


INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

May 1, 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. Geoffrey Patterson comments regarding Park Leader; Jacqueline Lauderdale at Culver Slauson Park	#9880	Referred to General Manager
2. Bridget Jones comments regarding Park Leader; Jacqueline Lauderdale at Culver Slauson Park	#9880a	Referred to General Manager
3. Melissa Martin comments regarding Park Leader; Jacqueline Lauderdale at Culver Slauson Park	#9880b	Referred to General Manager
4. Min Yu comments regarding Park Leader; Jacqueline Lauderdale at Culver Slauson Park	#9880c	Referred to General Manager
5. Isaac Martinez comments regarding Park Leader; Jacqueline Lauderdale at Culver Slauson Park	#9880d	Referred to General Manager
6. Roberts Jones comments regarding Park Leader; Jacqueline Lauderdale at Culver Slauson Park	#9880e	Referred to General Manager
7. Maryam Riahi comments regarding Park Leader; Jacqueline Lauderdale at Culver Slauson Park	#9880f	Referred to General Manager
8. Laura Cooper comments regarding Park Leader; Jacqueline Lauderdale at Culver Slauson Park	#9880g	Referred to General Manager

9. Toni Speyer comments regarding Pickleball Court Fees	#9881	Referred to General Manager
10. Cathy Dean comments regarding Pickleball Court Fees	#9881a	Referred to General Manager
11. Anna comments regarding Pickleball Court Fees	#9881b	Referred to General Manager
12. Kathy Gardner comments regarding Pickleball Court Fees	#9881c	Referred to General Manager
13. Bonnie Schwartz comments regarding Pickleball Court Fees	#9881d	Referred to General Manager
14. Roosevelt Larks comments regarding Pickleball Court Fees	#9881e	Referred to General Manager
15. Stacy Vierheiling comments regarding Pickleball Court Fees	#9881f	Referred to General Manager
16. Diana Lundin comments regarding Pickleball Court Fees	#9881g	Referred to General Manager
17. David Chatfield comments regarding Pickleball Court Fees	#9881h	Referred to General Manager
18. Mauro Garcia comments regarding Graffiti at Sycamore Grove Park	#9882	Referred to General Manager
19. Mauro Garcia comments regarding Home Trailer Parked Infront of Sycamore Grove Park	#9882a	Referred to General Manager
20. Cathy Dean comments regarding Support to Build an Open Pickleball Play Program	#9883	Referred to General Manager
21. George the Great comments regarding Clogged Sinks at Echo Park	#9884	Referred to General Manager
22. George the Great comments regarding Beer in a Public Vehicle	#9884a	Referred to General Manager

23. Monique Velazquez comments regarding Childcare Centers Closing Down	#9885	Referred to General Manager
24. Kimberly Fabio comments regarding Childcare Centers Closing Down	#9885a	Referred to General Manager
25. Aleé Peoples comments regarding Childcare Centers Closing Down	#9885b	Referred to General Manager
26. Arely Otero comments regarding Childcare Centers Closing Down	#9885c	Referred to General Manager
27. Hasti Khodabakhsh comments regarding Childcare Centers Closing Down	#9885d	Referred to General Manager
28. Barbara Leon comments regarding Childcare Centers Closing Down	#9885e	Referred to General Manager
29. Aileen Navalta comments regarding Childcare Centers Closing Down	#9885f	Referred to General Manager
30. Brian Boing comments regarding Childcare Centers Closing Down	#9885g	Referred to General Manager
31. Rebecca Tactacan comments regarding Support for Educational Programs in Parks	#9886	Referred to General Manager
32. Angel Vega comments regarding Support for Educational Programs in Parks	#9886a	Referred to General Manager
33. Jacob Wasserman comments regarding Westwood Projects (Council File; 25-0204)	#9887	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Rosa Cartagena, RAP Commission Office



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Keep Our Park Leader – Jacqueline Lauderdale**

1 message

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

Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 12:14 PM

To: Geoffrey Patterson

Good afternoon,

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

On Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 11:56 AM Geoffrey Patterson

wrote:

Dear Ms. Young-Jimenez,

I'm writing as a concerned community member and frequent visitor of Culver Slauson Park. I recently heard that Ms. Jacqueline Lauderdale may be transferred, and I want to voice my strong opposition to this decision.

Under her leadership, the park has improved in every way—from safety and cleanliness to the quality and variety of programming. She's built a sense of trust and belonging across the entire neighborhood, and her presence is a big reason so many families, including mine, keep coming back.

My daughter Betty has been especially impacted by the programs Jackie oversees. Through the basketball classes, she hasn't just learned technical skills—she's grown in focus, teamwork, and self-confidence. Jackie makes a point to get to know the kids and check in with parents, and that kind of personal support has meant the world to our family. Betty feels seen and encouraged in a way that's rare in youth programs.

Jackie is the heart of this park. Removing her would be a real loss—not just to programming, but to the relationships and community she's worked so hard to build.

Please allow her to remain where she is truly making a difference.

Thank you for your time,  
Geoffrey Patterson



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: Retain Effective Leadership at Culver Slauson Park - In support of Jacqueline Lauderdale

1 message

Sonya Young-Jimenez &lt;sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org&gt;

Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 12:54 PM

To: Bridget Jones

Cc: RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org, councilmember.park@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org, Jimmy.kim@lacity.org, chinyere.stoneham@lacity.org, Ramon.Cerrillos@lacity.org, Melody.Valenzuela@lacity.org

Dear Mrs. Jones,

Thank you so much for reaching out and for taking the time to share your personal experience with Culver Slauson Park. We truly appreciate your thoughtful words and the perspective you've provided.

We're thrilled to hear about the positive transformation you've witnessed and how it has impacted your family's decision to return to the neighborhood. It's always inspiring to hear how our parks can play such an important role in the lives of local families, especially young children.

We absolutely recognize the dedication and hard work Ms. Jacqueline Lauderdale has brought to Culver Slauson Park. Her commitment to safety, cleanliness, and community-focused programming has left a meaningful and lasting impression, and we're grateful for her efforts.

At this time, due to civil service processes and scoring, Ms. Lauderdale is not eligible for permanent assignment to this position. While we understand this may be disappointing, we're confident that the incoming Park Director is highly capable and brings with them both a strong work ethic and a passion for community service. We are committed to ensuring that the standard of care and proactive leadership at Culver Slauson Park remains high.

Thank you again for your heartfelt message and for your support of our parks. We value your input and look forward to continuing to serve you and your family.

On Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 12:15 PM Bridget Jones

wrote:

Dear Sonja,

I am concerned about the potential transfer of Ms. Jacqueline Lauderdale from Culver Slauson Park. Her tenure has been marked by a noticeable improvement in the park's safety and maintenance. My husband and I purchased our home in 2021 after our first son was born. We were excited to be moving so close to a park but after spending time in it, decided we would rent the house to others instead of moving in. When our tenants moved out in 2024, we decided to try again. Much to our amazement the park had turned around. There were no longer homeless living in it and the park was free of gang tagging. As a further bonus my son took a few classes, at the community center, and were elated to see the quality programming, at such an affordable rate, coming out of this park! I now have a two month old son who will grow up at this park with my 5 year old son. Please keep the park safe for my boys!

Ms. Lauderdale's proactive approach has deterred negative activities and ensured the park remains a clean and secure environment for families. Her leadership is a key factor in the park's current success. I've included a few photos of what Ms. Lauderdale helps to keep at bay. She quickly has all tagging removed and works with the leadership of the gangs to prevent future tagging. Furthermore, she swiftly and kindly helps the unhoused community move along, if they afternoon to set up camp. Ms. Lauderdale helps keep the park a safe place for our children.





I respectfully request that you reconsider the decision to transfer Ms. Lauderdale and allow her to continue her valuable work at Culver Slauson Park.

Thank you,  
Bridget Jones

## **Sonya Young Jimenez**

*Superintendent of Venice Beach and West Region*

City of Los Angeles

Department of Recreation and Parks

2459 Motor Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90064

Cell: (213) 312-7966

Website: [laparks.org](http://laparks.org)





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: Support for Jacqueline Lauderdale's Leadership

1 message

**Sonya Young-Jimenez** <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>

Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 12:54 PM

To: Melissa Martin

Cc: "councilmember.park@lacity.org" <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, "RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org"

<RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>, "rap.commissioners@lacity.org" <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Dear Mrs. Martin,

Thank you so much for reaching out and for taking the time to share your personal experience with Culver Slauson Park. We truly appreciate your thoughtful words and the perspective you've provided.

