

INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

July 15, 2021

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM: MICHAEL A. SHULL, 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) John Baginski comments regarding Venice Beach Weekly Street Sweeping	#8874s	Referred to General Manager
2) Pae White comments regarding homeless encampments at Debs Park	#8837d	Referred to General Manager
3) Yves Spinelli comments regarding homeless encampments at Debs Park	#8837e	Referred to General Manager
4) Fred Jacob comments regarding RAP pool facilities	#8951am	Referred to General Manager
5) Matthew Epstein comments regarding RAP pool facilities	#8951an	Referred to General Manager
6) Susie Forte Gilman comments regarding RAP pool facilities	#8951ao	Referred to General Manager
7) Mauro Garcia comments regarding Sycamore Grove Park	#8954a	Referred to General Manager
8) City Council motion regarding inclusion of youth equestrian programs	#8955	Note and File
9) Jason Greenwald comments regarding Mount Hollywood	#8956	Referred to General Manager
10) Mauro Garcia comments regarding Sycamore Grove Park	#8957	Referred to General Manager
11) Mauro Garcia comments regarding Sycamore Grove Park	#8957a	Referred to General Manager

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 2

12) Sarajane Schwartz as Safety Chair on behalf of Hollywoodland HOA comments regarding Hollywoodland closure during 4 <sup>th</sup> of July weekend	#8958	Referred to General Manager
13) Jason Greenwald as Chair on behalf of Griffith Park Advisory Board	#8959	Referred to General Manager
14) Garcia Incaeal comments regarding Sycamore Park Gang Graffiti	#8960	Referred to General Manager
15) John Betz comments regarding Westchester Park	#8961	Note and File
16) Mollie Jones comments regarding outdoor basketball rims at Silverlake Recreation Center	#8962	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Jessica Martinez, RAP Commission Office



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

## Re: It is about Time You Started to Clean Up the Boardwalk ----- A little late for Michael Hall

1 message

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

Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 4:48 PM

To: John Baginski

Cc: "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, "enrique.zaldivar@lacity.org" <enrique.zaldivar@lacity.org>, "pamela.perez@lacity.org" <pamela.perez@lacity.org>, "claudia.martin@lacity.org" <claudia.martin@lacity.org>, "zgaidzik@bos.lacounty.gov" <zgaidzik@bos.lacounty.gov>, Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, Councilmember Mike Bonin <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, "mike.bonin@lacity.org" <mike.bonin@lacity.org>, "mj.bonin@lacity.org" <mj.bonin@lacity.org>

Good afternoon,

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

If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 10:04 AM John Baginski <j

> wrote:

VENICE—Friday, 49-year-old Michael Hall was found dead in a tent at a homeless encampment near the intersection of Ocean Front Walk and Dudley Avenue in Venice.

Los Angeles Police Department, officers were called to the encampment about 3:20 p.m. When officers arrived at the scene, they found a man in his late 40s suffering from blunt force trauma to the head inside of a tent. The man died at the scene.

**Your inaction has created the environment for drugs, violence and death. You are partially responsible for Michael Hall's death.**

Please use all resopurces to immediately clean up Venice Beach. Please work with the Sheriff and everyone else to clean up Venice Beach immediately. Enough pain, violence and death.

John Baginski

30 Year Venice Resident

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

Telephone: (213) 202-2640  
 Fax: (213) 202-2610

6/28/2021

City of Los Angeles Mail - Re: It is about Time You Started to Clean Up the Boardwalk ----- A little late for Michael Hall

Mail Stop: 625/15

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



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

**Re: URGENT re DOG ATTACK Incidents at Oakwood Park**

1 message

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

Wed, Jul 7, 2021 at 12:17 PM

To: "Beth G (

Cc: Laura Island &lt;laura.island@lacity.org&gt;, Margaret Molloy

Mike Bonin &lt;mike.bonin@lacity.org&gt;, krista.kline@lacity.org, ani wlafield

&lt;Ani.wlafield@lacity.org&gt;

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Wed, Jul 7, 2021 at 7:56 AM Beth G (WWM)

&gt; wrote:

Hi there -

Curious as to what the plan is moving forward with citations and patrol. Without some sort of consistency nothing will change. There was definitely a change in the park a few weeks back but things have been picking up again. There are currently 8+ dogs running loose in the park. Yesterday an LAPD officer was in the park playground area while dogs were running loose and nothing was said or done. LAPD also drove by at around 7:45pm and there were dogs off-leash and they didn't do the bare minimum and get on their loudspeaker to tell them to leash up. This sends mixed messages to people who come every day that they are allowed to have their dogs off-leash. When there isn't any consistent enforcement and tickets being written things quickly go back to the way they were. Also, this undermines the park staff that has been coming out periodically to tell people to leash up. Working together with a consistent plan is the only thing that will make a change. While the sliding gates were installed - they are only 4-5 openings and we asked for 8-10 openings. If enforcement can't be done the fences need to be removed. As discussed, Oakwood is the only fully enclosed park on the westside.

