortable bike infrastructure
- Improve bike connectivity to future projects like the LA River Path Project, Zoo Drive Bike lanes, and DWP Headworks Project.

While this particular stretch of Forest Lawn Drive is not managed by RAP, it is a primary artery linking Griffith Park to greater Los Angeles. Therefore, it is of great interest to park users. While the research provided by LADOT and CD4 regarding this project was extensive, we submit our recommendation with the caveat that the results of the undertaking should be assessed no more than 1 year after the plans have been effectuated.

Many thanks,

Alex Crow

Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

cc: RAP: Jimmy Kim; Matthew Rudnick; Brenda Aguirre; Stefanie Smith; Tracy James; CD4: Mehmet Berker, Jennifer Hull, LADOT

BOARD MEMBERS: Chair – Alex Crow; Vice Chair – Alex Phillips; Secretary – Jane Carlson; Aaron Chung; Jason Greenwald; Billy Griffin; Amy Gustinic, T. Hagans; Chris Laib



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

RE: Dorothy and Benjamin Smith Park- Concerned Citizens

1 message

Sterman, Michael

Thu, Dec 19, 2024 at 2:56 PM

To: Anais Gonzalez <anais.gonzalez@lacity.org>

Cc: Fred Sterman , Hector Vega <hector.vega@lacity.org>, Kylie Jansen <kylie.jansen@lacity.org>, Patrick Mooney <patrick.mooney@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Stacey "councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org" <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, "joe.losorelli@lacity.org" <joe.losorelli@lacity.org>

Thank you. What would the potential changes be?

Michael Sterman*Senior Vice President Investments**Director, Multi Housing Division***Marcus & Millichap**

From: Anais Gonzalez <anais.gonzalez@lacity.org>

Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2024 2:30 PM

To: Sterman, Michael

Cc: Fred Sterman ; Hector Vega <hector.vega@lacity.org>; Kylie Jansen <kylie.jansen@lacity.org>; Patrick Mooney <patrick.mooney@lacity.org>; Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>; Stacey councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org; joe.losorelli@lacity.org

Subject: Re: Dorothy and Benjamin Smith Park- Concerned Citizens

Hi Michael

Thanks. I have not been able to reach out because I have been

Rec and Park, mentioned to us about potential changes to this park.

We will have a community meeting to hear about the community concerns and see what changes the community would like to see that way we can tell Rec and Parks.

CD-4 will be as well in this meeting.

I have not made the flyer just yet goal is to get it done by sometime next week.

But the community meeting will be on January 16 at 5:30 at our Hollywood conference room. [6501 fountain ave.](#)

Thank you!

All the best,

Anais Gonzalez

Anais Gonzalez

Senior Field Deputy - Hollywood Office:
213-207-3023 Cell: 213-886-4299

Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez City of Los Angeles

On Thu, Dec 19, 2024 at 2:07 PM Sterman, Michael

wrote:

Please take a look at the below petition. No response from the council member.

https://www.change.org/p/petition-to-fence-and-gate-dorothy-benjamin-smith-park-located-at-7020-franklin-ave-c16bffa6-1b32-44af-86ff-e2d0a49ad23a?recruiter=1307544970&utm_campaign=signature_receipt&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=share_petition

Michael Sterman

Senior Vice President Investments

Director, Multi Housing Division

Marcus & Millichap



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Dorothy and Benjamin Smith Park- Concerned Citizens

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "Stermen, Michael"

Fri, Dec 6, 2024 at 11:26 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, Dec 6, 2024 at 9:51 AM Stermen, Michael

wrote:

Also in addition to the below, please see attached. The transients are cutting the fence from the outside to access the walkways in our building to do drugs and are trespassing. We would like the city to come out and fix this for us and create something more secure. Please advise

Michael Stermen

Senior Vice President Investments

Director, Multi Housing Division

Marcus & Millichap

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From: Sterman, Michael
Sent: Friday, December 6, 2024 9:23 AM
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
Cc: Anais Gonzalez <anais.gonzalez@lacity.org>; Kylie Jansen <kylie.jansen@lacity.org>; Hector Vega <hector.vega@lacity.org>; Patrick Mooney <patrick.mooney@lacity.org>; Fred Sterman <fred.sterman@lacity.org>; Stacey <stacey@lacity.org>; councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org; joe.losorelli@lacity.org
Subject: RE: Dorothy and Benjamin Smith Park- Concerned Citizens

Hello following up on this again. Yesterday we had a group of transients from the park sitting in front of our building at making threats to our tenants walking in and out of the building and smoking crack. The cops were called and did not show up. How do we get this park fenced? Have there been any discussion with your group about what to do with this park? The neighborhood does not feel safe with this free for all in the park. Please let me know how we can take this to the next level. Nothing good will ever arise out of the park the way it is as no sane individual would go there in the condition that it is in and the crowd that it attracts

Michael Sterman

Senior Vice President Investments

Director, Multi Housing Division

Marcus & Millichap

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From: Sterman, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 11:10 AM
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
Cc: Anais Gonzalez <anais.gonzalez@lacity.org>; Kylie Jansen <kylie.jansen@lacity.org>; Hector Vega <hector.vega@lacity.org>; Patrick Mooney <patrick.mooney@lacity.org>; Fred Sterman <fred.sterman@lacity.org>; Stacey <stacey@lacity.org>; councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org; joe.losorelli@lacity.org
Subject: RE: Dorothy and Benjamin Smith Park- Concerned Citizens

Hello following up on this again. Will anyone respond here?

Michael Sterman

Senior Vice President Investments

Director, Multi Housing Division

Marcus & Millichap

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From: Sterman, Michael

Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 10:50 AM

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

Cc: Anais Gonzalez <anais.gonzalez@lacity.org>; Kylie Jansen <kylie.jansen@lacity.org>; Hector Vega <hector.vega@lacity.org>; Patrick Mooney <patrick.mooney@lacity.org>; Fred Sterman <fred.sterman@lacity.org>; Stacey <stacey.soto-martinez@lacity.org>;

joe.losorelli@lacity.org

Subject: RE: Dorothy and Benjamin Smith Park- Concerned Citizens

Again following up on this. We have groups of transients in front of our building at 1784 N Sycamore Ave that are overflowing from the park and the Inside Safe residence across the street at 7047 Franklin. They sit in front of our building doing drugs and scaring our tenants. We have tenants that are not able to leave the building because they are scared for their well being.

Is anyone going to do anything about this? Why is having this open air drug facility (the park) more important than the safety and well being of tax paying citizens. Who can I talk to to get this matter escalated? There is no purpose for this park until something permanent can be figured out.

Michael Sterman

Senior Vice President Investments

Director, Multi Housing Division

Marcus & Millichap

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From: Sterman, Michael

Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 3:52 PM

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

Cc: Anais Gonzalez <anais.gonzalez@lacity.org>; Kylie Jansen <kylie.jansen@lacity.org>; Hector Vega <hector.vega@lacity.org>; Patrick Mooney <patrick.mooney@lacity.org>; Fred Sterman

; Stacey ; councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org;
joe.losorelli@lacity.org

Subject: RE: Dorothy and Benjamin Smith Park- Concerned Citizens

Following up on the below email. The petition is now at 222. Please take a look at the comments of the concerned citizens

<https://www.change.org/p/petition-to-fence-and-gate-dorothy-benjamin-smith-park-located-at-7020-franklin-ave-c16bffa6-1b32-44af-86ff-e2d0a49ad23a>

Michael Sterman

Senior Vice President Investments

Director, Multi Housing Division

Marcus & Millichap

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From: Sterman, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 11:09 AM
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
Cc: Anais Gonzalez <anais.gonzalez@lacity.org>; Kylie Jansen <kylie.jansen@lacity.org>; Hector Vega <hector.vega@lacity.org>; Patrick Mooney <patrick.mooney@lacity.org>; Fred Sterman <fsterman@lacity.org>; Stacey <stacey@lacity.org>; councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org; joe.losorelli@lacity.org
Subject: RE: Dorothy and Benjamin Smith Park- Concerned Citizens

Thank you for your email. You mention a few facts here:

1. There are many unhoused individuals who frequent the park and stay overnight
 - a. Per an additional email below “Yes, lots of vandalism and illegal activity at the park. “
2. A resident was concerned regarding the safety of the park as it has been overtaken by the unhoused
3. Maintenance staff will do their best with “limited staff”

“Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.” – Albert Einstein

You are acknowledging that the city is doing everything it can with its “limited staff” and clearly it is not producing any results. LAPD, 311, and other city services come to the park to tell the unhoused to leave or stop doing drugs only for the cycle to continue the next day. Why waste the city’s valuable and limited resources over and over again on something that is not working? Per the resident you mentioned, the unhoused have taken over the park meaning that other residents are not using it. Since the park is no longer used for a recreational park, it seems that the most logical solution is to do something that was already done before and WORKED. The park should be fenced which will prevent many of the residents in the area from fear of walking their pets down the road or even taking a stroll down the street. No longer will the unhoused have a safe haven to blast music and do drugs in the park (most of them are coming from the Inside Safe residence across the street at 7047 Franklin) . Most importantly, the city will no longer be wasting time and money on something that doesn’t work! The fence is a one time fixed cost that solves all problems! This park is not used any longer by the normal citizens of this community so what is the purpose of keeping it available? There is no more use for this park and it should be fenced, it is a win win for every normal and functioning person in society.

Please let me know what has to be done to make this happen.

Michael Sterman

Senior Vice President Investments

Director, Multi Housing Division

Marcus & Millichap

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From: rosa.cartagena@lacity.org <rosa.cartagena@lacity.org> **On Behalf Of** Rap Commissioners

Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 9:55 AM

To: Sterman, Michael

Subject: Re: Dorothy and Benjamin Smith Park- Concerned Citizens

Good Morning,

Please see response from staff:

Yes, there are many unhoused individuals who frequent the park and at times stay overnight. A concerned neighbor was in contact with our Metro Maintenance Principal yesterday and expressed concerns regarding safety as the park is overtaken by the unhoused. The concerned neighbor stated he has reached out to many agencies including the council office.

Maintenance staff and the HRST team will continue to do our best to keep the park in presentable conditions with limited staff.

The most important component is enforcement. +[Joe Losorelli](#) for awareness and coordination with LAPD SLO for the area.

On Mon, Aug 19, 2024 at 8:37 AM Sterman, Michael

wrote:

Following up on the below. I just drove by the park again and there are various groups of transients loitering in the park clearly doing drugs. There has to be something we can do. Please let me know who I can discuss with

Michael Sterman

Senior Vice President Investments

Director, Multi Housing Division

Marcus & Millichap

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On Aug 7, 2024, at 10:14 AM, Sterman, Michael

wrote:

Please see below link to petition to fence the park

<https://www.change.org/p/petition-to-fence-and-gate-dorothy-benjamin-smith-park-located-at-7020-franklin-ave-c16bffa6-1b32-44af-86ff-e2d0a49ad23a>

Residents do not feel safe to use the park so what is the point of it if it just houses illegal activity and an eye sore? It was fenced previously how do we do this again until the city can figure out a solution to prevent vandalism and illegal activity? It would seem to me that the most cost effective solution would be to fence the park rather than keep sending staff and spending city resources to have someone come to the park to try and alleviate the issue, only for the next day to have all the same issues happen again.

Is there anyone on the board that I can have a phone call with to discuss this further? This park is not a public asset or resource. It is a liability and it is only a matter of time before something happens there. Please let me know how we can discuss further

Michael Sterman

Senior Vice President Investments

Director, Multi Housing Division

From: rosa.cartagena@lacity.org <rosa.cartagena@lacity.org> **On Behalf Of** Rap Commissioners
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 8:37 AM
To: Sterman, Michael
Subject: Re: Dorothy and Benjamin Smith Park- Concerned Ci zens

Good Morning,

Please see the responses from the staffs:

I had staff check for encampments in the park today, and none were reported. The last encampment removal was on 7/10/24.

Yes, lots of vandalism and illegal activity at the park.

Definitely a challenge for staff to keep up, but nonetheless, Construction Div. and Maintenance Op. Will continue to do their best.