We're thrilled to hear about the positive transformation you've witnessed and how it has impacted your family's decision to return to the neighborhood. It's always inspiring to hear how our parks can play such an important role in the lives of local families, especially young children.

We absolutely recognize the dedication and hard work Ms. Jacqueline Lauderdale has brought to Culver Slauson Park. Her commitment to safety, cleanliness, and community-focused programming has left a meaningful and lasting impression, and we're grateful for her efforts.

At this time, due to civil service processes and scoring, Ms. Lauderdale is not eligible for permanent assignment to this position. While we understand this may be disappointing, we're confident that the incoming Park Director is highly capable and brings with them both a strong work ethic and a passion for community service. We are committed to ensuring that the standard of care and proactive leadership at Culver Slauson Park remains high.

Thank you again for your heartfelt message and for your support of our parks. We value your input and look forward to continuing to serve you and your family.

On Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 11:37 AM Melissa Martin

wrote:

Dear Ms. Young-Jimenez and Other Parties This May Concern,

As a parent of a child who takes classes at Culver Slauson Park's rec center, I wanted to speak up about how much Ms. Jacqueline Lauderdale's leadership has meant to our family.

My daughter is enrolled in several of the park's programs—art, ninja, and basketball—and has gained so much more than just physical skills. Thanks to Jackie, the instructors Jackie has brought in, and the supportive atmosphere she cultivates, my daughter has grown more confident, engaged, and excited to participate. It's clear that she prioritizes both quality and heart in the programming.

She's also fostered a true sense of community here. She knows the families by name, builds relationships with parents, and ensures the park is a welcoming, safe space for everyone. Many of us have chosen to leave private programs to come here instead, because the care and consistency she brings are unmatched.

It's rare to see a public space run so effectively, and I hope you'll reconsider transferring her—she's essential to this park's continued success.

Thank you,  
Melissa Martin



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: Please Reconsider the Transfer of Jacqueline Lauderdale from Culver Slauson Park

1 message

Sonya Young-Jimenez &lt;sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org&gt;

Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 1:08 PM

To: Min Yu

Cc: "RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org" <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>, "rap.commissioners@lacity.org" <RAP.COMMISSIONERS@lacity.org>, "councilmember.park@lacity.org" <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, "chinyere.stoneham@lacity.org" <chinyere.stoneham@lacity.org>, "ramon.cerrillos@lacity.org" <ramon.cerrillos@lacity.org>, "melody.valenzuela@lacity.org" <melody.valenzuela@lacity.org>

Dear Min Yu,

Thank you so much for reaching out and for taking the time to share your personal experience with Culver Slauson Park. We truly appreciate your thoughtful words and the perspective you've provided.

We're thrilled to hear about the positive transformation you've witnessed and how it has impacted your family's decision to return to the neighborhood. It's always inspiring to hear how our parks can play such an important role in the lives of local families, especially young children.

We absolutely recognize the dedication and hard work Ms. Jacqueline Lauderdale has brought to Culver Slauson Park. Her commitment to safety, cleanliness, and community-focused programming has left a meaningful and lasting impression, and we're grateful for her efforts.

At this time, due to civil service processes and scoring, Ms. Lauderdale is not eligible for permanent assignment to this position. While we understand this may be disappointing, we're confident that the incoming Park Director is highly capable and brings with them both a strong work ethic and a passion for community service. We are committed to ensuring that the standard of care and proactive leadership at Culver Slauson Park remains high.

Thank you again for your heartfelt message and for your support of our parks. We value your input and look forward to continuing to serve you and your family.

On Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 1:06 PM Min Yu

wrote:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm writing to express my disappointment and concern regarding the decision to transfer Ms. Jacqueline Lauderdale from Culver Slauson Park.

As a resident of this neighborhood for over 20 years, I have never seen the park in better shape. Ms. Lauderdale has done extraordinary work transforming Culver Slauson into a safe, vibrant, and respected community space. She has earned the trust of diverse groups—from local gangs to incoming families—creating a rare and delicate balance that benefits everyone.

Her ability to maintain peace, prevent vandalism, discourage encampments, and attract families with meaningful programming has made a significant impact. Parents have even opted out of private classes to join the programs she's developed, a true testament to her leadership and vision.

Few public investments feel as worthwhile as this. Please reconsider this transfer. It would be a major setback for a community that has finally found solid ground under her guidance.

Sincerely,

Min Yu





Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: Keep Jacqueline Lauderdale at Culver Slauson Park

1 message

Sonya Young-Jimenez &lt;sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org&gt;

Tue, Apr 22, 2025 at 5:58 PM

To: Isaac Martinez

Cc: RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org, RAP.COMMISSIONERS@lacity.org, councilmember.park@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@lacity.org, chinyere.stoneham@lacity.org, ramon.cerrillos@lacity.org, melody.valenzuela@lacity.org

Dear Isaac,

Thank you so much for reaching out and for taking the time to share your personal experience with Culver Slauson Park. We truly appreciate your thoughtful words and the perspective you've provided.

We absolutely recognize the dedication and hard work Ms. Jacqueline Lauderdale has brought to Culver Slauson Park. Her commitment to safety, cleanliness, and community-focused programming has left a meaningful and lasting impression, and we're grateful for her efforts.

At this time, due to civil service processes and scoring, Ms. Lauderdale is not eligible for reassignment to this position. While we understand this may be disappointing, we're confident that the incoming Park Director is highly capable and brings with them both a strong work ethic and a passion for community service. We are committed to ensuring that the standard of care and proactive leadership at Culver Slauson Park remains high.

Thank you again for your heartfelt message and for your support of our parks. We value your input and look forward to continuing to serve you and your family.

On Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 1:39 PM Isaac Martinez

wrote:

Dear Sonya,

I'm a local parent who regularly brings my child to Culver Slauson Park, and I want to voice my strong support for Ms. Jacqueline Lauderdale.

She has made the park a place where families feel truly safe—a difficult task given our neighborhood's complexities. Her relationships with local groups, including those involved in gang activity, have brought a sense of calm and order I never thought possible. Her presence has prevented park damage, encampments, and unsafe activity.

Removing her now could undo years of careful progress. Please let her continue this vital work.

Sincerely,  
Isaac Martinez

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**Sonya Young Jimenez**

*Superintendent of Venice Beach and West Region*

City of Los Angeles

Department of Recreation and Parks

2459 Motor Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90064



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: Please delay the transfer of Jacqueline Lauderdale from Culver Slauson Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 7:56 AM

To: Roberts Jones

Good Morning,

Please see response from Sonya;

*Thank you so much for reaching out and for taking the time to share your personal experience with Culver Slauson Park. We truly appreciate your thoughtful words and the perspective you've provided.*

*We're thrilled to hear about the positive transformation you've witnessed and how it has impacted your family's decision to return to the neighborhood. It's always inspiring to hear how our parks can play such an important role in the lives of local families, especially young children.*

*We absolutely recognize the dedication and hard work Ms. Jacqueline Lauderdale has brought to Culver Slauson Park. Her commitment to safety, cleanliness, and community-focused programming has left a meaningful and lasting impression, and we're grateful for her efforts.*

*At this time, due to civil service processes and scoring, Ms. Lauderdale is not eligible for permanent assignment to this position. While we understand this may be disappointing, we're confident that the incoming Park Director is highly capable and brings with them both a strong work ethic and a passion for community service. We are committed to ensuring that the standard of care and proactive leadership at Culver Slauson Park remains high.*

*Thank you again for your heartfelt message and for your support of our parks. We value your input and look forward to continuing to serve you and your family.*

On Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 4:47 PM Roberts Jones

wrote:

Hi Sonya,

Jacqueline Lauderdale is a force of nature who is beloved by the neighborhood near Culver Slauson Park, please reconsider her transfer.