Also, we were told months ago on two occasions there would be warning letters sent to the people we can identify. Community members shared photos and license plate numbers. Were warnings sent out? My partner was walking our dogs months back and was verbally assaulted by Russell Smith 654 San Juan, Venice, CA 90291. Russell sent me an email apologizing for yelling at her as he thought it was me. He went on to explain/admit that he brings his dogs to Oakwood unleashed. Mr. Smith was also at the original meeting last year when it was stated by LAPD, Parks & Recs, and Animal Control that people will be cited if their dogs are off-leash.

Attached are some photos of some of the regulars - several of them have been warned multiple times and they still come every day.

woman w/Labradoodle - comes in every day with a chuck-it ball thrower  
 Hoodie - he has been warned 2x's that we have witnessed and comes every morning and some afternoons  
 Russell Smith - Please note he is standing 5 feet away from the sign saying all dogs need to be leashed  
 Random morning shot - there were 4-5 more dogs on the Broadway and 7th corner.

We seemed to have some momentum with enforcement and don't see why one rotating morning every week 15-20 mins can't be spent citing these people. Please advise as to the plan moving forward.

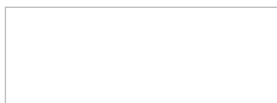
Beth Greenwald

On Thu, Jun 17, 2021 at 7:39 AM Laura Island &lt;laura.island@lacity.org&gt; wrote:

Good morning and thank you for your email.

I am sorry to hear about the incident with Ms. Anderson. RAP is working to find a solution to this problem at Oakwood Park and we will keep you posted on our progress.

Laura Island, RTC  
 Acting Principal Recreation Supervisor I  
 Shoreline (West) Region  
 Citywide Adaptive Recreation Division  
 City of Los Angeles  
 Department of Recreation and Parks  
 (310) 202-2803  
[laura.island@lacity.org](mailto:laura.island@lacity.org)

**PARK PROUD LA**

On Wed, Jun 16, 2021 at 9:54 PM Margaret Molloy

&gt; wrote:

PLEASE SHARE WITH COMMISSIONERS

Hello RAP, LAPD, Animal Control, and CD 11,

It is disgusting that Pam Anderson, an Oakwood Park Advisory Board member and Oakwood Elder, was chased and threatened by an off-leash pitbull that came out of that park to attack her. I am so sorry to hear about it. I am grateful that Pam was not badly hurt but understand the assault that occurred and the threat of imminent injury.

Someone is going to get really hurt if RAP, LAPD, Animal Control, and CD 11 continue to let this off-leash dog issue continue at this historical pocket-park in the Oakwood community in Venice.

OAKWOOD IS NOT A DOG PARK! The City of Los Angeles does not have many dedicated dog parks but Venice has one in close proximity to Oakwood Park.

At around 5:30 on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 two young boys were playing at Oakwood Park. An off-leash dog kept trying to play with them. The mom asked the owner if she could restrain her dog because the boys just wanted to play together. She did not listen and the dog pushed one child down fracturing his wrist. The owner then took her dog and left without attending to the injured 11-yr-old boy.



At the Oakwood Park update meeting on July 3, 2019, another Oakwood Elder, Carol Powell, described being chased by an off leash dog inside the park and having to scramble onto a picnic table at the north end of the park for safety while the owner remained oblivious. That is insane.

As Laura let you know, on May 25th, 2021 at around 6:30pm, an off-leash rushed at me as some community members gathered at the bleachers at the park. At that moment, I was speaking to the young boy who was injured on March 30, 2021 and his mom. He does not need to be re-traumatized. That dog was medium-large sized and barked as it ran up. I have been a dog-person all my life but I don't think this behavior is responsible ownership in any way. Other people do not need to be put in a position to figure out if a running barking is aggressive. Many dog owners are indifferent to other's fears of dogs. The young woman on May 25th was totally dismissive of our concerns. She did not even have a leash with her at the park.