On Tue, Aug 6, 2024 at 4:57 PM Sterman, Michael

wrote:

Hello I am following up on the below

Michael Sterman

Senior Vice President Investments

Director, Multi Housing Division

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On Jul 31, 2024, at 9:02 AM, Sterman, Michael <
wrote:

Dear All,

I am copying members from the Office of Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez that I have been in communication with as well as the commissioners of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

I hope all is well with you. I am contacting you regarding the Dorothy and Benjamin Smith park. This park has been a constant nuisance ever since the fence was removed and before the fence was put up. The park attracts numerous transients that use the park for drug use, camping, and various other activities that prevent it from being a resource for the community members to enjoy. Without constant supervision, this park will ultimately end up the same way it was prior to the park being fenced (it is already getting close to that point).

This park is no longer a park. All of the vegetation is brown, all the trees and walls surrounding the park have been graffiti tagged, and every day tens of transients from the project room key across the street use this park to circle up and do drugs, play loud music, act erratically towards anyone that enters the park, and on numbers cases have threatened members of the community for being in the park. When you call LAPD it takes them 2 days to come out and the CIRCLE team will temporarily ask them to leave for the people to either leave and come right back or just say no. What is the point of this park if it is a constant eye sore and just used for illegal activities? The park should be fenced again until the city departments can figure out a better use for it as it is clear that the city services cannot prevent the above mentioned issues with its current use. Countless community members are too scared to use the park and there are countless vacancies for buildings in the immediate area due to the growing problem. No one wants to live next to a park like this that will eventually turn into a large encampment again.

Another petition has been started to fence this park by community members living in the area. There has to be a solution as the current one is not working. I encourage you all to drive by the park and take a look for yourselves. There has to be a better way. The police and CIRCLE teams just tell the unhoused to move out of the park only for them to return hours later. It is a bandaid fix to an everlasting problem.

See below link

<https://www.change.org/p/petition-to-fence-and-gate-dorothy-benjamin-smith-park-located-at-7020-franklin-ave-c16bffa6-1b32-44af-86ff-e2d0a49ad23a>

Thank you for your time

Michael Sterman

Senior Vice President Investments

Director, Multi Housing Division



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: North Hollywood tennis courts

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 24, 2024 at 8:20 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, Dec 23, 2024 at 6:53 AM Domonic Paris

wrote:

There are a group of tennis players including myself that play tennis at the courts at Tujunga and Magnolia. I'm writing you in hopes that someone would deal with a myriad of prat these courts. The courts are always full. Which is great but the condo here are awful, the number 2 court can never be used because the sprinklers are not properly aligned and get the court flooded with water and therefore not allow us to use it. A number of nets are broken for over a year now and we take string and whatever to hold it together. There are large divers in the court which we're constantly trying to fill with cement so we don't break our ankles playing. The trees that line the back of the courts cause the courts to stay wet and drop lots of debris. The bathroom is in really bad shape and with the homeless staying in there forever we end up having to urinate behind a tree. It would be great to get someone to address these issues as it seems a number of other parks in the valley have gotten upgrades

Thank you for your time and consideration

Domonic Paris

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Saving tennis

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 21, 2025 at 7:57 AM

To: valter waldemar

Good morning,

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

On Sun, Jan 19, 2025 at 11:02 AM valter waldemar

wrote:

| Please save our tennis court, tennis is much more healthy sport Thank you.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Echo Park Lake Cleaning

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 8:36 AM

To: George The Great

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, Jan 27, 2025 at 12:56 PM George The Great

wrote:

Good morning city officials.

We are reporting trash accumulated in the last few weeks in areas of Echo Park Lake. With the right tools, most of the trash is at anyone's reach. We don't need to wait for the general lake clean up in future months.

We hope you see each video and consider sending a person to get at least the trash within 5 yards of the edge of the lake.

We normally see community members cleaning up these areas but it seems that they haven't been able to get to it in the last 3 weeks.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/mQd5eKLicyCVdnpTA>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ZbVAefMawHpNYpS57>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/G8VuBkMHuibxHE8c8>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/X9BZ1P5fdRpE3rNW8>

We appreciate your prompt response to our request.

Tax Payers

Community Members

Park Goers



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Graffiti Touch Up

1 message

Laila Molina <laila.molina@lacity.org>

Wed, Jan 15, 2025 at 2:06 PM

To: George The Great

Cc: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Edwin Canales <edwin.canales@lacity.org>, Alejandra Marroquin <alejandra.marroquin@lacity.org>, Hector Vega <hector.vega@lacity.org>, Javier Moreno <javier.j.moreno@lacity.org>

Thank you for your email, George. I have added the maintenance supervisor as well for his awareness. RAP is doing their best to keep up with graffiti all over the city and we appreciate you flagging these spots. Thank you!

On Mon, Dec 23, 2024 at 2:19 PM George The Great

wrote:

To Anyone Who Could Bring this to a Higher Up's Attention.

We are reporting the very bad job which is done each and every time these rest rooms area is attacked with graffiti at Echo Park Lake.

Painters come and only do a touch up and don't completely cover all the graffiti on the walls. They do not cover any existing graffiti inside the restrooms. The paint they are using do not completely cover the graffiti and most likely won't do a second nor a third coat of paint to fully cover the graffiti. In the video below one can see the below average job they have done. If the park were a private entity, and the workers were not public employees, we would look at a job done more professionally because supervisors would be on top of each job making sure it's done right (accountability).

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/GRbvXZQmesBZL5mE6>

Community Members
Tax Payers
Park Goers



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Graffiti Touch Up

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 24, 2024 at 8:35 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, Dec 23, 2024 at 2:19 PM George The Great

wrote:

To Anyone Who Could Bring this to a Higher Up's Attention.

We are reporting the very bad job which is done each and every time these rest rooms area is attacked with graffiti at Echo Park Lake.

Painters come and only do a touch up and don't completely cover all the graffiti on the walls. They do not cover any existing graffiti inside the restrooms. The paint they are using do not completely cover the graffiti and most likely won't do a second nor a third coat of paint to fully cover the graffiti. In the video below one can see the below average job they have done. If the park were a private entity, and the workers were not public employees, we would look at a job done more professionally because supervisors would be on top of each job making sure it's done right (accountability).

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/GRbvXZQmesBZL5mE6>

Community Members
Tax Payers
Park Goers



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Graffiti on Park Bench Not Removed over 2 Months Now

1 message

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

Thu, Jan 30, 2025 at 10:59 AM

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 6:16 PM George The Great

wrote:

Good morning city officials.

Today we are taking the time to report graffiti on this bench one more time.

Picture #1- 11/26/24 a city worker came to cover graffiti around the kid's playground and restrooms. Some graffiti was covered except for writing on the side of this bench. We brought it to his attention but he refused to do it. We reported it to his supervisor who did nothing about it.

Picture #2- On December 30, 2024, there was new graffiti in the same area. Notice that the graffiti reported on 11/26/24 was still there in addition to profanity on the side of the bench. Should kids be exposed to this type of language in public parks where they go play and learn from what they see in their soundings?

Picture #3- 01/25/25, we visited this area and we were in disbelief when we noticed that graffiti from December was covered but not the graffiti which was there since 11/26/24. How is that possible? How could someone miss that?

It would take under 10 seconds to cover this graffiti but it seems absurd that NOT the painter nor his supervisor have any respect for the kids and the public who wish to have these areas clean for the children. Painted claimed in previous occasion that he had more work to do but not enough time. Yet, he stood around doing nothing for about 30 minutes.

We have reported that.

City officials we would appreciate some accountability in regards to these public employees. We request for graffiti to be completely covered when reported.

We appreciate your support in this important matter.

This picture taken on November 26, 2024



This video/picture was taken on December 30, 2024. Video below.



This picture was taken on January 25, 2025.



Painter who refused to cover the graffiti on the bench 11/26/24

Supervisor who neglected to supervise adequately.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/tZqLc2uhRsoY3C91A>

Tax Payers
Community Members
Park Goers



Re: Complaint on Lady Supervisor at Echo Park Lake

1 message

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

Thu, Jan 2, 2025 at 9:33 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, Jan 2, 2025 at 7:31 AM George The Great

wrote:

Good morning city officials.

We are using this email to make a formal complaint on the lady showing on the video/pic below.

On November 26, 2024 members of the community wanted to report a male painter who failed to cover graffiti in the kids area.

1. As soon as we approached her she blocked the camera because she didn't want to be recovered. That's a violation of the 1st Amendment.
2. She refused to provide her name
3. She lied stating that we were harassing her employees
3. She threatened members of the public with calling the park Rangers
4. She made some calls and there is a possibility that she called the police on a member of the public for no crime committed.
5. She failed to properly supervise park employees who stood around for 30 minutes or more doing nothing. We see this often.
6. As a supervisor, she should have advised a park employee to stop when he engaged with us and called us childish and told us to grow up.

The videos below are proof of our interaction with public employees who felt harassed for simply asking them questions and documenting our interactions with them.

We are glad that when LAPD arrived, everything was cleared out and they did not escalate the situation.

Up until December 22 the graffiti on the bench was still there.

The painters do a below average jobs each and every time they come to the park to cover up graffiti.

City Officials, we hope one or some of you take our complaint seriously and address the issues with park employees and their supervisors.

We look for for a cleaner park and accountability for all public employees.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/6xX74iBjWLth9viX9>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/t6if31fMiCynvVG57>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/YzXJFTzVspPao6jf7>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Rw49WVyDHAcAaJ1s9>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/oUfs8zCGLcnXnPoPA>

Trash was there at about 8:30 am and it was still there 2 hours later when we left.



Complaint on Lady Supervisor



Graffiti on bench not covered on November 26. Weeks later the graffiti on the bench remained.





Re: Complaint on Male Echo Park Lake Supervisor

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 31, 2024 at 11:28 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, Dec 30, 2024 at 10:57 AM George The Great
Good morning city officials.

wrote:

This email serves as a formal complaint on an unknown, Echo Park Lake Supervisor shown on the picture/video below.

On November 26, 2024, we observed a city employee covering graffiti in the kid's playground area. We had reported this and other graffiti in the restroom area about two days prior. When the painter put away all of his tools in the city van, we noticed that there was still some graffiti on a bench. We called it to his attention and his answer was that he was done and that he had more work to do and not enough time. He added that were were nobody to tell him what to do. He got defensive and started recording a member of the public. We attempted to report him to a lady supervisor whom alleged that we were harassing her employees. They called the police. The police came and left with no further issues. Soon, another male supervisor came and we reported to him the fact that the painter did not want to properly paint the graffiti. The supervisor got defensive as well and threatened a member of the public to call the cops for simply asking him questions and recording the interaction. The graffiti on the bench we pointed out it's still there as of today December 30, 2024. Please view the videos attached.

Our complaint is as follows;

Fail to properly supervise to make sure each and every job is done properly.

Refusing to provide his name.

Allowing the people he supervises to stand around doing nothing while there is graffiti neglected and up to this day, not covered since Nov 26.

Making a threat to call the cops if the member of the public doesn't stop asking questions and or recording.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/A7Lri7AoeyAhi28i8>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/b68x6wAoyAwSupBs5>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/uHGQHd6Atr4PGvG99>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/KX54Q14zbPqE5QJF8>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/b6ECYAieg1CmiVnd9>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/zTqbNSF3vHgPNvRc6>

We look forward for answers regarding our complaint.