Jacqueline singlehandedly helped to grow the community that uses the park. My 5 year old son loves the community center and we have told a dozen of his friends from the neighborhood and many classmates from Ocean Charter School who travel from all over Del Rey/Mar Vista to attend classes at Culver Slauson. The community relies on Culver Slauson to provide enriching classes and activities for our children. The programs, classes and events (like Christmas and Easter celebrations) have helped bring the neighborhood together!

Jacqueline can organize the community to get out the vote (she was elected as Del Rey neighborhood council Area E Director this year without campaigning).

It takes a very specific type of person who can manage this park and community center. Culver Slauson abuts Cal Trans (405 easement) and County property (Bike Path) with unhoused living at each of these properties and often migrating into the park. Jacqueline frequently and politely encourages the unhoused to move out of the park.

If her position is given to another, the replacement will need to have constant outreach with homeowners and renters: Culver Slauson is enjoyed by a range of neighbors from single family homes, medium density apartments on Slauson Ave and Mar Vista Gardens. Jacqueline has attended many meetings at Mar Vista Gardens, earning the respect of the community and as a result, the park is a safe space. Last year, while Jacqueline was on vacation for just a few days to help her son move to

college, the cement wall of the basketball court was tagged with 6' tall letters claiming the property. When she is present at the park, there is very little tagging. Not just anyone can manage this park, whomever takes over her role first needs to be aware of this park's history and then be prepared to put in the work.

Culver Slauson is a gem that we love sharing with friends and neighbors. Please, we implore you to keep Jacqueline in her role at Culver Slauson Park.

Thank you for your consideration,  
- Rob



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: Request to Maintain Leadership at Culver Slauson Park

1 message

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

Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 7:59 AM

To: Maryam Riahi

Good Morning,

Please see response from Sonya;

*Thank you so much for reaching out and for taking the time to share your personal experience with Culver Slauson Park. We truly appreciate your thoughtful words and the perspective you've provided.*

*We're thrilled to hear about the positive transformation you've witnessed and how it has impacted your family's decision to return to the neighborhood. It's always inspiring to hear how our parks can play such an important role in the lives of local families, especially young children.*

*We absolutely recognize the dedication and hard work Ms. Jacqueline Lauderdale has brought to Culver Slauson Park. Her commitment to safety, cleanliness, and community-focused programming has left a meaningful and lasting impression, and we're grateful for her efforts.*

*At this time, due to civil service processes and scoring, Ms. Lauderdale is not eligible for permanent assignment to this position. While we understand this may be disappointing, we're confident that the incoming Park Director is highly capable and brings with them both a strong work ethic and a passion for community service. We are committed to ensuring that the standard of care and proactive leadership at Culver Slauson Park remains high.*

*Thank you again for your heartfelt message and for your support of our parks.*

On Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 5:42 PM Maryam Riahi

wrote:

Dear Sonya,

I am writing to express my support for Ms. Jacqueline Lauderdale's continued leadership at Culver Slauson Park. Her efforts have significantly improved the park's environment, making it a hub for community engagement and recreation.

Ms. Lauderdale's unique ability to connect with various community groups has fostered a sense of unity and pride in our neighborhood. Her transfer could disrupt the positive dynamics currently in place.

Please consider the impact of this decision on our community and allow Ms. Lauderdale to remain in her role.

Warm regards,  
Maryam Riahi  
Playa vista



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: Keep Jackie at Culver Slauson Park

1 message

**Sonya Young-Jimenez** <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>

Tue, Apr 22, 2025 at 6:01 PM

To: Laura Cooper

Cc: RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org, councilmember.park@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org, Jimmy.kim@lacity.org, chinyere.stoneham@lacity.org, Ramon.Cerrillos@lacity.org, Melody.Valenzuela@lacity.org

Dear Laura Cooper,

Thank you so much for reaching out and for taking the time to share your personal experience with Culver Slauson Park. We truly appreciate your thoughtful words and the perspective you've provided.

We absolutely recognize the dedication and hard work Ms. Jacqueline Lauderdale has brought to Culver Slauson Park. Her commitment to safety, cleanliness, and community-focused programming has left a meaningful and lasting impression, and we're grateful for her efforts.

At this time, due to civil service processes and scoring, Ms. Lauderdale is not eligible for reassignment to this position. While we understand this may be disappointing, we're confident that the incoming Park Director is highly capable and brings with them both a strong work ethic and a passion for community service. We are committed to ensuring that the standard of care and proactive leadership at Culver Slauson Park remains high.

Thank you again for your heartfelt message and for your support of our parks. We value your input and look forward to continuing to serve you and your family.

On Thu, Apr 17, 2025 at 1:28 PM Laura Cooper

wrote:

Dear Sonya,

I'm a parent and long-time community member writing to express my concern about the upcoming change in leadership at Culver Slauson Park. Jacqueline Lauderdale has not only made this park cleaner and safer—she's made it a hub for community connection.

She's managed to create peace among very different groups and keeps the park free of criminal activity and encampments, which is no small feat. The park feels like a safe space for kids again, and that's directly because of her.

Lastly, we have a petition to ask LA Parks to keep Jackie as the director of the Culver Slauson rec center. She is so responsive to the needs of the community, I've seen her make so many positive changes because of the needs of the kids and the community.

Please let her continue in this role. It's rare to find someone who can do this job, who's a part of our community and a vital part of our kids' lives .

Best,  
Laura Cooper

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**Sonya Young Jimenez**

*Superintendent of Venice Beach and West Region*

City of Los Angeles



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: Unfair Pickleball Court Fees and Conditions - Immediate Action Needed

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 8:10 AM

To: Toni Speyer

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 12:10 PM Toni Speyer

wrote:

To all addressed above,

I am writing as a concerned and active member of our local pickleball community to express my deep disappointment and frustration regarding the recent changes to court rental fees and conditions for pickleball players at our city parks.

Historically, tennis courts have been rented at a rate of \$8 per hour. However, pickleball players are now being charged \$8 **per side** of a **split** tennis court—totaling \$16 per hour to play on a single tennis court that has simply been divided into two halves. This is not only unfair, but it also amounts to price gouging.

Unlike tennis players, we must bring our own portable nets, since tennis nets are provided by the city. Furthermore, the two designated pickleball courts (Courts #4 and #8) are currently in poor condition—dirty, neglected, and in clear need of repair. Charging us more to play in inferior conditions, while requiring us to supply our own essential equipment, sends the message that our presence and enjoyment of the game are not valued equally.

Pickleball is growing rapidly in popularity across all age groups, contributing positively to public health and community engagement. Penalizing pickleball players with unfair rental fees and substandard playing conditions is not only inequitable but also counterproductive to promoting inclusive recreation in our city.

I respectfully urge you to:

1. **Reverse the unfair fee structure** and ensure that a full court—whether used for tennis or pickleball—is charged at a single, consistent rate.
2. **Provide equitable resources** to pickleball players, including city-provided nets or proper pickleball court markings and infrastructure.
3. **Prioritize repairs and regular maintenance** for Courts #4 and #8, or any courts designated for pickleball use.

We deserve fair treatment and access to safe, well-maintained recreational facilities. I ask for your immediate attention and action to address this matter.

Sincerely,

Toni Speyer  
Taxpayer  
Sherman Oaks resident





Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Pickleball fees at VNSO**

1 message

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

Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 8:14 AM

To: Cathy &amp; Paul Dean

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 4:26 PM Cathy &amp; Paul Dean

wrote:

I am writing to express my frustration and disappointment regarding the recent increase in booking fees for the pickleball courts at VNSO Park.

I find it unacceptable that these fees have been raised without any corresponding improvement in the court amenities. It is also not right that it costs twice as much to book a multiuse court for pickleball than the tennis court. This is effectively a penalty for pickleball players.

Specifically, I am referring to the lack of nets and dividers on the pickleball courts. Currently, players are required to bring their own nets and often resort to using makeshift dividers, which is inconvenient, inefficient, and detracts from the overall playing experience. This situation is particularly frustrating given that pickleball is rapidly growing in popularity, and the demand for well-equipped courts is increasing.

The recent increase in booking fees, without addressing the fundamental issue of providing nets and dividers, feels like a financial burden placed on residents without any tangible benefit. Players are essentially paying more for the same inadequate facilities.