Enough is enough.

Please remedy this situation immediately. Dog owners in Venice have a dog park. That is all that needs to be said. The City and city agencies should not have to be sued to take action that is required for community safety. The Oakwood community has already provided proof of this problem multiple times to all of the relevant agencies.

Please confirm receipt of this complaint. I would appreciate your response and a RAP policy determination as soon as possible.

Appreciatively,

Margaret Molloy

On Jun 16, 2021, at 12:35 PM, aave < > wrote:

Hey Guys:

I'm still a bit shook up, a damn dog ran out the Oakwood park gate into the street as I'm riding my bike by the park, and the dog ran up on me attacking me. The owner did not have her dog on a leash, she did not try to stop the dog at all. She didn't even tell her dog to stop at all, she just stood there.

Pam Anderson  
310-383-3124 cell

-----Original Message-----

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

To: Laura Ceballos >

Cc: Laura Island <laura.island@lacity.org>; Adrian Acosta <37285@lapd.online>; Keith Rice <keith.rice@lacity.org>; Steven Embrich <30993@lapd.online>; Francisca Castillo <francisca.castillo@lacity.org>; Pamela Anders

Sent: Wed, Jun 16, 2021 11:33 am

Subject: Re: Incidents at Oakwood Park

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Mon, Jun 14, 2021 at 7:44 PM Laura Ceballos

> wrote:

Hello Laura,

I received a phone call at approximately 7:15pm today by Oakwood Park Advisory Board Member Pam Anderson. She was riding her bike by Oakwood Park

7/7/2021

City of Los Angeles Mail - Re: URGENT re DOG ATTACK Incidents at Oakwood Park

on 7th when a vicious pit bull off of a leash ran out of Oakwood Park and rushed her on the bike. She was knocked over on her bike.

On Tuesday, May 25th 2021 at around 6:30pm, a dog off a leash rushed at Margaret Molloy, a Community Member, as we were gathered at the bleachers at the park. This led to a heated altercation. The ongoing dog issue has exacerbated. The installation of the retractable fences have proven to be unsuccessful. The openings of the gates are too small that it won't make much of a difference.

Laura Ceballos

--

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

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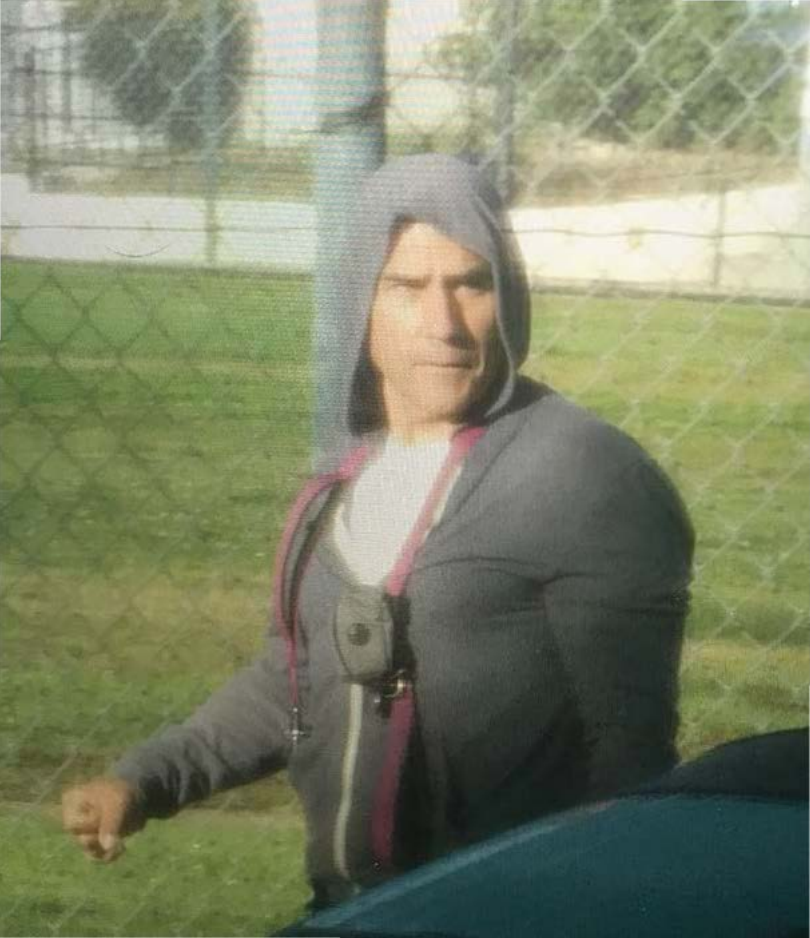






be on leash  
leash control  
owners must be  
responsible

9387WB







## Re: URGENT re DOG ATTACK Incidents at Oakwood Park

1 message

**Laura Island** <laura.island@lacity.org>  
To: "Beth G (WWM)" <

Wed, Jul 7, 2021 at 12:01 PM

<krista.kline@lacity.org>, ani wlatfield <Ani.wlatfield@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>