Community Members
Tax Payers
Park Goers



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

**Re: Ledgewood / Mulholland / Please close Hollywood land Re: Lake Hollywood
Re: LA Govt Criminal negligence | FIRE | Hollywoodland / Lake Hollywood**

1 message

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

Fri, Jan 31, 2025 at 8:13 AM

Good morning,

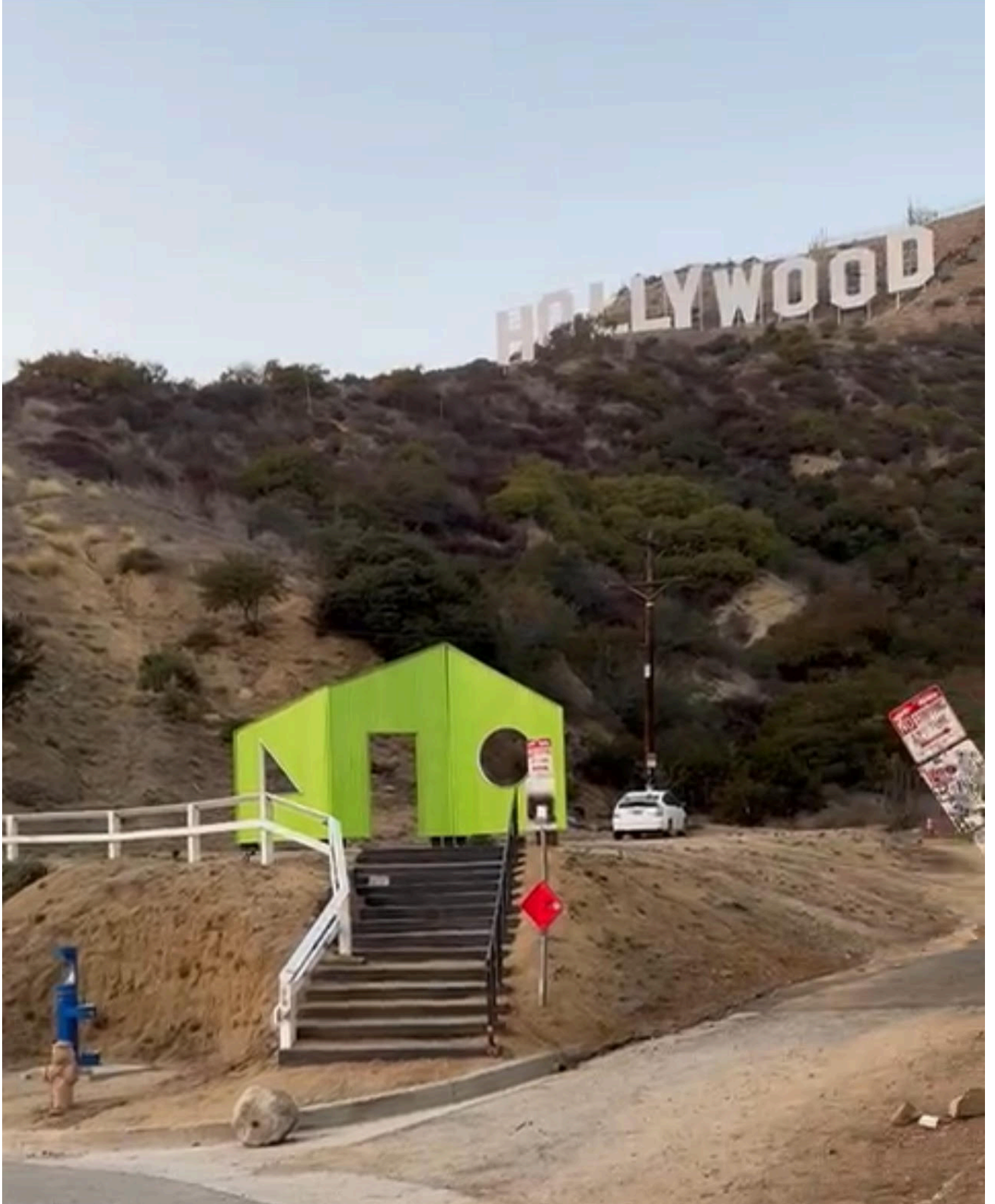
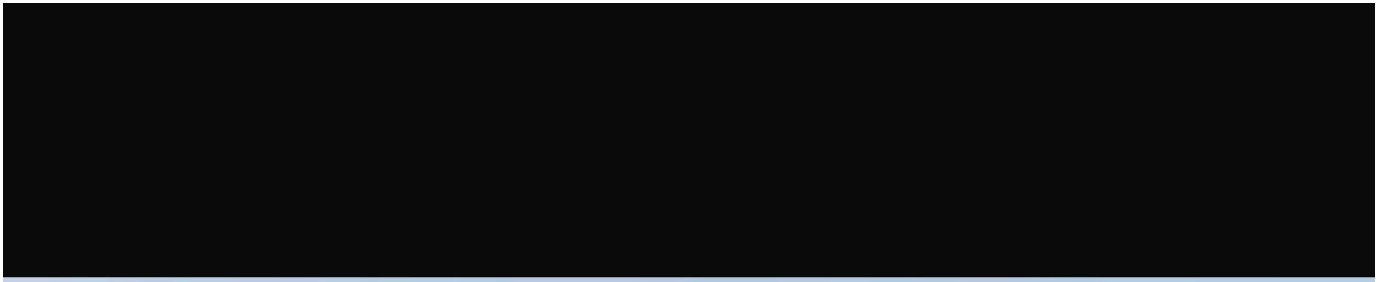
Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Thu, Jan 30, 2025 at 5:22 PM James MA Williams

wrote:

People are just parked up there under the sign... and have driven over the chains.





On Thu, Jan 30, 2025 at 17:11 James MA Williams
Hi Nithya and team,

wrote:

On Ledgewood and mulholland the barriers were removed along with cones by city officials.

The community has to self police against the traffic and the smoking and the food vendors - and we constant ask for protection.

Now you remove things rather than add.

Cars are driving the whole way to the top of mulholland. It's out of control.

What is the course of action?





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Red flag Tuesday / Please close Hollywood land Re: Lake Hollywood Re: LA Govt Criminal negligence | FIRE | Hollywoodland / Lake Hollywood

1 message

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

Tue, Jan 21, 2025 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 Mon, Jan 20, 2025 at 10:45 AM James MA Williams

wrote:

Thank you.

We have noticed DOT understaffing and intense tourist traffic over weekend..

Now we are having to police the streets ourselves as tourists are arriving.

What is going on with your organization and understanding of safety even in emergency?

If anything happens the paper trails across threads is damning. We couldn't warn any more.

James

On Sun, Jan 19, 2025 at 11:31 Helene Rotolo <helene.rotolo@lacity.org> wrote:

James -

I am no longer with the CD4 team. Looping in some folks who are and can offer assistance with this issue.

Thanks

Helene Rotolo
Deputy Chief of Staff
Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez
Council District 1
Sent from my phone

On Sun, Jan 19, 2025 at 10:21 AM James MA Williams

wrote:

Hi Nithya and team,

Please ensure lake Hollywood, Durand and mullholland and Beachwood are policed and closed off during the red flag on Tuesday.

This is a picture of Mulholland and Ledgewood on a red flag day - cars parked in the middle of the road and many tourists.



On Fri, Dec 27, 2024 at 17:01 James MA Williams
On Christmas Eve -

wrote:

my car was vandalized by a tour guide who punched my wing mirror when I beeped him for standing in the middle of the road telling his 20+ illegal tour to come and have a group photo in the center of Beachwood Drive.

Last week my Neighbour had a flick knife drawn on him by a driver in his car at the top of Ledgewood when he asked the driver to move his car from outside his garage.

What is going on?? Why does NO ONE reply to these emails or seem to care?

J

On Mon, Dec 23, 2024 at 14:06 James MA Williams

wrote:

The neighbourhood is a nightmare today.
Totally unsafe.

Something terrible is going to happen here and the councils negligence will be clear to see.

On Fri, Sep 6, 2024 at 14:49 James MA Williams
Good afternoon,

wrote:

It is over 100 degrees and the fire danger is critical.

I actually missed getting the photo but **a fire truck has been stuck at the top of Ledgewood** where it refills with water for 15 minutes because of tourist traffic and parking.

This is dangerous. Consider this as a notification and record of the negligence LA city has for this concern.



On Tue, Aug 27, 2024 at 16:18 James MA Williams
Good Afternoon Mayor and Nithya,

wrote:

I have experienced in the last 2 years a ramp up of tourist activity in Beachwood, Hollywoodland and Hollywood Lake that is dangerous. Now we see the Hollywood sign promoted by the Olympics. You need to come up here and experience the chaos. This will end in disaster I assure you. Ignoring this unfolding situation is criminal negligence with no question.

Reports of 40k cars in 2 weeks at Lake Hollywood
Tourists being hit by cars
Tourists smoking
Armies of tourists in the middle of the road with no pathways
No police management
Little parking management

Add to that there is a **fire report** which has designated this area at high imminent risk which has been ignored by this group - which I read about on NBC 4. Also the Hollywoodland HHA have reported this with apparently no action - i found their notes.

PLEASE DO SOMETHING.

MASSIVE FIRE REPORT

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/investigations/los-angelesneighbors-near-hollywood-sign-say-2028-olympic-tourists-could-cause-massive-fire/3477099/>

NOTIFICATION OF ISSUES

https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2023/23-0721_PC_PM_08-29-2023.pdf

Thank you for your attention.

James



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Glassell Park Facility Lights - Sundays

1 message

Bongani M

Mon, Jan 6, 2025 at 11:03 AM

To: Glassell Recreation & Youth Center <glassell.recreationcenter@lacity.org>

Cc: Marc Gross <marc.gross@lacity.org>, Councilmember Hernandez <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, Katie Chan <katie.chan@lacity.org>, Wendy Castro <wendy.castro@lacity.org>, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Thank you so much.

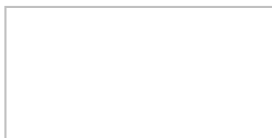
On Mon, Jan 6, 2025 at 9:36 AM Glassell Recreation & Youth Center <glassell.recreationcenter@lacity.org> wrote:

On Mon, Jan 6, 2025 at 9:34 AM Glassell Recreation & Youth Center <glassell.recreationcenter@lacity.org> wrote:

Removing @AP Diaz, as he is no longer with Rec & Parks.

Thank you for the suggestion. I've forwarded your message to my Supervisor, +Marc Gross and he said he'll look into it.

Best regards,



ARLENE CORDOVA | SENIOR RECREATION DIRECTOR
CITY OF LA DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS
GLASSELL RECREATION COMPLEX
[2727 CRESTMOORE PLACE, LOS ANGELES 90065](https://www.laparks.org)
323.341.5681 | [LAPARKS.ORG](https://www.laparks.org)

On Fri, Jan 3, 2025 at 4:23 PM Bongani M

wrote:

Dear Arlene,

Thank you for explaining the current situation with the manual lighting system. While I understand the staffing constraints on Sundays, I wanted to respectfully follow up regarding the significant community need I've observed.

Often on Sunday, even after 5 PM sunset, there are numerous families and residents attempting to use the facilities in the dark, some even using phone flashlights to illuminate the playground, field, and courts. This not only limits community access to these valuable recreational spaces but also raises safety concerns when people attempt to use poorly lit facilities.

I believe there may be automated lighting solutions available that could eliminate the need for manual operation. From my initial research, upgrading to an automated timer system would likely cost between \$200-800 (adding astronomical time switches to existing contactors or a smart control panel to existing switches - both using the existing infrastructure.) This would be a modest one-time investment that would serve thousands of community members throughout the year. Such an upgrade would not only solve the Sunday lighting issue but also free up staff time during the week from the manual task of turning lights on and off, allowing more focus on valuable community engagement and other priorities.

The value to our community would far exceed these minimal costs - you can witness this any evening by observing how many residents utilize these facilities until closing time on the days when lighting is available. This is particularly crucial during winter months when sunset is as early as 4:30 PM. With hundreds of residents using these facilities each week, even a basic upgrade could significantly enhance our community's access to recreation.

Given that this is clearly a needed and used community resource, I would greatly appreciate if you could:

1. Share what type of manual lighting system is currently in place
2. Explore the possibility of upgrading to an automated system
3. Look into the approximate costs of such an upgrade
4. Consider interim solutions that could allow for Sunday evening lighting

I believe finding a way to accommodate evening recreation on Sundays would significantly benefit our community, particularly working families who have limited weekday access. I'm happy to help advocate for any resources needed to implement a solution. And am happy to fundraise if needed if you could help with the above information.