I urge the City Council to take the following actions:

- \* Immediately provide permanent, high-quality nets and dividers for all pickleball courts at VNSO Park. This is a basic amenity that should be expected, especially with the increased fees.
- \* Re-evaluate the current booking fee structure in light of the lack of essential equipment.
- \* Engage with the pickleball community to understand their needs and concerns, and to ensure that future improvements align with the community's expectations.
- \* Provide a timeline for when the nets and dividers will be installed.

The pickleball community at VNSO Park is eager to support the city's recreational initiatives.

However, we believe that the current situation is unfair and unsustainable. We hope that the City Council will take our concerns seriously and act promptly to address these issues.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Dean

Sherman Oaks



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Very upset Pickleball player**

1 message

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

Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 8:15 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 Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 4:51 PM <

wrote:

I am beyond upset.

I have worked all my life and NEVER used Park and Recreations, yet here I am now.

I am retired and on a set income but yet VNSO Recreation has just doubled the cost to play pickle ball.

I play pickle ball 4 to 5 times a week.

And when we play, we bring our own net.

Bringing our own net is NOT the issue.

The stationary net for tennis players is a good idea.

Tennis players and Pickleball players can live.

Do not charge Pickleball players double the amount to rent a court!!

Graciously,  
Retired Anna

Sent from my iPhone



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: COMPLAINT: VAN NUYS SHERMAN OAKS Unfair court price gouging**

1 message

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

Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 8:19 AM

To: Asthept

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 4:57 PM Asthept

wrote:

Hello,

I am a local park goer and avid pickleball player and have enjoyed the benefits of having pickleball lines available on 2 tennis courts at VNSO.

Each tennis court has 2 permanently painted on pickleball court lines which we enjoy since we can have community play at the 2 nets in one space.

However, as of today, the administration is trying to have us pay for one side of a tennis court which is ludicrous given that the tennis players are still allowed to book the whole court at its regular rate.

The park has not provided any amenities that warrant such a change in pricing and this is perceived as a money-grabbing scheme at best. Most of the pickleball players in our community are retired or on fixed-income, and cannot afford pickleball club membership prices. We have all enjoyed playing with the fair prices since we were told this facility will never be free to play.

There are neither dedicated pickleball courts, nor are there pickleball nets available for them to charge us with ridiculous pricing.

Kindly help us maintain fairness and equality in recreation and sports as many of us only have access to the VNSO courts for our recreation.

We all appreciate you looking into and dealing with this matter.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Kathy Gardner  
Sherman Oaks Resident and Taxpayer



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Pickleball fee increase at VNSO tennis courts**

1 message

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

Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 8:19 AM

To: Bonnie Schwartz

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 5:04 PM Bonnie Schwartz

wrote:

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to you to express my concerns regarding the unfair fee being proposed for pickleball at VNSO park. We currently reserve 2 tennis courts at the regular 2 court fee. It is my understanding that there will be charging 4 fees since pickleball uses 4 nets which we bring ourselves since the courts are dedicated tennis courts.

The tennis nets are not used.

Please consider removing the 4 court fee court while using 2 tennis courts .

Hopefully you will consider expanding dedicated pickleball courts so that there is more availability for pickleball players.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Bonnie Schwartz



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Pickleball fee increase**

1 message

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

Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 8:30 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 Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 7:51 PM rolarjr80

wrote:

Dear Commissioners

My name is Roosevelt Larks . I organized a pickleball club called the Friday Family pickleball group. We have been reserving the hybrid PB/Tennis courts for almost a full year . There are 12 people in our group . Two courts are barely enough court space for us . Now it is proposed that we separate the two courts and now book both the courts . The proposition to split the courts and increase the rates are unfair and without cause .

That's a 100% increase with no increase in tennis court rates is not fair and penalizes pickleball players for no reason.

The lack of places to play this fast growing sport is penalty enough .

Roosevelt Larks



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Pickelball**

1 message

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

Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 8:31 AM

To: Stacy Vierheilg

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 8:54 PM Stacy Vierheilg wrote:

I understand that the charge for Pickleball is going to be doubled, but what I don't understand is we provide our own nets so they're not legitimate Pickleball courts like at the private clubs. This is a growing sport and a nice community event, bringing people together and I think you will price out a lot of people who cannot afford the cost. It is helping to create a healthier society. Please reconsider your decision. Stacy Fraser.





Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Tennis courts are charged unfairly for pickleball players at VNSO**

1 message

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

Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 8:37 AM

To: Diana Lundin

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Apr 15, 2025 at 8:40 AM Diana Lundin

wrote:

Dear Ms. Simril,

I go to VNSO Park to play pickleball regularly. Is it true you're charging double for courts 4 and 8 now if pickleball players play it? How is that fair? The court is the same amount of real estate and the park doesn't even provide nets for pickleball. For as popular a sport as it is, this park is inadequate in bringing the activity up to the level of tennis or even paddle ball. Modifications are needed for all pickleball at VNSO, at the players expense. And you want more for a service you don't adequately provide for? I say rethink that. Balance the budget another way.



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: LADRP Plan to Charge for Use of Individual Pickleball Courts on Tennis Courts**

1 message

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

Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 8:39 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, Apr 15, 2025 at 4:17 PM David Chatfield

wrote:

Dear Commissioner,

I'm writing as a concerned resident and park user to share my thoughts on the LADRP's proposed changes to how reservations and fees are handled for pickleball use on dual-lined tennis courts.

Currently, both tennis players and pickleball players are charged \$12 per hour to reserve a full tennis court, even if the tennis court includes lines for two pickleball courts. This system has been working fairly and efficiently. However, I understand there is a proposed change that would allow players to reserve just one of the two pickleball courts on a tennis court—while still being charged the full \$12 fee.

The option to reserve a single pickleball court makes sense in terms of access and efficiency, but the proposed pricing model raises concerns. Charging \$12 for the use of just one pickleball court—essentially half of a tennis court—would unfairly double the cost for pickleball players who had previously reserved the entire court for the same price. It creates an imbalance in value for the square footage and time being reserved.

A more equitable solution would be to charge \$6 for each half of the tennis court used for pickleball. If two groups or individuals reserve both halves, the City still

collects the full \$12—identical to what a tennis reservation brings in. This approach maintains fairness while also increasing flexibility for park users.

Additionally, I'm concerned that this change may create confusion and conflict. If players perceive the new system as unfair, it may encourage people to book under the "tennis" designation to avoid higher fees—resulting in more work and tension for park staff, who would then need to monitor and enforce intended court use.

Respectfully, I urge the Council to reconsider this proposal or, ideally, maintain the current system. If a new system is implemented, I hope you will support a pricing model that ensures fairness, transparency, and ease of enforcement.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

David Chatfield



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GRAFFITI CD1 LA COUNCIL HERNANDEZ**

1 message

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

Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 8:21 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.

You may also visit the MyLA311 website to create a service request at: <https://lacity.gov/myla311>

On Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 5:26 PM Garcia Incareal

wrote:

APRIL 14

LA Council member Eunisses Hernandez

The Sycamore Grove Park has gang graffiti

Attach are pictures

Mauro Garcia





AGUK





AVENUE 43





FUCK  
RATS

AVS 43

43





V A / G S 43 RD CHIL  
↓



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK SERVICE REQUEST CD1 EUNISSES HERNADEZ**

1 message

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

Thu, Apr 24, 2025 at 8:05 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 Wed, Apr 23, 2025 at 5:54 PM Garcia Incareal

wrote:

APRIL 23

LA Council Eunisses Hernandez

There is home trailer parked at N. Figueroa St. next to Sycamore Grove Park.

It has been for more than 2 weeks

Parking Enforcement needs a request from you to remove it

Attach picture

We also have the same problem on Marmion Way next to the South West Museum.