Mike Bonin &lt;mike.bonin@lacity.org&gt;, Krista Kline

Good morning, Beth.

I was planning to send out this update today, to inform everyone of the steps taken by both LAPD and Recreation and Parks to better address the safety concerns at Oakwood Park.

A meeting was held last week to determine a more consistent enforcement plan. Effective immediately, LAPD has scheduled regular patrols in the morning hours and LA Park Rangers have scheduled additional patrols between 3 and 7 pm in the evening. In addition, Animal Services is hopeful to provide their support in the next few weeks. With a greater enforcement presence and increased citations of violators it is expected that we will see a significant decline in the amount of off leash dogs at the park.

As a long-term response to the problem, Recreation and Parks is in the early planning stages of an upgrade of Westminster Dog Park, which is only about a mile from Oakwood Park. The improved Dog Park will feature amenities that will be much more inviting to dogs and their owners - providing a much better alternative to the fields at Oakwood.

I hope you are encouraged by the support of the Council Office and other City Departments in providing improved enforcement and a safer park for the Oakwood community.

Thank you,  
Laura

Laura Island, RTC  
Acting Principal Recreation Supervisor I  
West Region  
Citywide Adaptive Recreation Division  
City of Los Angeles  
Department of Recreation and Parks  
(310) 202-2803  
[laura.island@lacity.org](mailto:laura.island@lacity.org)

### PARK PROUD LA



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**PARK PROUD LA**



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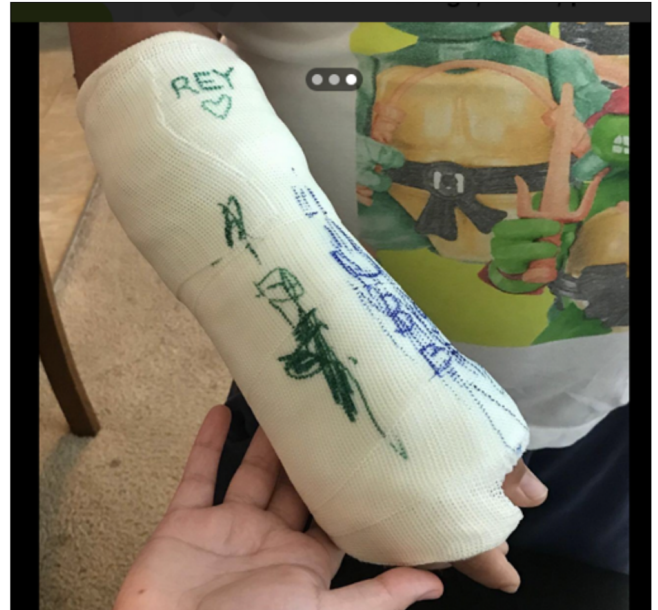
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Pam Anderson  
310-383-3124 cell

-----Original Message-----

From: Rap Commissioners <[rap.commissioners@lacity.org](mailto:rap.commissioners@lacity.org)>  
To: Laura Ceballos

Sent: Wed, Jun 16, 2021 11:33 am  
Subject: Re: Incidents at Oakwood Park

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Hello Laura,

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Laura Ceballos

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

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**Re: Debs Park**

1 message

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

Tue, Jun 29, 2021 at 9:07 AM

To: Pae White &gt;

Cc: Bill Cody &lt;Bill.Cody@lacity.org&gt;, Tom Marble &lt;tom@tommarble.com&gt;, "joe.losorelli@lacity.org" &lt;joe.losorelli@lacity.org&gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 5:27 PM Pae White < > wrote:

Hi Bill

The camps that continue to be extremely problematic are:

**CAMP E - Rooster Camp**

**CAMP F - Weber Grill visible. Located in a gulley surrounded by dry trees. Was never touched during the first clean-out.**

**CAMP G - Guy with a machete**

**CAMP I - Repopulating very fast on both sides. Drug dealing taking place in broad daylight. Has already cut open the fence and have moved back into the park**

**(not on map) CAMP on NORTH SIDE OF PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE**

All of the above encampments are well into Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) and the city has a mandate to stay on top of clearing these. We are well aware of the inaction and are requesting that another deeper clean out occur followed with regular enforcement.