I'm confident that together we can find a way to better serve our community's recreational needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

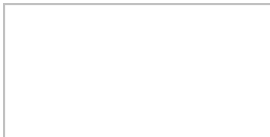
Bongani

On Fri, Jan 3, 2025 at 3:51 PM Glassell Recreation & Youth Center <glassell.recreationcenter@lacity.org> wrote:

Good afternoon, all, and Happy New Year!

The reason the lights aren't turned on, on Sundays, is in fact because the facility is closed and we don't have anyone onsite to turn them on. They operate on a timer that needs to be manually turned on every day. It's not an electronic timer that can be programmed. We apologize for the inconvenience and do welcome you to use all of our outdoor facilities from dusk until dawn on Sundays. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate beyond sunset at this time.

Best regards,



ARLENE CORDOVA | SENIOR RECREATION DIRECTOR
CITY OF LA DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS
GLASSELL RECREATION COMPLEX
[2727 CRESTMOORE PLACE, LOS ANGELES 90065](https://www.laparks.org)
323.341.5681 | [LAPARKS.ORG](https://www.laparks.org)

On Mon, Dec 30, 2024 at 10:15 AM Councilmember Hernandez <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello Bongani,

Thank you for contacting the office of Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez. I am connecting you with [+Katie Chan](#) and [+Wendy Castro](#) who will be able to further assist you and answer any questions.

Best,

--

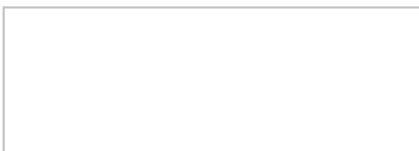
CD1 Representative

Council District 1

City of Los Angeles

213-473-7001

<https://councildistrict1.lacity.gov/>



On Mon, Dec 30, 2024 at 12:31 AM Bongani M

wrote:

Dear Parks and Recreation Department,

I am writing as a local resident to express my concern about the lighting at Glassell Park Recreation Center on Sundays.

While the recreation center itself is closed on Sundays, the outdoor facilities, including the baseball diamond, basketball courts, tennis courts, and multipurpose sports field, are valuable community resources that many residents rely on for weekend recreation.

There were many there's today.

Although the park hours are listed as "dusk till dawn," the lights at these outdoor facilities remain off on Sundays, making them unusable after sunset. As early as 4:30/5pm is already dark at the moment. This significantly limits access for many residents, particularly working families, who often have limited time for outdoor activities during the week and rely on weekends and evening hours for recreation.

I understand that there may be reasons for this policy, and I would appreciate it if you could explain them. If it is a policy decision, I respectfully request that you reconsider it to better serve the community's recreational needs by ensuring that the lights remain on even on Sundays.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Bongani

Happy Holidays, LA Parks and Rec Department!

In 2025, will you please, PLEASE, **PLEASE** consider changing your dog park cleaning schedule?

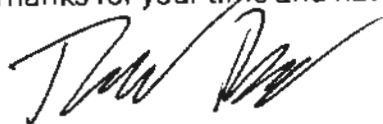
The way it currently stands, you have maintenance workers clean **all the LA Dog Parks at the same time every Tuesday**. Because of this, **between 7am-10am on every Tuesday, there are NO AVAILBLE DOG PARKS IN ALL OF LA COUNTY!**

There is an easy solution to this issue that I implore you to consider: in 2025, please split up the dog park cleanings across two days. **Clean half of the dog parks in LA on Tuesdays and then clean the other half on Wednesdays**. This simple change would allow LA citizens to take their dogs to the park every day of the week and remove the inconvenience of having to find another way to exercise our dogs every Tuesday morning.

I have tried emailing and calling you guys about this issue, but to no avail. I promise you I am not the only person frustrated by this – it negatively impacts countless dog owners every week, and there is a simple solution to make all out lives easier.

Please consider splitting up the dog park cleanings over two days instead of one so that there will always be an available dog park to take our pups to.

Thanks for your time and have a happy New Year!



-Thomas Delfino



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Request for Action Letter from Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

1 message

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

Fri, Jan 3, 2025 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 Thu, Jan 2, 2025 at 12:38 PM Darren Gold
Hello RAP Commissioners.

wrote:

Please see below and attached a letter from the HHPNC regarding York Park in Highland Park (CD14)

December 05, 2024

Councilmember Ysabel Jurado
Los Angeles Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

Via Email

Dear Councilmember Jurado and Los Angeles Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners,

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council (HHPNC) represents over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property or conduct business in the neighborhoods of Highland Park and Garvanza. The HHPNC voted at its General Board meeting held December 05, 2024 to approve this Request for Action Letter

We are writing a Request for Action on behalf of our stakeholders who are concerned residents and frequent visitors to the York Park who have expressed growing apprehension about the lack of toddler friendly playground apparatuses at our beloved community park.

The York Park is a cherished recreational space for our community, particularly families with young infants to eight year olds. However, it is disheartening to observe there are no bucket swings and toddler friendly playground equipment. wear and tear that has accumulated, ranging from damaged play equipment to poorly maintained landscaping.

We understand the various responsibilities that Rec & Parks juggles, but we believe that investing in the improvements of York Park is crucial for the well-being and enjoyment of the residents. A well-maintained park not only enhances the aesthetics of our neighborhood but also contributes significantly to the physical and mental health of the stakeholders.

Here are some specific areas that require attention:

[1] Play Area: Play structures pose safety concerns for young children ages 1 – 5. We request four or more bucket swings and one or two seesaws. The current play structures are for children ages five to 12, but in reality few children over the age of eight use the York Park. Yelp review indicate the York Park is used primarily by children under the age of five.

[2] Metal Rods: There's metal pipe columns that seem to serve no purpose for youngsters. Please remove!

[3] Green Spaces: Please water existing trees to enhance growth, plant two mature shade trees. and landscaping needs scheduled weeding to maintain clean park site. With climate change, every year our community is getting hotter. Unfortunately, the trees at York Park provide little shade.

[4] Safety Hazard: The entrance gate does not close properly. Toddlers could easily run out onto the busy street. It must be fixed.

Thank you,

Darren Gold
HHPNC President



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: PLEASE keep Griffith Park closed this week!

1 message

Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>

Sun, Jan 12, 2025 at 2:18 PM

To: "Mettabel S. Law"

Cc: rap-gpab@lacity.org, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Hello Mettabel,

Griffith Park is closed until Wednesday. Please check our website for the latest updates.

<https://www.laparks.org/>

Brenda D Aguirre
Asst General Manager
City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

On Sun, Jan 12, 2025, 2:07 PM Mettabel S. Law

wrote:

Dear LA City officials,

I am a Los Feliz resident I urge you to **keep Griffith Park closed through January 16** at the very least. High winds are expected to pick back up on Monday, January 13 (see reporting from LA Times at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-01-11/high-winds-low-humidity-expected-to-fuel-fires-through-the-weekend-not-looking-good>). LAFD and CAL Fire resources are stretched incredibly thin. There have already been videos circulating online of people near Griffith Park trying to start brush fires.

Please do everything you can to keep Griffith Park safe during this terrible time. Thank you.

Mettabel Law



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Griffith Park closure

1 message

Gerry Hans

Sun, Jan 12, 2025 at 10:24 AM

To: Nithya Raman <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, RAP Commission <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Dear Jimmy, Brenda, RAP Commissioners, and Councilmember Raman:

Please see below urgent request to not wait to announce a continued closure of Griffith Park.

Respectfully,



Gerry Hans
President

<https://www.friendsofgriffithpark.org/>

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

From: **Gerry Hans**

Date: Sun, Jan 12, 2025 at 9:51 AM

Subject: Griffith Park closure

To: Stefanie Smith <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>, Tracy James <tracy.james@lacity.org>, Matthew Rudnick <matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>, Chief Park Ranger Joe Losorelli <joe.losorelli@lacity.org>, Patrick Joyce <pat.joyce@lacity.org>

Cc: Mehmet Berker <mehmet.berker@lacity.org>, Andrea Conant <andrea.conant@lacity.org>, Jennifer Hull <jennifer.hull@lacity.org>, Mashael Majid <mashael.majid@lacity.org>

Good Sunday morning,

I've been in touch with Stefanie and Tracy regularly regarding Griffith Park's continued closure. Based on feedback FoGP is receiving, there is little doubt the general public has no issue with an extended closure of the Park.

I expect that RAP will come around to announce a closure through Wednesday. However, we would appreciate that it be announced now, not later in the day. Nearby residents are on edge and will be relieved. And recreationists will get word prior to driving to the Park, only if it is announced well in advance! We can certainly help get the word out with a significant reach to Griffith Park patrons, as well as nearby residents.

Yesterday, Park Security and Rangers did a fine job limiting pedestrian access into Griffith Park, considering its significant porosity.

Stay safe,



Gerry Hans
President

<https://www.friendsofgriffithpark.org/>



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fw: Continue the closure of the parks through this fire event...

1 message

Robert Young

Sun, Jan 12, 2025 at 11:03 AM

To: "rap.commissioners@lacity.org" <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Dear Commissioners, We wanted to make sure you saw our below communication to Rec & Parks and the Council Office re: the importance of continuing the parks closure until the end of the current fire emergency.

Thank you.

Bob Young
The Oaks Neighborhood Association

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Robert Young

To: stefanie.smith@lacity.org <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>; Emma Taylor <emma.taylor@lacity.org>; Mehmet Berker <mehmet.berker@lacity.org>

Cc: tracy james <tracy.james@lacity.org>; Nithya Raman <nithya.raman@lacity.org>; J. Anderson <jonathan.anderson@lacity.org>

Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 07:54:43 AM PST

Subject: Continue the closure of the parks through this fire event...

Dear Friends at Council District 4 and at Recreation & Parks, We in the Oaks neighborhood support the continuation of the parks closure until the end of the current fire event. As much as many residents would like to use the parks for recreation, we believe it is important to keep the parks closed **temporarily** both to allow our rangers to assist in firefighting elsewhere and to prevent the accidental starting of fires by careless tourists or visitors.

We hope you will keep the parks closed until mid-week next week, or longer if current fire conditions warrant. Thank you for everything you're doing to keep all Angelinos safe during this extraordinary emergency.

Bob Young
The Oaks Neighborhood Association



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Please Keep Griffith Park Closed

1 message

Debra Matlock

Sun, Jan 12, 2025 at 11:50 AM

To: brenda.aguirre@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@lacity.org, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Nithya.raman@lacity.org

Cc: Amy Gustincic

Donna Kolb

Firstly, thank you all for the work you've been doing during this crisis. We have been so lucky in Los Feliz to keep Griffith Park safe during this terrible time. I know how much the park means to all of us. This is why I am urging you to keep Griffith Park closed until the red flag conditions subside.

The city's resources are stretched so thin that a hiker requiring a rescue or a golfer's cigar getting away from them at this time would be catastrophic. The reports are that GP will reopen Monday. Please reconsider. No one needs to go hiking, golfing or bring their children to the park at this time, especially with the continued poor air quality.

Respectfully,

Debra Matlock

President, LFIA

Advocacy and Action for Los Feliz



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park -- continued closure

1 message

Nithya Raman <nithya.raman@lacity.org>

Sun, Jan 12, 2025 at 11:50 AM

To: Jason Greenwald

Cc: "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, "matthew.rudnick@lacity.org" <matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>, "brenda.aguirre@lacity.org" <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Stefanie Smith <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>, Mehmet Berker <mehmet.berker@lacity.org>, "emma.taylor@lacity.org" <emma.taylor@lacity.org>, "rap.commissioners@lacity.org" <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Dear Jason,

Believe me, this has been my strong recommendation to rec and parks leadership throughout this emergency, and I am grateful for their partnership in making it happen.

Thank you!
Nithya

On Sun, Jan 12, 2025 at 11:11 AM Jason Greenwald

wrote:

Hi Councilmember Raman + RAP team,

I want to thank you all for your leadership during this unprecedented city-wide crisis.

Further, I want to urge your continued leadership in keeping our beloved Griffith Park temporarily closed. As you know, we are under extreme fire-watch conditions through Wednesday, and firefighting efforts ought to remain deployed toward the existing catastrophic fires. I've spoken to many residents and park advocates, and all agree that a continued temporary closure is smart, prudent and potentially life-saving.