Mauro Garcia









Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Pickleball park programs**

1 message

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

Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 8:32 AM

To: Cathy &amp; Paul Dean

Good morning,

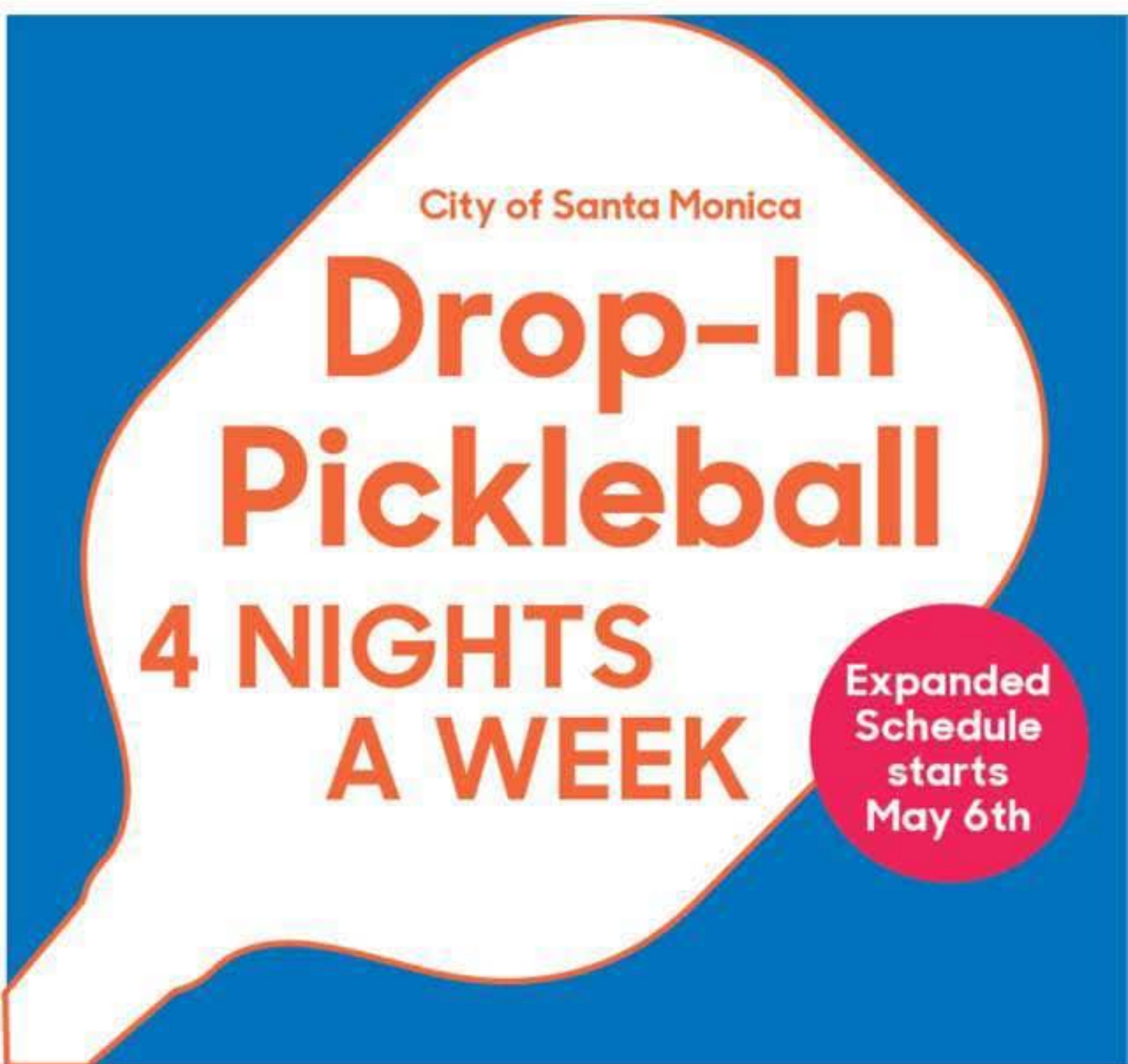
Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 11:43 PM Cathy & Paul Dean

wrote:

Open play is one of the great things about pickleball and allows the community to really mix and build connections outside their normal circles. I would love to see the park build an open play program into the schedule - especially as the park gains additional pickleball courts.

For reference, Santa Monica is adding open play and other parks have open play.



Beginning May 6th the City of Santa Monica will add Tuesday and Thursday nights, 5 to 9:30pm, to the Drop-In Pickleball program.

Register on the City of Santa Monica [Active Communities](#) webpage.

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**More Pickleball Classes!**





Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Wash area, clogged sinks outside restrooms area**

1 message

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

Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 8:26 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

On Tue, Apr 15, 2025 at 10:50 AM George The Great

wrote:

Good afternoon city officials.

We made a call for service last week regarding outside the restrooms in the Echo Park Lake.

Please see video in the link 📺 below.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/tKBKhbFVpcu15X5S8>



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Beer in a public vehicle**

1 message

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

Thu, Apr 17, 2025 at 7:30 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

On Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 2:33 PM George The Great

wrote:

Good morning city officials.

We visited Echo Park Lake on Monday, April 15 at about 10:30am

We noticed a public, golf cart park around the park unattended for about 10 minutes. We decided to approach the vehicle to find out who had left the vehicle there.

See video 📹 below please.

Tax Payers  
Community Members  
Park Goers

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/vM2HQkEHQcs6WyZv5>



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Echo Park - ECE (concerns)**

1 message

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

Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 8:26 AM

To: Monique

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Apr 15, 2025 at 11:38 AM Monique

wrote:

Hello,

My name is Monique Velazquez and I am a parent of a 3 year old student at Echo Park's child care facility. We received this notice today at drop off and many parents are upset and disappointed with the possible closure. Yes, there are other facilities but completely out of the way (South LA) for most or all families. This center re opening in Echo Park has allowed low income families access to child care and a safe space to learn.

As you may know Echo Park remains a community in need with families in poverty. With gentrification in the area, most child care centers are unaffordable for minority families who remain in echo park. Echo Park is a community and having affordable child care is key for parents but mostly the children. Since my daughter has been enrolled, she's been able to interact with her community members and learn so much from the centers curriculum. Taking this center away will be taking A LOT from the community.

Many families are very active with Echo Park RAP as there are so many affordable activities for the community. This addition has been nothing but positive. Taking the most crucial necessity (education) from the community is harming the community.

Please consider keeping this center open for our children and for the working parents of the community.

A response to this email would be greatly appreciated.



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: Please Stand with LA Families – Keep Downey Child Care Open

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Thu, Apr 17, 2025 at 7:47 AM

To: Kimberly Fabio

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 8:52 PM Kimberly Fabio

wrote:

Dear RAP Board of Commissioners,

I'm writing to express my deep concern regarding the privatization of Downey Child Care Center.

My niece has been attending Downey Child Care since September 2023, and in that short time the impact on her development has been nothing short of remarkable. She has learned to write her letters, identify and pronounce their sounds, and is thriving academically—exceeding what I've seen from many children her age. This progress is a direct result of the dedication and excellence of Director Allison Tillman and her team of educators.

Beyond academics, Downey is teaching children about cultural awareness and the value of diversity. During Black History Month, each student was assigned a notable Black figure to learn about—my niece was given Misty Copeland. Not only did she learn about Misty's accomplishments, but she also discovered a newfound love for dance. This is the kind of enrichment every child deserves access to, regardless of their zip code or economic background..

I've had the joy of picking up my niece from Downey many times. The energy is always warm and welcoming—children are excited, teachers are engaged, and parents are actively involved. My sister, for example, volunteers regularly and even helped start and maintain a garden with the kids. This center isn't just a school; it's a thriving community hub.

Privatizing Downey would be a devastating loss to the families it serves. These public childcare centers were opened because there was a recognized need for affordable, high-quality preschool options in underserved areas. Families should not be left scrambling to find suitable alternatives for their children less than two years after this center opened—especially due to a lack of sustained funding and commitment from the city. Downey has proven that city-run schools can help children thrive; it is a successful model that deserves continued support and should remain open as a publicly funded institution.

I urge you to protect Downey Child Care and other centers like it. Investing in early education for underserved communities is not just the right thing to do—it's a long-term investment in the future of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,  
Kimberly Fabio



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Funding for RAP schools and childcare**

1 message

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

Thu, Apr 17, 2025 at 10:35 AM

To: Alee Peoples

Good morning,

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

On Thu, Apr 17, 2025 at 10:21 AM Alee Peoples

wrote:

I am writing you today to strongly urge you to not leave any RAP school or childcare center out of the next city budget. A lot of families and future LA adults need and deserve quality childcare. This is the last thing that should be cut from the budget!