Thank you

Pae

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Tom Marble

**Subject:** Re: Overhead

**Date:** June 28, 2021 at 5:07:26 PM PDT

**To:** Bill Cody <bill.cody@lacity.org>

**Cc:** Pae White

Hi Bill,

The camps are starting to reestablish themselves; here's the latest map and is by no means thorough:

Tom

On Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 3:01 PM Bill Cody <bill.cody@lacity.org> wrote:

Hi Pae, Tom,

Do by chance have a recent overhead like the ones you showed me before with the HE's. I'm going up to Debs again tomorrow and it would be helpful.

Thanks,

--

**Bill Cody**  
**Senior Field Deputy Office of Gil Cedillo - CD1**  
**Highland Park, Mt. Washington, Montecito Heights, Glassell Park**  
[bill.cody@lacity.org](mailto:bill.cody@lacity.org)  
**323-550-1538 (o)**

--

Tom Marble

City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
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**UPDATE**  
**HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS IN ERNEST DEBS PARK**  
**A DESIGNATED VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE (VHFHSZ)**  
**JUNE 28, 2021**



**CAMP A:** This camp is well concealed and high up in Debs Park. Shocking to see a hibachi out in the open. **NOW CLEARED.**



**CAMP B:** An extremely well concealed camp with extensive construction. Practically a functioning house. Visible from above: **NOW CLEARED.**



**CAMP C:** An extremely dangerous camp at the end of the peninsula. Open flame cooking set-up directly below branches of a dead tree. **UNKNOWN STATUS**



**CAMP D:** Camp embedded in dry trees about 20 feet below Camp C. **UNKNOWN STATUS**



**CAMP E:** No images available of this camp. Very active and well established. Many animals including a rooster, a dog and cats and kittens. **UNKNOWN STATUS**

**CAMP F:** This camp is extremely well established and large. Has a very well-trodden pathway leading up to it. Is in very dense thicket of trees. Has a Weber grill sitting on a piece of Plywood. **STILL ACTIVE**

**CAMP F – May 23, 2021**



**CAMP F – JUNE 12, 2021**



**CAMP G:** Established and Active camp involving grading and retaining walls. Near Audubon Center. **STILL ACTIVE**

**CAMP G – May 23, 2021**



**CAMP G – JUNE 12, 2021**





**CAMP H:** Established camp with doors and a yard. Has a rooster. Near Audubon Center.  
**NOW CLEARED.**

**CAMP H – May 23, 2021**



**CAMP I:** An absolute metropolis of illegal encampments all along Griffin/Avenue 52. Some of these camps are between Griffin/Avenue 52 and the Arroyo Seco Channel – a sliver of land that is part of Arroyo Seco Park, NOT the Army Corps of Engineers or CalTrans. **THIS CAMP HAS RE:ESTABLISHED ITSELF IN THE ARROYO AND IN THE PARK**

**CAMP H – May 23, 2021**



**CAMP H – JUNE 28, 2021**





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

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**Re: Debs Park**

1 message

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

Tue, Jun 29, 2021 at 9:08 AM

To: Yves Spinelli

Cc:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Tue, Jun 29, 2021 at 8:27 AM Yves Spinelli

> wrote:

Thank you, Pae.

As Pae's neighbor directly across the street, I will echo the concern. There have been constant fireworks in our neighborhood leading up to the 4th of July weekend, which of course will be very active with fireworks and partying. With dry weather and temperatures rising, it's imperative that clearance happens ASAP.

Best,

Yves Spinelli

SK

On Jun 28, 2021, at 5:26 PM, Pae White <

wrote:

Hi Bill

The camps that continue to be extremely problematic are:

**CAMP E - Rooster Camp**

**CAMP F - Weber Grill visible. Located in a gulley surrounded by dry trees. Was never touched during the first clean-out.**

**CAMP G - Guy with a machete**

**CAMP I - Repopulating very fast on both sides. Drug dealing taking place in broad daylight. Has already cut open the fence and have moved back into the park**

**(not on map) CAMP on NORTH SIDE OF PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE**

All of the above encampments are well into Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) and the city has a mandate to stay on top of clearing these. We are well aware of the inaction and are requesting that another deeper clean out occur followed with regular enforcement.