Again, thank you all for your leadership, and here's looking forward to better days ahead.

Jason Greenwald



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: CLOSE GRIFFITH PARK DURING RED FLAG!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "J.S. White"

Tue, Jan 21, 2025 at 7:56 AM

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Jan 20, 2025 at 7:21 PM J.S. White wrote:

I love Griffith Park and want to protect it during these devastating fires.

The park needs to CLOSED because fire-fighting resources are way too thin right now.

It is a needless risk to keep it open.

We have already lost too much. We can't lose any of Griffith Park!

Sincerely,
Juliet Snowden



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Air quality/safety concerns

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Jan 16, 2025 at 8:16 AM

To: Mollie Jones

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Jan 14, 2025 at 1:56 PM Mollie Jones

wrote:

Hello,

I am concerned that children are participating in outdoor activities right now through your department. The AQI is not the only measure for the safety of the air. Unfortunately it does not appear to be easy to determine if air in our region is contaminated with toxins like asbestos and lead due to the fires. That information would not be revealed in the AQI reading. Please see this news report below.

<https://abc7.com/post/worried-smoke-southern-california-fires-get-answers-air-quality-questions-here/15797086/>

It would be prudent to suspend outdoor activities for the time being.

Thank you-
Mollie Jones

Sent from my iPhone



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: URGENT RE: Air quality & after-school programs

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Jan 16, 2025 at 8:17 AM

To: Jennifer Mandel

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Jan 15, 2025 at 1:23 PM Jennifer Mandel

wrote:

Hello,

My daughter attends the Bellevue Rec Center after school program. I received a letter yesterday stating that the Department of Parks & Recreation have deemed the air quality acceptable for walking to Bellevue from her school, as well as for playing outside.

This goes against everything we're hearing about the air quality in Los Angeles during and following the current fires. There is toxic and carcinogenic ash and dust free-floating all over the L.A. basin; we are all being urged to wear N95 masks and/or to stay inside and use air filtration as much as possible.

What city do you live in? Certainly not Los Angeles. I will be pulling my child from the after-school program until Parks & Rec takes the health of our children seriously.

Jennifer Mandel



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: \$4.8 Million for Venice Beach Public Restrooms

1 message

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

Thu, Jan 16, 2025 at 8:19 AM

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Jan 15, 2025 at 6:21 PM Suzanne Thompson

wrote:

Matthew:

We hope you can provide some answers to the status of the \$800,000 from Congressman Ted Lieu to LA Recreation and Parks Venice Beach public restrooms renovation project. What is being discussed? What is the plan for existing public art on the exterior walls? What is the plan for Rec and Parks to replace the missing benches on the Ocean Front Walk which include art tiles created and paid for by the Venice Arts Council?

In addition to my Aug. 16, 2023 email to you below , I also attended the LA Rec and Parks Commissioner meeting Feb. 1, 2023, my testament at the Commissioners meeting in link below.

We had hoped to attend the Commissioners meetings but both scheduled for Jan. 2025 but they have been canceled.

May we please hear from you?

Thank you,
Suzanne Thompson
Chair, Venice Arts Council

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

From: **Suzanne Thompson**
Date: Wed, Feb 14, 2024 at 2:07 PM
Subject: Rec and Parks Board of Commissioners meeting Feb. 1, 2024 at Westchester Rec. Center

Audio of the meeting:

laparks.org/sites/default/files/pdf/commissioner/2024/feb01/rap-2-1-24-board-meeting-170512-recording-640360.mp4

Public Comment Begins at 9:09
Suzanne Thompson starts at 25
Bill Attaway starts at 29:50

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

From: **Suzanne Thompson**
Date: Wed, Aug 16, 2023 at 2:27 PM
Subject: Fwd: \$4.8 Million for Venice Beach Public Restrooms
To: matthew.rudnick@lacity.org <matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>
Cc: Emily Winters
Tamie Smith

I am writing on behalf of the Venice Arts Council to inquire about the plans for restoring the public restrooms on Venice Beach.

Our volunteer organization has been working to complete and restore public art on Venice Beach for several years. The Venice Poet's Monument is one of our projects, which is in 4 locations. Three are on the exterior walls along the boardwalk at 17th Street, Horizon and Brooks public restrooms. The main wall is located on the LAPD Substation/RAP office on Venice Beach at the end of Windward. Visit this link for more information: <https://Venicebeachpoetsmonument.wordpress.com>.

We received a grant from DCA to create and install 180 Children's Visual Poetry Tiles, led by long time Venice artist and educator Tami Smith. The tiles are ready to be installed but Recreation and Parks has not given us access to install the tiles. I have been in communication with RAP Supervisor Sonya Young-Jimenez for over a year. She told me we had to secure approval from the RAP Board of Commissioners and the Maintenance Taskforce. I have not received any notification or confirmation of a meeting with this issue on the agenda.

We would greatly appreciate you forwarding information on the proposed Venice Beach public restroom renovations that I just recently heard about, via the Internet on Fox News. I understand Congressman Leiu is requesting funding for this project.

May I please hear from you as soon as possible and to be copied on future communications on this matter.

Thanking you in advance,
Suzanne Thompson, Co-Chair
Venice Arts Council



LOVE THE LADIES
going to
love the ladies
ASL

CAUTION

PUBLIC RESTROOM



THE SIDE





my mind is a radio
since I could sing
the play by play of *Blonde on Blonde*
like it was Eddie Doucette weaving
basketball free throw averages
with a handful of scars

Elysa Maybe

Let us run to the far
corner
puffed a puff
to the sun

the language of the world
is a language of the world
the language of the world
is a language of the world

ARTS ON
WALL
A public art project
commissioned by the
City of Seattle
in 2008





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Community Impact Statement on CF 24-1366: Spring Street Park / Park Security / Downtown Los Angeles / Council District 14 / AB 1290 Fund

1 message

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

Fri, Jan 17, 2025 at 7:50 AM

Good morning,

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

On Thu, Jan 16, 2025 at 5:44 PM Debby Zhou

wrote:

Dear community partners,

At our regular meeting on January 14th, 2025, the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Board of Directors voted to submit a Community Impact Statement in support of CF 24-1366: Spring Street Park / Park Security / Downtown Los Angeles / Council District 14 / AB 1290 Fund. Please see the attached document for said statement.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding our position.

Best Regards,

--

Debby Zhou

VP of Administration / PLUC / Livability Committee Chair

South Park Resident Director

[Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council \(DLANC\)](#) | City of Los Angeles



CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OFFICERS

CLAUDIA OLIVEIRA
PRESIDENT

DEBBY ZHOU
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JENS MIDTHUN
VICE PRESIDENT OF
COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

BELLANAOMI OSTBY
SECRETARY

PABLO FONTOURA
TREASURER



WWW.DLANC.COM

EMAIL: INFO@DLANC.COM

January 14, 2024

Re: Community Impact Statement on CF 24-1366: Spring Street Park / Park Security / Downtown Los Angeles / Council District 14 / AB 1290 Fund

To Whom It May Concern:

At our regular public meeting on January 14, 2024, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) voted to provide the following comments below:

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council submits this Community Impact Statement in **support** of CF 24-1366: Spring Street Park / Park Security / Downtown Los Angeles / Council District 14 / AB 1290 Fund.

Since the construction of Spring Street Park in 2013, Downtown stakeholders have been vocal about the challenges posed by the lack of capital investments to address inefficient designs, maintenance, and security.

Although TFAR funds were established early in the park’s history to provide contract security, various City Council District administrations and the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) have struggled to maintain consistent funding streams given the rise of competing issues—ultimately, funding ran out in 2023 to support this service.

As such daily safety issues at Spring Street Park, including open drug use, lewd behavior, public defecation, vandalism, and fires, severely impair the park’s functionality, appeal, and accessibility in this underserved corner of DTLA. These safety challenges present current challenges to RAP maintenance staff and surrounding residential buildings including instances of violent crimes and break-ins.

In recent community surveys from community-based organizations, Downtown stakeholders overwhelmingly supported the need for addressing security at Spring Street.¹

¹ See the attached survey conducted by the *Spring Street Park Committee* in consultation with the *Spring Street Park Foundation* on October 13, 2024

By funding a dedicated security presence, the City can address safety concerns and restore the park's role as a secure and functional public space for visitors, families, and residents of DTLA. However, it is crucial that these efforts be accompanied by outreach, social services, and improved sanitation for the park's most vulnerable patrons. By meeting the needs of all park users—whether families, pets, or individuals experiencing homelessness—we can create a safe and inclusive environment for all Downtown stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Claudia Oliveira
President,
DLANC



Debby Zhou
Chair,
DLANC Livability Committee

Cc:

Council District 14 (via email)
Department of Recreation and Parks (via email)
Historic Core Business Improvement District (via email)



Spring Street Park Community Survey Results

Conducted by The Rowan Park Committee Oct. 13, 2024

75 Responses

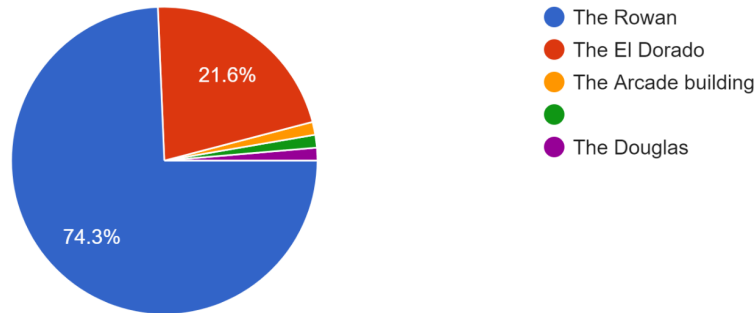
The Spring Street Park community survey was launched to identify key priorities and concerns from The Rowan and El Dorado residents. Results show the top priority within the community is the reinstatement of a security presence to address safety and cleanliness issues. The following pages summarize the survey results and community feedback to help guide future improvements.

Archived Survey:



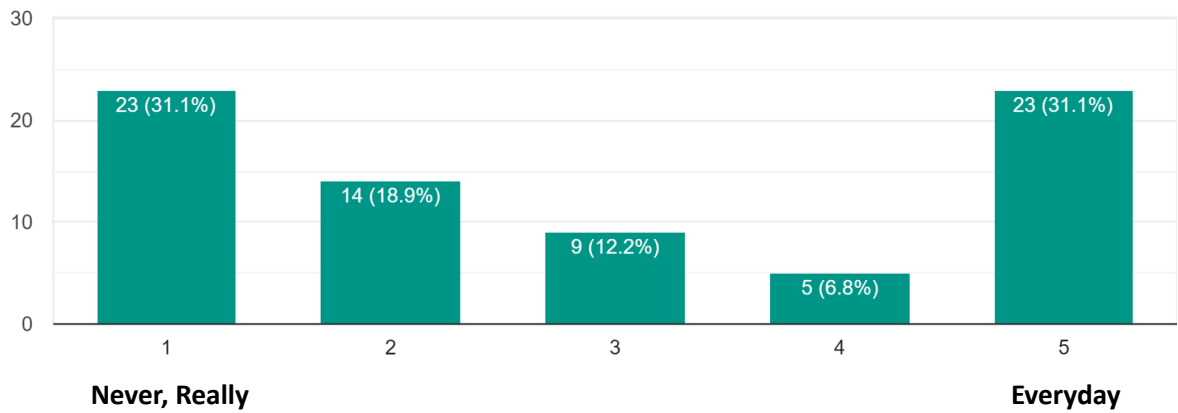
In which building do you reside?

74 responses



How often do you visit Spring Street Park?