Thank you, alee peoples



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Echo Park Early Child Education Center - Parent Letter**

1 message

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

Thu, Apr 17, 2025 at 10:57 AM

To: Arelly Otero

Good morning,

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

On Thu, Apr 17, 2025 at 10:33 AM Arelly Otero  
April 17, 2025

wrote:

Re: Los Angeles County Department of Recreation and Parks  
Commissioner's Office

Dear Commissioners,

My Name is Arelly Otero, and I am a parent of a 4-year-old student at Echo Park's Child Care Center located at 515 Laveta Terrace, Los Angeles, CA 90026. I am writing to you as a deeply concerned parent and active member of the community to say that we received a notice today at drop off, and many parents are heartbroken and disappointed with the possible closure of the center. Although the notice does state that four centers will remain in operation under the appropriate funding, those centers are out in South LA. The Echo Park Center has allowed low-income families access to child care and a very safe space for our children to learn.

This center is not just a place where our children spend their days, it's a trusted foundation of their early development, learning, and emotional growth. The center has become a safe space where our children are nurtured, challenged, and supported by educators who have become like family to many of us.

The potential closure of this center would be devastating for countless working families who rely on it not only for care but for the high-quality education and structure it provides. For many of us, Echo Park provides key resources for families in poverty. Many centers around the neighborhood are unaffordable for minority families. This center is key for parents like me and mostly for children. Taking this center away will be taking away so much from the community.

The impact of this center on our children's development is already evident. Since my daughter has enrolled, she has improved her language skills, enhanced her social interactions, and learned so much from the amazing curriculum at the center. The staff has also shown a consistent dedication to nurturing our children's minds, and creating a safe and encouraging environment full of curiosity, confidence and creativity. As a parent, seeing my daughter's daily excitement to see her teachers and friends brings joy to my heart.

Many families are very active with Echo Park Recreation and Parks through the affordable activities for the community, in which my daughter participates. The addition to a child care center has had a positive impact. For many of us, this center is the only affordable and accessible early education option that allows us to maintain our jobs, support our families, and provide our children with the learning experiences they deserve.

Closing this school would not only disrupt our children's growth and routines but would also dismantle a vital support system for so many families in our community. We urge you to recognize the long-term value this program brings and to stand with us in protecting a space that empowers children and uplifts families.

Please reconsider any plans to close this center. Our community needs it—our children need it. We hope you will continue to invest in programs that provide equity, opportunity, and care where it's needed most.

Thank you for your time and for considering the voices of the families who depend on this essential

Sincerely,

Arely Otero

Parent and Community Member



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: Budget for Downey Child Care and All other RAP-operated Centers

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 10:52 AM

To: Hasti Khodabakhsh

Good morning,

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

On Thu, Apr 17, 2025 at 3:08 PM Hasti Khodabakhsh

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

As a mother of a child on the waitlist to attend Downey Child Care, I am deeply concerned that this center—and others operated by Los Angeles Recreation and Parks—may not be operational beyond the end of this fiscal year. This project was funded by a \$20 million grant through the American Rescue Plan Act, which covered the renovation of 10 city child care centers and their first year of operations. It has come to my attention that the Department of Recreation and Parks has submitted a proposed budget to your office, seeking funding to operate only a reduced number of child care centers for fiscal year 2025–2026. According to the proposal, only four centers are included. I find it unjustifiable that such a significant investment in infrastructure was made without ensuring ongoing funding to actually provide services at these locations.

According to RAP's own child care site, "as a result of the Great Recession of 2008, Recreation and Parks was forced to close its licensed child care sites due to lack of funding. The COVID-19 crisis highlighted the need for licensed preschool programs. In response to this crisis, our City Council took immediate action by identifying funding to restore and open low-cost licensed preschool facilities." These centers—often located in underserved neighborhoods—are now full of children. The need for affordable, high-quality child care remains as critical today as it was at the height of the pandemic—especially in light of potential inflation driven by upcoming tariffs. I, like many others, was waiting to be able to enroll my child at Downey Child Care as soon as a spot is available. At Downey alone, there is currently a waitlist of 53 children. The demand is undeniable.

RAP states in its proposed budget that "these variable costs were previously covered by the American Rescue Plan Act funds. It should be noted that RAP was previously directed to self-operate an additional 10 childcare facilities; however, the FY24-25 budget eliminated childcare staffing and directed RAP to operate childcare services through an alternative service delivery model. Therefore, this request is premised on the identification and selection of qualified childcare service providers, which is currently in progress." While there is precedent for the child care budget line to be temporarily set to zero and later reinstated, I do not agree with RAP's assessment or proposed course of action.

If the City is unable to continue subsidizing these centers directly, I urge that alternative funding solutions be presented. Currently, Downey Child Care is only operational due to a grant set to expire at the end of this fiscal year. The proposed budget shows an increase in projected grant funding—have these funds been secured to



ensure continuity of services? Downey remains tuition-free, but a fee was intended for families not meeting the financial requirements of the grant program. I ask that the City implement this tuition model, similar to other city child care programs, for applicable families before considering the closure of the center.

I have a friend whose child has thrived at Downey Child Care and cannot speak highly enough of the program, its director Allison Tillman, and the dedicated teachers who nurture and support children each day. It is proof that families do not have to pay thousands of dollars each month to access exceptional early childhood education. These publicly run child care centers are essential, safe, and transformative for our communities. I stand in solidarity with other parents whose children attend city-run child care centers and who would also be affected by their closure. I ask for full transparency regarding the future of not only Downey but all RAP-operated centers.

Please do not take this vital resource away from the residents of Los Angeles.

Respectfully,

Hasti Khodabakhsh



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: Please save RAP Childcare Centers

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 10:53 AM

To: Barbara Leon

Good morning,

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

On Thu, Apr 17, 2025 at 9:51 PM Barbara Leon

wrote:

Dear Mayor Karen Bass and RAP Board of commissioners,

My name is Barbara Leon, and I am writing to you as a concerned Angeleno, the daughter of immigrants, a product of Los Angeles' working-class neighborhoods, and now a parent of. Two and five year old myself. I grew up with a single mother who worked long hours, often without childcare for my brother and myself and I know firsthand how critical affordable, high-quality childcare is—not just for the survival of working families, but for the long-term success of our children and communities.

The RAP Child Care Centers are not just services, they are essential infrastructure in our city's most underserved neighborhoods. These centers have already demonstrated incredible success. Children, including the daughter of my lifelong friends Lucia Fabio and Andy Mueller, have flourished in the short time these centers have been open. Their four-year-old found a nurturing, stable, and enriching environment at a RAP center—one that has supported her development and given her parents the peace of mind to continue working and contributing to our local economy.

As a parent, I understand firsthand the implications of high childcare costs. For many families—especially those in historically marginalized communities—these costs are prohibitive. The RAP centers have offered a rare and invaluable alternative, free, high-quality care in the very neighborhoods that need it most, making it possible for parents to acquire job opportunities they otherwise would not have had.

Not only do they help parents in achieving higher economic stability for their families, but the long term benefits for children in these types of programs are tenfold:

### 1. Improved Academic Achievement and School Readiness:

Studies have consistently shown that children from low-income families who attend high-quality early childhood education programs are more likely to enter kindergarten ready to learn, and perform better academically throughout their school years. According to the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), children who attend high-quality preschool programs demonstrate better language, math, and cognitive skills compared to peers who do not. These opportunities will now be potentially gone for the children without these RAP centers.

### 2. Long-Term Economic and Social Benefits:

Research by Nobel laureate economist James Heckman found that every dollar invested in high-quality early childhood education for disadvantaged children yields a return of up to \$7 to \$13 through improved school outcomes, higher lifetime earnings, and reduced spending on social services and incarceration. These benefits extend not just to the child, but to the broader society and the future generations of Angelenos

### 3. Closing the Opportunity Gap:

High-quality early education helps level the playing field for children growing up in poverty by providing consistent structure, nurturing environments, and critical developmental support. According to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, these programs help buffer children from the toxic stress associated with poverty, improving emotional regulation and lifelong mental health outcomes.