Thank you

Pae

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Tom Marble <[tom@tommarble.com](mailto:tom@tommarble.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Overhead  
**Date:** June 28, 2021 at 5:07:26 PM PDT  
**To:** Bill Cody <[bill.cody@lacity.org](mailto:bill.cody@lacity.org)>  
**Cc:** Pae White

The camps are starting to reestablish themselves; here's the latest map and is by no means thorough:

Tom

On Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 3:01 PM Bill Cody <[bill.cody@lacity.org](mailto:bill.cody@lacity.org)> wrote:

Hi Pae, Tom,

Do by chance have a recent overhead like the ones you showed me before with the HE's. I'm going up to Debs again tomorrow and it would be helpful.

Thanks,

--

**Bill Cody**  
**Senior Field Deputy Office of Gil Cedillo - CD1**  
**Highland Park, Mt. Washington, Montecito Heights, Glassell Park**  
[bill.cody@lacity.org](mailto:bill.cody@lacity.org)  
**323-550-1538 (o)**

--

Tom Marble

<UPDATED MAP OF CAMPS IN DEBS PARK 062821.docx>



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

---

**Re: Debs Park**

1 message

---

**Bill Cody** <bill.cody@lacity.org>  
To: Yves Spinelli <

Tue, Jun 29, 2021 at 8:47 AM

We are putting signs out about Fireworks just as we did last year. If you have a lot of fireworks in the area which is something we battle with in the NE please either send the address in via 311 or use the complaint line.

<https://complaint.lacity.org/Complaint/fireworks/> LAPD is working on every case they get but they need to know where the fireworks are being set off.

They are also doing buys and shutting down as many sellers as possible but they need your help.

Thanks,

Bill

On Tue, Jun 29, 2021 at 8:27 AM Yves Spinelli <

> wrote:

Thank you, Pae.

As Pae's neighbor directly across the street, I will echo the concern. There have been constant fireworks in our neighborhood leading up to the 4th of July weekend, which of course will be very active with fireworks and partying. With dry weather and temperatures rising, it's imperative that clearance happens ASAP.

Best,

Yves Spinelli

SK

On Jun 28, 2021, at 5:26 PM, Pae White <

wrote:

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--

Tom Marble Architecture  
[www.tommarble.com](http://www.tommarble.com)

<UPDATED MAP OF CAMPS IN DEBS PARK 062821.docx>





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

---

**Re: Debs Park**

1 message

**Bill Cody** <bill.cody@lacity.org>

Tue, Jun 29, 2021 at 8:50 AM

To: Yves Spinelli &lt;

Cc:

Here is the new app LAFD set up as well. You can put this directly on your Smart Phone.

<https://www.mysafela.org/fireworks/report-fireworks/>

Bill

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[Spinelli Kilcollin](#)

# SK

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--  
Tom Marble Architecture  
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

**Re: Westwood Pool reservations 310-479-7019**

1 message

**RAP PublicInfo** <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 1:06 PM  
To: Fred Jacob >  
Cc: Mayor Helpdesk <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <RAP.COMMISSIONERS@lacity.org>

Hello Fred,

Thank you for reaching out to us regarding this issue, we apologize about the situation. You may reach our Aquatics team at 323 906-7953, they will be able to assist you with registration and answer any questions you have.

Best Regards,

On Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 12:51 PM Fred Jacob < > wrote:

**All,  
Staff at pool do not answer the phone, or the phone is always busy.  
I am unable to make swim reservations....  
Why doesn't the city set up a website for making reservations online??  
???**

**Fred Jacob**

--

*"That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons that History has to teach" – Aldous Huxley*

--  
Department of Recreation and Parks | Public Info Office

Follow us on social media for everything Recreation and Parks related!



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

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**Re: LA City Pool policy**

1 message

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

Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 8:59 AM

To: Matthew Epstein &gt;

Cc: "Councilmember.Blumenfield@lacity.org" &lt;Councilmember.Blumenfield@lacity.org&gt;

Good Morning and thank you for your comments, they will be shared with the Commissioners and with RAP staff. Please note that as RAP is able to hire recreational, construction, and maintenance staff, more aquatic amenities will be made available to better serve the community.