74 responses



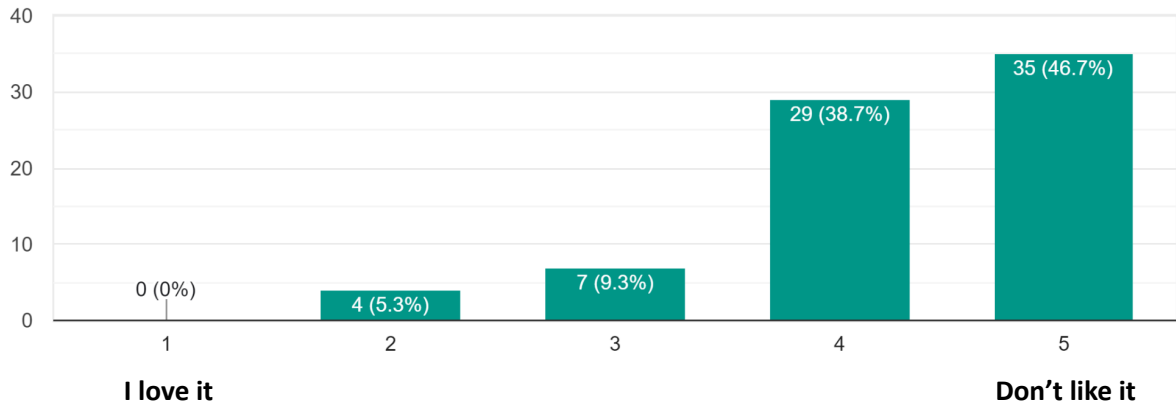
What is your primary reason for visiting the park?

75 responses



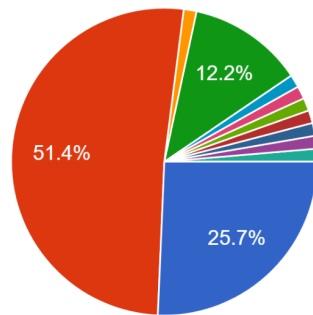
How do you currently feel about the overall condition and atmosphere of the park?

75 responses



FIVE YEAR VISION: In five years' time, I would love to see Spring Street Park...

74 responses

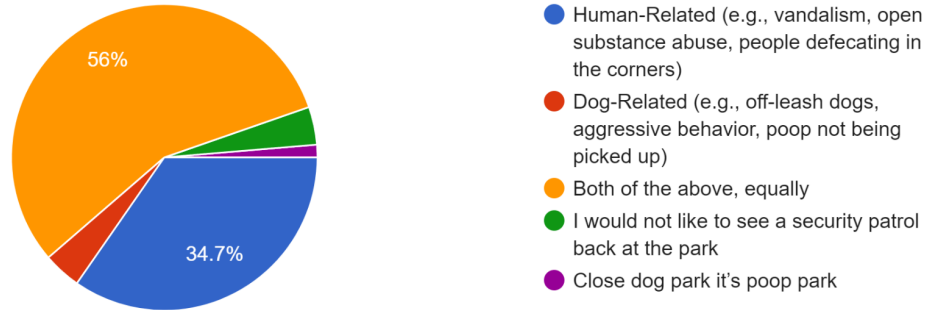


- ...as vibrant, dog-friendly space where...
- ...transformed as a green space, with t...
- ...as a family destination, with the cent...
- ...as a center of creativity, with the cen...
- ...remain more or less as is.
- A combination on all of these.
- For both dogs and families.
- Would love to see a beautiful mobile/p...

▲ 1/2 ▼

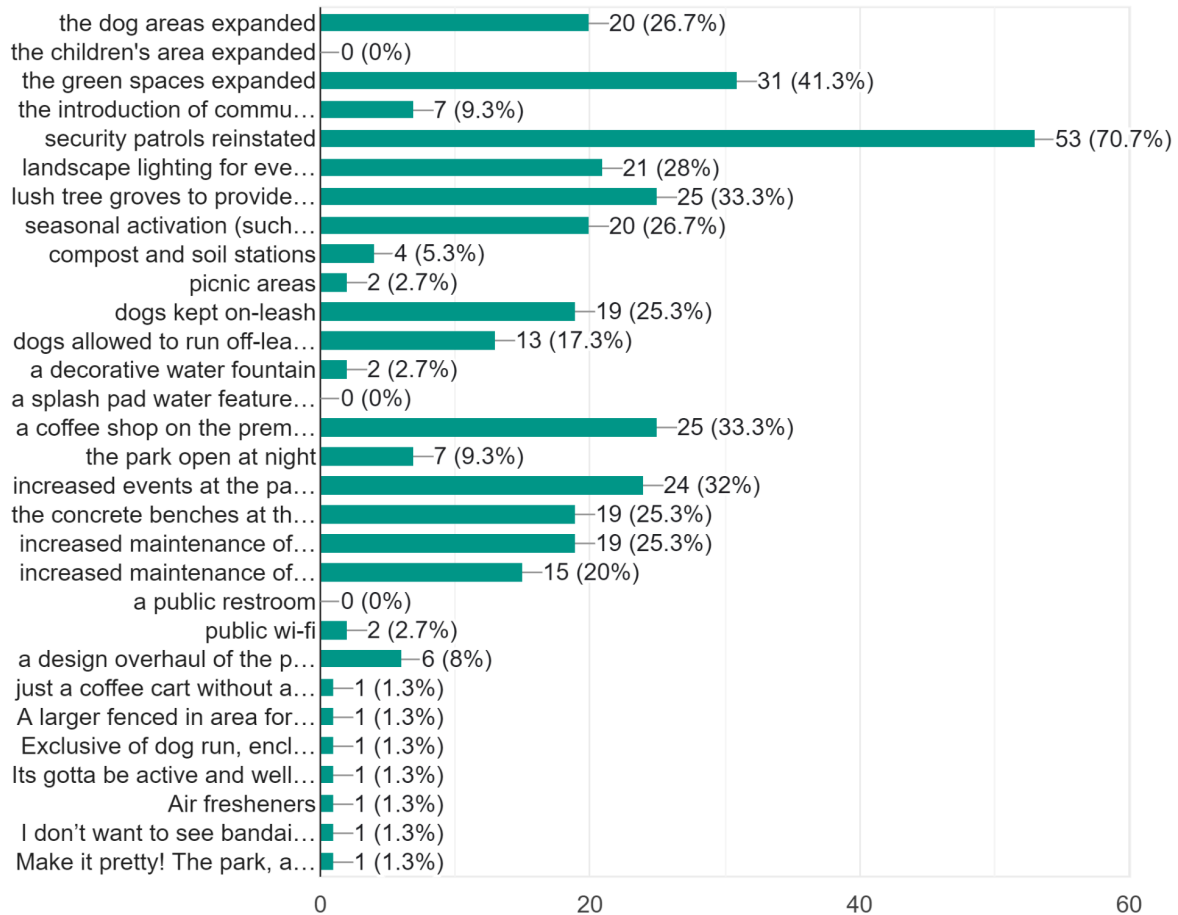
🛡️ If a security patrol were reinstated at Spring Street Park, what specific areas or issues would you like them to focus on?

74 responses



👁️🌳🌟 I would like to see... (choose up to 5)

75 responses



Long-Answer Question:

The once-grassy mound at the heart of the park which is now a dirt mound, what should be done with it in the short term?

Answers Condensed:**1. Grass Solutions**

Many respondents want the space to be revitalized with grass or drought-resistant plants. Some suggest planting hardy vegetation or even using artificial turf to withstand heavy dog use. Others propose temporary installations or fencing to allow grass to regrow or to protect it from dogs.

2. Dog Management

A significant number of responses focus on the impact of dogs. Some suggest banning dogs from the area or creating separate spaces for dogs to run. There's also a call for stricter enforcement of leash laws and fines for not picking up after pets. Fencing, security, and designated dog areas are recurring themes.

3. Landscaping and Redesign

Many suggest rethinking the park's overall design, adding more trees, pathways, benches, and areas that can accommodate both human and on-leash dog traffic. There's also a call for professional landscaping with integrated landscape lighting for night-time ambiance when the park is closed.

4. Temporary and Interim Solutions

While waiting for long-term changes, some respondents propose temporary solutions like installing artificial turf, temporary art displays, or maintaining the current dirt mound until more substantial changes can be made.

5. Maintenance and Cleanliness

Cleanliness is another concern, with several respondents mentioning the need for better maintenance, including cleaning up after dogs and reducing dust and dirt. Some also mention the need for air fresheners or keeping the area clean to improve the overall experience.

Anything else you'd like to share?**1. Security and Cleanliness**

The most frequent concern, with many respondents calling for better security and cleanliness, particularly to address issues like drug use, defecation, and safety. The need for regular patrolling, enforcement of rules, and maintaining the park's environment was emphasized.

2. Park Design and Functionality

There was a strong call for redesigning the park to make it more functional and inviting as a park in the traditional sense. Suggestions included adding trees, shaded areas, seating, landscape lighting at night, and spaces that can accommodate both dogs and people organically. Several respondents also mentioned adding retail or café spaces to activate the park.

3. Dog Management

Several responses mentioned issues with off-leash dogs and dog waste. People either want a

better-managed dog area or are concerned about the safety of having dogs roam freely. The need for fenced or designated areas for dogs was a common theme.

4. **Homelessness and Social Services**

A significant number of respondents expressed concern about homelessness in the park, with suggestions ranging from security enforcement to community outreach and support (e.g., providing water, Narcan, and necessities).

5. **General Support and Encouragement**

Many respondents expressed gratitude for the effort to improve the park and showed excitement for its potential. They appreciate the initiative and are hopeful for positive changes.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Asbestos and Toxic Ash from fires in Children's Sandboxes at Playgrounds and Schools - Known Carcinogens in Sandboxes

1 message

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

Thu, Jan 23, 2025 at 10:07 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, Jan 23, 2025 at 9:50 AM Amanda Miller

wrote:

Hello,

My name is Amanda Miller, I'm a mother of two boys in LA County, a 2-year-old and a 7-month old. I've seen the toxic ash filled with asbestos, lead, arsenic, and other toxins from the burning buildings and houses falling on my house and yard, and I've also seen it falling on the playgrounds at parks and schools.

That means the asbestos filled ash is in all of the sandboxes our small children are currently playing in, running it, digging in, and they are breathing in these cancer causing agents, and they carcinogens are lodging in their lungs, and they're getting on their skin and seeping into their pores.

My nephew's kindergarten, PS1, in Santa Monica closed their sandbox until they can replace the sand, because they realize the dangers. My pediatrician at La Peer Pediatrics agreed that the sand is toxic and I should not allow my sons to play in it.

I am urging the LA County Health Department and all city council members to please take our children's health seriously, and to mandate that all sandboxes - and playgrounds over sand, and playgrounds over wood chips/mulch - be mandated to be closed until they can have the sand and wood chips replaced (with sand/wood chips from areas that did not have ash falling, so that might be 2 hours away or so. I know Long Beach, Newport, Huntington Beach had ash falling as well).

LA County Health Department said we should not use leaf blowers because they recognize the dangers of the ash being kicked up into the air and breathed in, but what about the ash being kicked up in the sandboxes where kids run and dig and play? Our children are currently rolling around in asbestos.

I reached out to my local parks and recreation departments and mayors in my area, and they all said that they are following guidance from LA County Public Health, and at this moment, they've only been told not to use leaf blowers. Even though they are fully aware that our children are currently being poisoned. It's not a question of whether or not there's toxic ash in the sandboxes, it's a fact.

After 911, the governor told citizens that the air was safe to breathe, and hundreds of thousands of people now have chronic health conditions and cancer. Please don't make a decision that gives hundreds of thousands of children in LA County cancer in the next 5-10 years, our children deserve better.

Please mandate that all sandboxes (play areas with sand and wood chips, etc.) be closed until the sand in them can be replaced. Even if it's a monetary concern, I'm sure local parents would pay to have the sand and wood chips replaced themselves if given the opportunity. We just need the city to make a statement to give us that opportunity.

This is a sad and scary time for the city of LA, and I'm so proud to be a part of a city that has so many people helping one another. I've donated new items and money to many donation centers and organizations online to do

what I can to help. I know the focus is on cleaning up and rebuilding the ground zeroes that have been totally destroyed. I just want to make sure we're not missing this very serious, very time sensitive action item, that is crucial for the health and safety of our little children. They can't protect themselves, it is our job to protect them.

This is a photo of my son, Bodhi. Please help me to keep him safe. He is currently being kept inside and away from playgrounds because I can't let him roll around in asbestos.

Thank you for your time and eagerness to help.