It is incredibly troubling that eight of the ten centers renovated with a \$20 million grant are now being left out of the proposed 2025–26 City Budget. Parents were never informed that this might be a temporary offering. Some centers have only been open for a few months, and communities are still waiting for promised services. Meanwhile, no plan has been made public for a transition to private providers, and we are rapidly approaching the end of the fiscal year.

I urge you to protect this investment and to stand with working families by fully funding all ten RAP Child Care Centers in the upcoming city budget. These centers represent a commitment to equity, to opportunity, and to the future of our children. To shut them down now would not only waste a significant philanthropic investment—it would betray the trust of the families who depend on them every day.

Thank you for your leadership and for hearing the voices of the families who need your support now more than ever.

Sincerely,

Barbara Leon



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: child care services**

1 message

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

Thu, Apr 24, 2025 at 1:18 PM

To: Aileen Navalta

Good afternoon,

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

On Tue, Apr 22, 2025 at 12:03 PM Aileen Navalta

wrote:

To RAP Commisioners,

I am a parent who is asking your consideration to not hand over the LA Parks and Rec Child Care services to private entities. My child is currently at Victory Valley Child Care Center in North Hollywood. She has benefitted greatly by these great teachers and services which prepare them for going to elementary school. We are very thankful to have found this facility and entrusted the care of our children. Please do not close down the facility or transfer services to a private company/business. This current program is helping the community members by giving an opportunity for the small children to be able to thrive in the future. Please find it in your heart to continue these great service and be able to help other families that needs this child service

Sincerely,  
Aileen Boing



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: Urgent Request: Submit comments to the Mayor's Proposed Budget no later than April 22nd, 2025

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Wed, Apr 23, 2025 at 9:37 AM

To: Brian Boing

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Apr 22, 2025 at 3:27 PM Brian Boing

wrote:

Dear Recreation & Parks Board of Commissioners,

As a deeply concerned parent whose child greatly benefits from the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks (RAP) Department's licensed childcare program, I am writing to you with profound apprehension regarding the proposed 2025-2026 budget. The potential loss or privatization of these vital services would have a detrimental impact on countless families and the very fabric of our community.

Therefore, pursuant to the Budget and Finance Committee Hearing schedule distributed on April 10, 2025, to all city government departments, bureaus, and agencies, I respectfully and urgently request that the RAP Board of Commissioners propose a significant amendment to the Mayor's Proposed Budget by the end of the day on April 22nd, 2025, specifically addressing the following crucial points:

1. Revisit the Proposed Budget and Request Restoration of Funding: I implore the Board to thoroughly re-examine the proposed budget for the Department of Recreation and Parks with the explicit goal of identifying and requesting the full restoration of public funding for the existing licensed childcare centers.
2. Thoroughly Evaluate Alternatives to Privatization: Before any irreversible decisions are made to transition the operation of these essential licensed childcare centers to external, private entities, I strongly urge the Board to mandate a comprehensive and transparent evaluation of all viable alternatives (e.g., grants, sliding tuition scales, tuition, subsidies). This crucial assessment must meticulously explore all avenues for maintaining public funding and direct management, ensuring that the long-term well-being of our children and community remains the paramount consideration, outweighing any potential short-term financial considerations.

The Board should give the above suggestions the utmost consideration for several reasons. Firstly, maintaining the current level of quality and accessibility is paramount. My child has thrived in the nurturing and community-centered environment, provided by the dedicated and qualified staff at our local RAP childcare center, and it is absolutely essential that any future model unequivocally guarantees the continuation of these high standards and remains genuinely accessible to all families. Furthermore, the stability of these programs is crucial for current and prospective families who rely on consistent, reliable childcare to participate in the workforce and contribute to our city's economy. Uncertainty surrounding the future of these centers creates significant stress and can disrupt family life. Finally, the stability of the current teachers and staff must be considered. These dedicated individuals provide invaluable care and expertise, and the threat of privatization or discontinuation of the program can lead to anxiety, potential job loss, and the loss of experienced professionals who are deeply invested in our children's well-being.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our city's Recreation and Parks programs. I sincerely urge you to champion the needs of our children and families by proposing a budget amendment that secures the future of these vital licensed childcare centers under public support and management.



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: Urging Continued Support for Educational Programs within Parks and Recreation

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Wed, Apr 23, 2025 at 10:31 AM

To: "Tactacan, Rebecca"

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Apr 21, 2025 at 12:21 PM Tactacan, Rebecca

wrote:

**Subject: Urging Continued Support for Educational Programs within Parks and Recreation**

Dear Commissioners and Council Members,

I hope this message finds you well and energized in your continued efforts to uplift the city of Los Angeles. I am writing as a concerned resident and strong advocate for youth development to respectfully urge your administration to prioritize and maintain funding for the educational components within our Parks and Recreation programs. These programs are not merely optional extracurriculars — they are essential community hubs where young people gain access to meaningful learning opportunities, especially in under-resourced areas. The educational offerings within Parks and Recreation — including art, science, nature exploration, creative thinking workshops, and structured support from skilled staff — provide critical development that complements our formal school systems.

### Key Reasons to Sustain These Programs:

#### 1. Development of Social and Emotional Skills

Parks and Rec programs provide children and teens with safe, inclusive spaces to build social skills. Through group activities, games, and mentorship from staff, youth learn cooperation, empathy, communication, and conflict resolution — essential life skills not always addressed in traditional classrooms.

#### 2. Fostering Creative and Critical Thinking

Many of these programs focus on creativity through arts, music, storytelling, and environmental projects. This nurtures problem-solving skills, imagination, and innovation. These experiences often ignite passions and talents that can shape future career paths or lifelong hobbies.

#### 3. Creating a Safe Environment for Children

Parks and Recreation centers offer more than educational enrichment — they provide a safe, structured environment for children and teens during critical hours when parents may be at work and when young people are most vulnerable to outside risks. These programs serve as protective spaces where kids are supervised, engaged, and encouraged to grow in healthy ways.

#### 4. Positive Adult Guidance and Academic Support

Trained staff and educators in these programs provide mentorship and personalized attention that some students may not receive elsewhere. Their ability to encourage, guide, and connect with children in an informal, supportive setting plays a vital role in academic and personal development.

#### 5. Community Equity and Accessibility

For many low-income families, Parks and Recreation centers are the only accessible educational resource outside of

school. Cutting or reducing these services would disproportionately affect communities that already face systemic barriers to opportunity.

**6. Preventing Learning Loss and Supporting Public Safety**

Particularly during summer months and after school hours, these programs keep children engaged, safe, and learning. This not only supports their academic retention but also contributes to community safety and wellness by providing structured, supervised environments.

With your commitment to equity, youth empowerment, and community revitalization is deeply valued. We urge you to continue investing in the educational branch of Parks and Recreation — not only as a commitment to our city's children, but as a strategic investment in the future of Los Angeles.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration. I would be happy to participate in any community discussions or provide further insight into how these programs have personally impacted our families.

With gratitude and hope,

**Rebecca Tactacan Vega**

**IMPORTANT WARNING:** This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is strictly prohibited. Thank you for your cooperation.



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: Urging Continued Support for Educational Programs within Parks and Recreation

1 message

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

Wed, Apr 23, 2025 at 10:34 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, Apr 22, 2025 at 6:49 AM

wrote:

### Subject: Urging Continued Support for Educational Programs within Parks and Recreation

Dear Commissioners and Council Members,

I hope this message finds you well and energized in your continued efforts to uplift the city of Los Angeles. I am writing as a concerned resident and strong advocate for youth development to respectfully urge your administration to prioritize and maintain funding for the educational components within our Parks and Recreation programs. These programs are not merely optional extracurriculars — they are essential community hubs where young people gain access to meaningful learning opportunities, especially in under-resourced areas. The educational offerings within Parks and Recreation — including art, science, nature exploration, creative thinking workshops, and structured support from skilled staff — provide critical development that complements our formal school systems.

#### Key Reasons to Sustain These Programs:

##### 1. Development of Social and Emotional Skills

Parks and Rec programs provide children and teens with safe, inclusive spaces to build social skills. Through group activities, games, and mentorship from staff, youth learn cooperation, empathy, communication, and conflict resolution — essential life skills not always addressed in traditional classrooms.