On Sun, Jun 27, 2021 at 5:09 PM Matthew Epstein

&gt; wrote:

As a swimmer who has been denied use of LA city pools for a year and a half because of Covid, I am very disappointed in the way LA Pools has decided to open up. LA has remained the strictest jurisdiction in the region when it comes to public services and the pools are one of the most extreme examples. It is as if nothing has changed since January and the State has not loosened it's tight restrictions.

I went to the Westwood pool and was told that it was by appointment only, 24 hours in advance. This is because Westwood is an indoor pool. I don't see the difference. This information is not on the various websites, and the websites are generally inaccurate when it comes to the daily schedules of the individual pools, and the phone number for appointments only answers as a recording.

I tried VNSO. I called first on the way. Again a recording, saying One per lane and first come first serve. That means about 15 people in a 25x50 meter pool at once. Ridiculous. I feel sorry for the staff, who have to put up with people coming and saying how ridiculous the rules are.

From the posted schedules, the pools will be on restricted hours and occupancy for the foreseeable future. This must change. Why is LA so far behind every other city and the county?

I belong to a master's team called SCAQ. SCAQ has been denied access to LA pools, while the city is signing up for kids teams. What is the reason for this?

Matthew Epstein  
Concerned Citizen.

--

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

Telephone: (213) 202-2640  
Fax: (213) 202-2610  
Mail Stop: 625/15  
Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)



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**Re: Palisades Rec Center Veteran's Garden**

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: Susie Forte Gilman <susie.gilman@me.com>

Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 4:51 PM

Good Afternoon,

Please note that the Department is short staffed at the moment, but a new full time staff member has recently been assigned to this facility who will be made aware of your concerns.

On Tue, Jun 22, 2021 at 4:40 PM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good Afternoon and thank you for your comments, they will be shared with the Commissioners appropriate staff.

On Sun, Jun 20, 2021 at 7:56 PM Susie Forte Gilman <susie.gilman@me.com> wrote:

Hi Commissioners,

I would like to express my concern about the Veteran's Gardens at the Palisades Rec Center in Pacific Palisades. I am an adjacent neighbor to the park (so close to Veteran's Gardens actually) and I can tell you that the Gardens are being used for anything but Veterans. They are mainly used for rowdy teenagers all hours of the night. Additionally, the BBQ's are unlocked and accessible to anyone interested in starting a fire. The eucalyptus trees hanging over the Gardens are susceptible to quick fire and with family homes all around the area in direct proximity, we feel the whole situation is very dangerous to the community/neighbors/library/schools, etc. The BBQ's are not even permitted by the City of LA. The whole situation is a sore spot for the neighbors because of the lack of oversight at the park in general, especially at night.

Please address this danger to the community in a timely manner.

Kind regards,

Susie Gilman

--  
City of Los Angeles  
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---

**Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GANG GRAFFITI CD1 LA 90065**

1 message

---

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

Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 11:19 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and sent to the appropriate staff. If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Wed, Jul 7, 2021 at 7:50 PM Garcia Incareal < > wrote:

Good evening.

I have in prior emails ask what are your plans on the crumbling Stage at Sycamore grove park.

You have not answer my question.

As a tax payer I think I am entitle to an answer.

Sincerely,

Mauro Garcia

Broker-Notary

--

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## MOTION

Equestrian events in Los Angeles have provided moments of historical significance through the last century. The City's first Olympic Games, in 1932, showcased Dressage, Eventing, and Jumping competitions, with the United States taking home the gold medal in Team Eventing. The 1984 Games featured the U.S. winning three of the six team and individual competitions in these events. Today, the City plays host to numerous competitions and exhibitions throughout the year.

The 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, beginning in Los Angeles in the summer of 2028, will continue the equestrian athletic tradition by again featuring team and individual Dressage, Eventing, and Jumping competitions. With seven years until the Games Opening Ceremony, the City has the chance to encourage awareness and involvement in equestrian activities in the lead-up to these historic competitions.

The Youth Sports Partnership (YSP), agreed to as part of the City's undertaking to host the 2028 Games, is a commitment by the International Olympic Committee to provide \$160 million for youth sports programming to significantly enhance access to sports for the City's youth during the years leading up to the 2028 Games. The Department of Recreation and Parks develops an annual Project Plan, as approved by the City Council, to expend YSP funds to increase access and opportunity for all young people, particularly the economically disadvantaged and physically disabled, through the participation in sports programs at City parks.

Equestrian services are currently offered in a limited capacity by the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP). RAP works with contractors at Griffith Park and Hansen Dam to offer horse rentals and pony rides to the public. RAP does not presently offer a program devoted to youth participation in equestrian activities.