Best,
Amanda Miller





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Venice Oceanarium

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 9:00 AM

To: Brian Averill

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Jan 27, 2025 at 3:53 PM Brian Averill

wrote:

|



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 | www.VeniceNC.org



January 27, 2025

By email:

Councilmember.Park@LACity.org RAP.COMMISSIONERS@LACITY.ORG

Re: Creation of Venice Oceanarium

Dear Councilmember Park and RAP Commissioners:

At a regular public meeting of the Board of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) on November 19, 2024 the following motion was approved by a vote of 18-0-2.

The Board of the Venice Neighborhood Council supports the creation of the Venice Oceanarium Pavilion museum, in the place where the historic bait & tackle shop once stood, on the end of the Venice Fishing Pier.

DESCRIPTION: The museum will educate and enlighten the public to the wonders of the sea and ecosystems unique to the Southern California coast. The open concept Pavilion, will house specimens, artifacts, interactive exhibits and our integrative programming, which blends Marine Science and Art through experiential learning. Included is an observation hatch with state of the art water sampling equipment, live reef cam viewing and Citizen Scientist opportunities. See: www.VeniceOceanarium.org/about

Supporting Documents:

<https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting673cc01dab4b1.pdf>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Averill".

Brian Averill

President

Venice Neighborhood Council



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Venice OFW Tile and Mural Restoration

1 message

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

Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 9:01 AM

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Jan 27, 2025 at 3:54 PM Brian Averill

wrote:

|



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 | www.VeniceNC.org



January 27, 2025

By email:

LA Department of Recreation and Parks Commissioners

RAP.COMMISSIONERS@LACITY.ORG

LA Department of Cultural Affairs: felicia.filer@lacity.org tania.picasso@lacity.org

Council District 11: councilmember.Park@LACity.org

Re: Restoration & Completion of Ceramic Tiles & Fish Murals on Ocean Front Walk

Dear Commissioners and Staff of RAP, Cultural Affairs and Councilmember Park:

At a regular public meeting of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Board of Officers on November 19, 2024, the following motion was unanimously approved 19-0-0.

MOTION: The Board of the Venice Neighborhood Council requests that the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Department of Cultural Affairs and City Council District 11 provide funding and permits for the fabrication and installation of replacement and additional new ceramic tiles and fish murals originally commissioned in 2000 by the City of Los Angeles further to the 1997 Venice Beach Refurbishment Project of artists Tamie Smith and William Attaway, for their installation on benches and bathrooms along Ocean Front Walk.

DESCRIPTION: The 22 ceramic tiles created by Smith, installed on benches along Ocean Front Walk, depict historic scenes of Venice. Ceramic fish and related sea creatures murals, installed on bathroom walls, were created by Smith, Attaway and together with children in the artists' project. The project fell short of commissioning the artists to complete the tiles and fishes for all of the bathroom walls. A few tiles need to be replaced. The tiles and ceramic fish murals create a wonderful, continuous artistic public art installation along Los Angeles' most visited tourist destination, Venice Beach.

Sincerely,

Brian Averill

President

Venice Neighborhood Council



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Venice Pagodas Refurbishment and Historical Cultural Monument Nomination

1 message

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

Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 9:02 AM

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Jan 27, 2025 at 3:54 PM Brian Averill

wrote:



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 | www.VeniceNC.org



January 27, 2025

By email:

councilmember.Park@LACity.org RAP.Commissioners@LACity.org

Re: Venice Pagodas: Historic Cultural Monument Nomination & Refurbishment

Dear Councilmember Park and Commissioners:

At a regular public meeting of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Board of Officers November 19, 2024, the following motion was approved 19-0-0.

MOTION: The Board of the Venice Neighborhood Council requests that the City Council District 11 Office move to have the unique and historic Venice Pagodas which line Ocean Front Walk, giving it a continuous artistic and distinctive character, designated Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monuments and, in conjunction with the Department of Recreation and Park, have the pagodas refurbished immediately.

DESCRIPTION: The pagodas are hexagonal umbrellas, originally designed and built in the 1930s as part of the Works Progress Administration. Architectural drawings of the pagodas are included in the 1969 blueprints of the hexagonal Venice Lifeguard Station.

Originally there were 6 sets of pagodas. Five sets, which include 32 wooden umbrellas and seating, were repaired or rebuilt by the Department of Recreation and Parks as part of the 1997 Venice Beach Refurbishment. All pagodas are currently in need of repairs, as was requested by the Venice Neighborhood Council in its April 2022 motion.

The pagodas have been appreciated and referred to as "Landmarks" for decades. Recently, conflicting reports have been given to Venice stakeholders indicating that the pagodas may be at risk of demolition. A stakeholder petition to repair the pagodas immediately garnered over 150 signatures: <https://chnng.it/V2pTSKrykX>

Sincerely,

Brian Averill

President

Venice Neighborhood Council



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Venice Lifeguard Station Repairs

1 message

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

Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 9:02 AM

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Jan 27, 2025 at 3:54 PM Brian Averill

wrote:

|



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 | www.VeniceNC.org



January 27, 2025

By email:

karen.bass@lacity.org hydee.feldsteinsoto@lacity.org tracipark@lacity.org
controller.mejia@lacity.org CHC@LACity.org RAP.COMMISSIONERS@LACITY.ORG

Re: VENICE LIFEGUARD STATION REPAIRS NEEDED

Dear Mayor Bass, Attorney Feldstein-Soto, Controller Mejia, RAP Commissioners and Councilmember Park:

At a regular public meeting of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Board of Officers held on November 19, 2024 the following motion was approved 19-0-0.

The Venice Neighborhood Council requests that Mayor Bass, City Attorney Hydee Feldstein-Soto, City Controller Kenneth Mejia, the Commissioners of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Cultural Heritage Commission, and City Councilmember Park contact LA County Supervisor Lindsay Horvath and all County Supervisors to ask that repairs of our Historic Cultural Monument: the Venice Lifeguard Station, be undertaken, as per the Joint Powers Agreement, immediately, to prevent further deterioration and in preparation for the upcoming 2028 Olympics.

Sincerely,

Brian Averill

President

Venice Neighborhood Council



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Richard Alatorre Pool Heater

1 message

Gary Singer <gary.singer@lacity.org>

Thu, Jan 30, 2025 at 2:35 PM

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

Cc: Maha Yateem <maha.yateem@lacity.org>, Andre Brent <andre.brent@lacity.org>

Hello, thank you for forwarding this email. Staff was aware of the issue and was already in the process of having the heater fixed. Happy to report the pool heater is back up and running.

Thank you again,

Gary

On Thu, Jan 30, 2025 at 1:30 PM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

Please see the email. For your information.

Thank you

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

From: **Bobbie Pearl**

Date: Fri, Jan 24, 2025 at 2:16 PM

Subject: Richard Alatorre Pool Heater

To: jimmy.kim@lacity.org <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, citywide.aquatics@lacity.org <citywide.aquatics@lacity.org>, rap.commissioners@lacity.org <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, elizabeth.benavides-aragon@lacity.org <elizabeth.benavides-aragon@lacity.org>

Hello Jimmy Kim and Elizabeth Benavides-Aragon,

The heater has not been in operation at the Richard Alatorre Pool for the past few weeks. The staff there advised me that they have been sending e-mails and asking for the heater to be fixed. The temperature is dangerously low and in the 60s. I went swimming on Wednesday and was unable to feel my hands, fingers, feet, and toes. According to the World Health Organization, water temperatures should range between 78 to 86 to be considered safe. And according to the National Center for Cold Water Safety, "water between 50-60F can kill you in less than a minute." I implore you to please get the heater at Richard Alatorre Pool fixed as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Bobbie Eng

 City of LA
Department
of Recreation
and Parks
(@LACityParks)
/ X

Gary Singer, MEP

Superintendent, Aquatics and Emergency Management

Recreation and Parks



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Richard Alatorre Pool Heater

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Jan 30, 2025 at 1:26 PM

To: Bobbie Pearl

Good afternoon,

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

On Fri, Jan 24, 2025 at 2:16 PM Bobbie Pearl

wrote:

Hello Jimmy Kim and Elizabeth Benavides-Aragon,

The heater has not been in operation at the Richard Alatorre Pool for the past few weeks. The staff there advised me that they have been sending e-mails and asking for the heater to be fixed. The temperature is dangerously low and in the 60s. I went swimming on Wednesday and was unable to feel my hands, fingers, feet, and toes. According to the World Health Organization, water temperatures should range between 78 to 86 to be considered safe. And according to the National Center for Cold Water Safety, "water between 50-60F can kill you in less than a minute." I implore you to please get the heater at Richard Alatorre Pool fixed as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Bobbie Eng



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Fire Hazard at North Curson Ave Park Entrance

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Jan 30, 2025 at 12:50 PM

To: Rik Graulus

Good afternoon,

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

On Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 3:42 PM Rik Graulus <

wrote:

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm representing our neighborhood regarding a serious fire hazard issue.

At the end of our street, on North Curson Avenue, there is a park entrance which is **not marked or gated**. The entrance gives unobstructed access to the Cactus Canyon Trail which connects with the Runyon Canyon West Ridge Trail (see picture attached). Again, the entrance is **not marked, there are no warning signs and there is no gate**. Hikers use this entrance to enter Runyon Canyon, homeless people use it to set up their camp, negligent and shady people use it as a dump site for litter, stolen car, etc.

In fact, although it is used as a "backdoor" into Runyon Canyon, we have been told that this piece of land is the jurisdiction of Trebek Open Space. We are not sure and this is one of the issues we would like to clarify i.e. who is the authoritative body of this piece of land so we know to who we have to direct our request.

Our request is for the authoritative organization to make this a gated/fenced access point with all the proper access and warning signs. Even today, with all the parks being temporarily closed, people use it because it is wide open and unattended. Recently, because of the Sunset Fire and the park closures, we called LAPD, parks & recs and the Rangers multiple times (because of ongoing issues with hikers, homeless people, etc.) but they can't do anything because there are no signs!

I look forward to hearing back from you ASAP so we can contact the organization responsible for taking the appropriate action. We want to be pro-active before something bad happens!

Best Regards

Rik Graulus



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: La city golf operations—we can do better.

1 message

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

Thu, Jan 30, 2025 at 12:38 PM

Good Afternoon,

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

On Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 6:58 PM Ed Coghlan

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I have never understood why the city of Los Angeles golf operations aren't better. Cities like San Francisco and San Diego far surpass LA's approach in golf course management.

Why?

It would appear because no one cares or cares enough to try and lift the operations into some semblance of the 21st century.

Our courses do receive robust play which perversely may reinforce the neglect. "Hey people keep playing, so what's the pressure to make it better?"

Like it or not, if you don't already know it, you would find that's the perception of golfers throughout our city.

There are some easy fixes!

Course marshals who can aid in pace of play, consistent maintenance (fallen trees, bare spots in the fairways, improved tee box and sand trap conditions et al), and facility updates are little things that simply deserve attention.

If there is a group already working on this issue, please direct this to them.

If there is no such group, you might consider establishing something.

I'm a retired journalist/communications professional so I have time. Count me among those ready to help.

Sincerely,

Ed Coghlan



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Public Comment

1 message

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

Fri, Jan 31, 2025 at 11:23 AM

Good morning,

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

On Thu, Jan 30, 2025 at 5:13 PM Ron Bitzer

wrote:

Dear Sir or Madam, Attached are comments pertaining to the Project Update for the Park Needs Assessment study underway. Ron Bitzer

Proposition K Dollars: A Model for Public Financing of Construction in LA?

January 2025

by Ron Bitzer,

North HollywoodFacing the challenge of rebuilding the capital city of Germany in the aftermath of World War II, Berliners --- mostly women --- created hills with wartime debris in an otherwise flat topography.

Then they planted ground cover and Berliners dedicated a new urban park to “Women of the Rubble.”

Today the voices of how to finance reconstruction in Altadena and Pacific Palisades are many; for example, five Councilmembers advocate for a voter-approved City bond measure in the June 2026 election. Since the City has a three decade history of managing another restricted construction program --- funded with taxpayer dollars approaching \$750 million in total---- City observers point to lessons from that episode.