##### 2. Fostering Creative and Critical Thinking

Many of these programs focus on creativity through arts, music, storytelling, and environmental projects. This nurtures problem-solving skills, imagination, and innovation. These experiences often ignite passions and talents that can shape future career paths or lifelong hobbies.

##### 3. Creating a Safe Environment for Children

Parks and Recreation centers offer more than educational enrichment — they provide a safe, structured environment for children and teens during critical hours when parents may be at work and when young people are most vulnerable to outside risks. These programs serve as protective spaces where kids are supervised, engaged, and encouraged to grow in healthy ways.

##### 4. Positive Adult Guidance and Academic Support

Trained staff and educators in these programs provide mentorship and personalized attention that some students may not receive elsewhere. Their ability to encourage, guide, and connect with children in an informal, supportive setting plays a vital role in academic and personal development.



## **5. Community Equity and Accessibility**

For many low-income families, Parks and Recreation centers are the only accessible educational resource outside of school. Cutting or reducing these services would disproportionately affect communities that already face systemic barriers to opportunity.

## **6. Preventing Learning Loss and Supporting Public Safety**

Particularly during summer months and after school hours, these programs keep children engaged, safe, and learning. This not only supports their academic retention but also contributes to community safety and wellness by providing structured, supervised environments.

With your commitment to equity, youth empowerment, and community revitalization is deeply valued. We urge you to continue investing in the educational branch of Parks and Recreation — not only as a commitment to our city's children, but as a strategic investment in the future of Los Angeles.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration. I would be happy to participate in any community discussions or provide further insight into how these programs have personally impacted our families.

With gratitude and hope,

Angel Vega



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Council File Number: 25-0204**

1 message

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

Wed, Apr 23, 2025 at 9:33 AM

To:

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, Apr 18, 2025 at 3:28 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 enabled by the 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 resolution 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](mailto:empowerla@lacity.org).

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

**Contact Information**

Neighborhood Council: North Westwood

Name: Jacob Wasserman

Email:

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(12) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 03/05/2025

Type of NC Board Action: Neutral Position

**Impact Information**

Date: 04/18/2025

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

Council File Number: 25-0204

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: NWWNC asks that our City Council and city agencies apply for Los Angeles Metro Active Transportation (MAT) Cycle 2 funding to complete a number of Westwood projects. Approximately \$75 million in MAT Cycle 2 funding is available for projects listed in the 2023 Metro Active Transportation Strategic Plan for three categories: active transportation corridors, first-/last-mile (FLM), and pedestrian districts for implementation between 2026-2030. Importantly MAT funds do not require a local match, and Metro can lead planning, outreach, and design for projects up to construction, minimizing city staffing needs. Cycle 2 also includes funds for smaller quick-build projects under \$1 million, which could be particularly useful for approved but unfunded small LADOT projects like the Gayley/Strathmore scramble pedestrian crossing. We ask that the entire Los Angeles Metro First-/Last-mile Plan for the D Line Extension in Westwood be implemented, which includes elements from a number of projects previously supported by NWWNC, including Westwood Connected and sidewalk and crossing improvements at Westwood Park. Additionally, the North Village qualifies under the Westwood Pedestrian District, Weyburn/Westwood FLM, and Sunset/Bellagio FLM and is in dire need of repair and safety upgrades, including NWWNC requests like our ask for sidewalk and crossing Improvements on Gayley Avenue, and for intersection and crossing improvements across the North Village. In addition to tens of thousands of Westwood stakeholders who will benefit from these projects daily, these active transportation improvements are essential to the success of the Olympics and Paralympics. MAT funding would allow for essential improvements to be made. With little to no downside to applying for MAT funding, the NWWNC strongly requests the city include Westwood-related projects in Cycle 2 funding.

Ref:MSG12254968



## - COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT -

Council File: [20-0504](#)

Title: Metro Active Transport (MAT) / Fiscal Years 2021-2025 / Cycle 1 / Call For Projects

Position: Neutral

Council File: [25-0204](#)

Title: Metro Active Transport (MAT) / Cycle 2 / Segment 4 Valley LA RiverWay

Position: Neutral

### Summary:

The North Westwood Neighborhood Council (NWWNC) asks that our City Council and city agencies apply for Los Angeles Metro Active Transportation (MAT) Cycle 2 funding to complete a number of Westwood projects. Approximately \$75 million in MAT Cycle 2 funding is available for projects listed in the 2023 Metro Active Transportation Strategic Plan for three categories: active transportation corridors, first-/last-mile (FLM), and pedestrian districts for implementation between 2026-2030. Importantly MAT funds do not require a local match, and Metro can lead planning, outreach, and design for projects up to construction, minimizing city staffing needs. Cycle 2 also includes funds for smaller quick-build projects under \$1 million, which could be particularly useful for approved but unfunded small LADOT projects like the Gayley/Strathmore scramble pedestrian crossing.

We ask that the entire [Los Angeles Metro First-/Last-mile Plan](#) for the D Line Extension in Westwood be implemented, which includes elements from a number of projects previously supported by NWWNC, including [Westwood Connected](#) and [sidewalk and crossing improvements at Westwood Park](#). Additionally, the North Village qualifies under the Westwood Pedestrian District, Weyburn/Westwood FLM, and Sunset/Bellagio FLM and is in dire need of repair and safety upgrades, including NWWNC requests like our ask [for sidewalk and crossing Improvements on Gayley Avenue](#), and [for intersection and crossing improvements across the North Village](#). In addition to tens of thousands of Westwood stakeholders who will benefit from these

projects daily, these active transportation improvements are essential to the success of the Olympics and Paralympics. For example, Gayley Avenue will be the main link between the future Athlete Village, Westwood Village, and the D Line. Yet the usable sidewalks are narrow and cracked, bike lanes are non-existent or blocked by drive-through traffic. MAT funding would allow for essential improvements to be made.

With little to no downside to applying for MAT funding, the NWWNC strongly requests the city include Westwood-related projects in Cycle 2 funding.

## **Previously Supported/Requested MAT-Eligible Projects**

### **1. Westwood Connected**

Summary: <https://www.westwoodconnected.com/>

Elements eligible as Active Transportation Corridor:

- Westwood Boulevard protected bicycle lanes and protected intersections

Elements eligible as Westwood/UCLA D Line FLM, Westwood/Weyburn FLM, and/or Sunset/Bellagio FLM:

- Westwood Boulevard protected bicycle lanes and protected intersections
- Gayley Avenue protected bicycle lanes, sidewalk widening, and traffic calming
- Gayley Avenue scramble crossings at Le Conte Avenue, Charles E. Young Drive, and Strathmore Drive
- Pedestrian improvements across Westwood Village, including raised crossings/intersections, curb extensions, and speed humps

Elements eligible as Westwood Pedestrian District:

- Gayley Avenue scramble crossings at Le Conte Avenue, Charles E. Young Drive, and Strathmore Drive
- Pedestrian improvements across Westwood Village, including raised crossings/intersections, curb extensions, and speed humps

### **2. Westwood Park/Veteran Avenue Sidewalk and Crossing Improvements**

Summary:

[https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2024/24-1111-S16\\_cis\\_05-10-24.pdf#page=3](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2024/24-1111-S16_cis_05-10-24.pdf#page=3)

*(Eligible as part of Westwood/UCLA D Line FLM Plans and Wilshire/Veteran FLM)*

### **3. Gayley Avenue North Village Sidewalk and Crossing Improvements**

Summary:

[https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2024/24-1111-S16\\_cis\\_05-13-2024.pdf#page=3](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2024/24-1111-S16_cis_05-13-2024.pdf#page=3)

*(Eligible as Westwood Pedestrian District and Sunset/Bellagio FLM)*



#### **4. North Village Intersection and Crossing Improvements**

*Summary:*

[https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2024/24-1111-S16\\_cis\\_06-06-24.pdf#page=3](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2024/24-1111-S16_cis_06-06-24.pdf#page=3)

*(Eligible as Westwood Pedestrian District and Westwood/UCLA D Line FLM Plans)*