Urban Parks, Recreation Facilities & Tree Canopy

The passage of Proposition K (Prop K Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities Assessment) by 50.1% of City ballots in the November 1996 election created a citywide (tax) assessment district. Funding will terminate in FY 2027 (June 30, 2027) having generated twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) each year for the acquisition, improvement, construction, and maintenance of City parks, recreation facilities, and other community projects.

In February 2021 City Council moved “... to create a new city-wide assessment district to generate funds ... modeled after the Proposition K program to begin prior to the Proposition K expiration date,” CF 20-1452, February 2, 2021.

In November 2022 voters decisively rejected renewing Prop K; Proposition SP provided for 30 additional years of City revenue at an annual rate nine times the 1986 Prop K rate for a total of \$6.8 billion over the 30 years.

An LA Times editorial --- “It’s the Wrong Way to Fund LA Parks” --- offered suggestions for the City as well as criticisms of Prop SP. Thus far, the City proposes to fund a \$3.9 million needs assessment probably leading to another ballot measure to fund parks.

Public Financing ---Even of a Study --- Without Full City Public Disclosure?

LA Times Editorial 9/28/2022
Excerpts Re: Prop SP

“It’s the Wrong Way to Fund LA’s Parks”

City Proposed Park Needs Assessment
Excerpts

Department of Recreation and Parks - 2025

“It’s a blank check to City Hall that was slapped together at the last minute...”

Draft PNA due in 8 months

“There is a need for more money to keep the city’s parks from falling into ruin ...”

A Decision Making Framework will evaluate present and future recreational needs, RAP Report 24-269, p 2.

“Voters shouldn’t settle for vague promises when they could have a parks tax with guarantees.”

To “provide for the Department’s (RAP) sole and independent consideration documents that evaluate the current and potential future uses and projects,” 24-269, Article 4.1.1.

A City Park Needs Assessment (PNA) could properly present the urgency of additional funding for parks and recreation centers now. Without the need to classify projects as the “sole and independent” property of the City.

The sunseting of the 1986 Prop K ---absent a Prop K 2.0 replacement ---will alone contribute to urgent needs --- some of which are described here.

The City’s Department of Recreation and Parks proposes to study future population trends and therefore future needs in an era when in 2025 (a) the City may be forced now to rely on “down-scoping” already approved projects, (b) local media such as the front page of the *LA Times* maintains reporting from MacArthur Park as a cause Celebre and (c) disinvestment in existing parks continues under questionable City authorities.

Letter to the Editor, *LA Times*, “For every MacArthur Park, there are countless other parks in the city that have similar problems, “ Jason Calizar, *LA Times*, December 25, 2024.

Example: The Recreation and Parks Homeless Related Services Team was recently told, “.... A matter of great importance is negatively affecting Chatsworth Park North ... I have been told that staff and budgets are short, and that is why I propose that we all team together to resolve this problem ... and to also clear, clean and remove the public

nuisance that they have created Camping in a public park is not permitted, Recreation and Parks email communication from Georgia, December 9, 2024.

In short, the City and its residents must successfully cope with short-term challenges before addressing long-term recreational, park and open space opportunities.

- Public financing of capital improvements specified in the 1996 measure as “ballot mandated” may need an additional \$58.9 million from sources other than Prop K – set to expire in 2027, L.A. for Kids, PROPOSITION K PROGRAM RECONCILIATION, STATUS OF ACTIVE PROJECTS, RECOMMENDED FUNDING ADJUSTMENTS, AND STRATEGIC PLAN TO COMPLETE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS, 12/12/24, p. 5.

Fund raising statements should not include verbal pledges such as a recently reported \$2.5 million verbal pledge in CD#9 for the Slauson Connect project, Proposition K Specified Program, Attachment 8, December 12, 2024.

- This means 24 percent of ballot mandated, specified Rec and Parks capital projects individually targeted in the 1996 Prop K ballot initiatives (44 of 183 Projects) are now underfunded or rescinded, PROPOSITION K PROGRAM RECONCILIATION, STATUS OF ACTIVE PROJECTS, RECOMMENDED FUNDING ADJUSTMENTS, AND STRATEGIC PLAN TO COMPLETE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS, December 12, 2024.
- New park land and open space parcels have enjoyed little financial support in the first 27 years of the 30-year Prop K revenue program; a review of 373 projects in the Prop K program so far shows 5% or fewer of all projects were devoted to small parcel park land acquisition.

One example of the delivery of a “specified” land project was RAP acquisition of 0.106 acres at 1263 Queen Annes Place.

“So far, the focus of Prop K appears to be mostly on the improvement of existing parks, with only a handful of investments in new properties,” Wolch, Wilson & Fehrenbach, “Parks and Park Funding in Los Angeles: An Equity Mapping Analysis,” USC Sustainable Cities Program, 2002, p. 27.

- The City finds non-park uses for dedicated park land. Sometimes these uses represent a quasi-permanent disinvestment of parks. In other instances funding for rehabilitation of abused land assets has not been available from the Prop K or other maintenance funds.

1. The City has misconstrued the municipal code such that Department of General Services authorizes Right of Entry permits for contractors

providing “short-term” services on park land to people experiencing homelessness. City government provision stated: A continuing state of emergency requires “relaxation of restraints that limit the ability of the City’s proprietary departments (i.e. RAP) to create flexibility to address the crisis,” RAP Report 24-037, Attachment 2, p. 5 (Declaration of State of Emergency).

2. In two residential neighborhoods rising crime rates in North Nollywood and Elysian Park have been documented; standard operating procedures for City-sponsored encampments --- especially in residential neighborhoods -- do not exist after more than 4 years of operation. Los Feliz resident Dennis Chew lobbied RAP about “...a written and oral report about the proposed Ambassador Program (initially due August 2024) and a written report due from the City’s Chief Administrative Officer due December 20, 2024 ...,” December 12, 2024 email to RAP concerning the Riverside A Bridge Home.

Also, Recreation and Park Commissioners were informed about Riverside A Bridge Home by a neighbor as follows, “The temporary facility was inappropriately placed on public park land in a recreation space, and has not been successful in housing homeless - 10% (housed permanently) over 4 years....,” Dr Suzanne Wenzlaff, Letter to RAP, December 7, 2024.

A “spillover effect” brings illegal campers to a North Hollywood Tiny Homes and Riverside A Bridge Home.

The recent implementation of “MYLA311” for residents to report illegal campers allows the caller to list 16 locations for the abuse but “parks” is not an option. Alexandria Park in North Hollywood was the source of 170 service calls to fire and police in the first ten months of 2023 which included an onsite fire destroying 2-3 Homes at a cost of \$22,200 to the City.

3. The LA DWP has identified seven parks in North Hollywood for multi-year installation of stormwater projects supported by \$248.6 million in funding as utility rates climb.

Each park may face disruption and permanent road construction. “Benefits” to the community are reported to be “recreational, social and economic,” MOA Transmittal to City Council, BPW 2024-0695, December 16, 2024, p. 2.

City Planning prepared a 2023 draft Housing Element report for the State listing the following goals for the Department of Recreation and Parks: Housing Goal #19 ---- Recreation and Parks will join outreach teams working with the homeless individuals. • Goal #113 ---- Recreation and Parks will provide emergency housing during any major disaster.

Difficult to Ignore: Park Equity

Parks, open space and tree canopy vary in ways reflecting income and race in Los Angeles.

A page one report in the New York *Times* (available upon request) carried this headline: “Turn Off the Sunshine: Why Shade is a Mark of Privilege in Los Angeles,” December 1, 2019.

- Disparities in public City parks are measured by Park Area Per 1,000 Residents; The L.A. for Kids 2024 statement on equity said, “The Committee is also sensitive to the issue of funding equity and will continue to monitor the geographic distribution of funds, PROPOSITION K PROGRAM RECONCILIATION, STATUS OF ACTIVE PROJECTS, RECOMMENDED FUNDING ADJUSTMENTS, AND STRATEGIC PLAN TO COMPLETE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS, 12/12/24, p. 3.

<u>Community Plan Area</u>	<u>Park Area Per 1,000 Residents</u>
Westlake	0.4
<i>Southeast LA</i>	<i>0.4</i>
Mission Hills / North Hills	0.4
<i>Central City</i>	<i>0.6</i>
Boyle Heights	0.7
<i>Porter Ranch</i>	<i>17.4+</i>
Bel Air	28.6
<i>Encino</i>	<i>45.3</i>
Brentwood / Palisades	95.9

Source: “Quimby Fee Feasibility Analysis,” HR&A Advisors, Attachment 5.

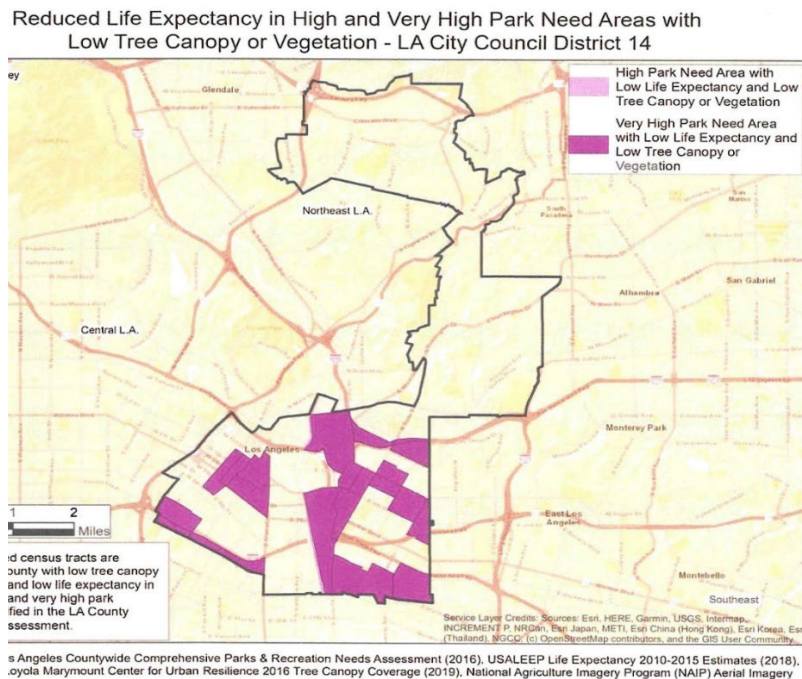
RAP COMMISSIONERS HAVE ASKED: WHAT HAVE WE DONE ALREADY TO STUDY PARK NEEDS, e.g. County park studies in 1996 and 2022? Source: RAP Commissioners, December 19, 2024, Regular Meeting (audio file posted online).

Example: ALSO ROOTED IN PARK EQUITY OCCURRED WHEN CITY COUNCIL ASKED FOR DATA ON PARK (PLAYGROUND) NEEDS ...A June 2022, Council motion “Instruct(ed) RAP to report in 30 days on the condition of all playgrounds in the City ...

and recommendations for creating a multi-year capital program to upgrade all playgrounds,” CF 22-0605. This motion has expired without City further action.

A January 2024 update added the instruction that the “City Administrative Officer, in coordination with RAP, to report back on the funding needed to ensure every playground is modernized and has resilient surfacing and shade,” Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force Briefing, RAP Commission, January 4, 2024, p.1.

Example: The County-Wide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment (2016) shows a link between health of the residential population (low) and Very High Park Needs (2016) in one City Council District (CD#14). Vulnerable neighborhoods are portrayed in deep magenta.



Competition for public financing of land use in Los Angeles has already increased following the 2025 fire disaster.

Recommendations for financing reconstruction in Pacific Palisades have emerged and include (a) reallocating existing funds from “less urgent programs and projects” (LA Times, January 23, 2025 guest editorial) and (b) a City fund raising ballot bond measure in the June 2026 vote (Council File 25-0046 co-sponsored by five Councilmembers).

Ballot measures to fund parks, recreation centers and beaches (County Measure A in 2016) and LAUSD greening of public school campuses (Measure US in 2024) have enjoyed public support.

Mobilizing community support could begin with a better understanding of how park access begins, but does not end, with proximity to more neighborhood parks in Los Angeles (e.g. parkaccess.org).