The YSP is a unique opportunity to encourage athletic involvement and introduce children to sports to which they may otherwise never have access. Equestrian activities, which can be prohibitively expensive for most families, should be considered as a portion of the next annual YSP Project Plan. This would allow more children, including children with disabilities, to experience the joy of horseback riding, and potentially encourage participation and achievement in an equestrian event at the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

I THEREFORE REQUEST the Department of Recreation and Parks provide a report within 90 days on the inclusion of youth equestrian programs in the next annual Project Plan of the Youth Sports Partnership.

PRESENTED BY:

*Monica Rodriguez*  
MONICA RODRIGUEZ  
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY:

*J.P.C.*

*arw*  
JUN 25 2021

ORIGINAL





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

---

## Re: USGS support letter from GPAB

1 message

---

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

Tue, Jun 29, 2021 at 2:14 PM

To: Jason Greenwald <jason.greenwald@lacity.org>

Cc: Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, AP Diaz <ap.diaz@lacity.org>, "matthew.rudnick@lacity.org"

<matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>, Stefanie Smith <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>, Elena Maggioni <elena.maggioni@lacity.org>

Good afternoon,

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

If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Tue, Jun 29, 2021 at 9:45 AM Jason Greenwald

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The Griffith Park Advisory Board is writing in support of a proposal by the US Geological Survey to add an earthquake relay station atop Mt. Hollywood. Please see attached support letter, and feel free to let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jason Greenwald

Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

--

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## **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](http://www.laparks.org/griffithpark/advisory)

June 29, 2021

LA Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners

Dear Commissioners:

Every Angeleno knows the drill: Drop, Cover, and Hold On. But earthquake science has advanced to the point where residents can sometimes receive an alert before the shaking starts. The ShakeAlert Early Warning System depends on thousands of sensors throughout Southern California – and now has the opportunity for an upgrade with the addition of a relay station atop Mt. Hollywood in Griffith Park.

The Griffith Park Advisory Board is writing in support of this proposal by the US Geological Survey. Notably, the USGS team is working directly with RAP staff to ensure that the relay station will be as unobtrusive as possible. They plan to make use of existing infrastructure and to keep a light footprint.

In the event of a major earthquake, the benefits of the relay station – which will transmit real-time data from multiple locations via a direct radio signal to Caltech in Pasadena – could be beyond measure. During such an emergency, seconds truly do count, as ShakeAlert can help Angelenos take cover & minimize damage. Given our region's frequent seismic activity, GPAB is fully in support of this project.

Sincerely,

Jason Greenwald

Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

cc: RAP: Mike Shull, AP Diaz, Matthew Rudnick, Stefanie Smith, Elena Maggioni

CD4: Sarah Tanberg, Helene Rotolo

USGS: Marcos Alvarez, Brian McDowell

*BOARD MEMBERS: Chair – Jason Greenwald; Vice Chair – Michelle Crames; Secretary – Chris Laib;  
Past Chair – Ron Deutsch; Gene Gilbert; Mike Hain; Alex Phillips; Karen Thornton*



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

---

**Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GRAFFITI CD1 LA 90065**

1 message

---

**Yovonte Robinson** <yovonte.robinson@lacity.org>

Wed, Jun 30, 2021 at 10:12 AM

To: Garcia Incareal

Cc:

Bertha Calderon  
<bertha.calderon@lacity.org>, Laura Island <laura.island@lacity.org>, Art Gomez <art.gomez@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Iris Davis <iris.davis@lacity.org>, Valentine Brown <valentine.brown@lacity.org>, Theodore Garcia <theodore.garcia@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Job order has been submitted. # 21-20047

Thank you

On Wed, Jun 30, 2021 at 10:00 AM Garcia Incareal

> wrote:

June 30

Council member Gill Cedillo

The Sycamore Grove Park has graffiti.

Attach picture

Mauro Garcia



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

---

## SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GRAFFITI CD1 LA 90065

1 message

---

**Garcia Incareal**

Wed, Jun 30, 2021 at 9:58 AM

To:

bertha.calderon@lacity.org, laura.island@lacity.org,

art.gomez@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org, iris.davis@lacity.org, valentine.brown@lacity.org,

yovonte.robinson@lacity.org

June 30

Council member Gill Cedillo

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Attach picture

Mauro Garcia



**IMG\_2356.JPG**

1024K

**DAFFY**    
↑↑↑  
↓ ↓ ↓

**WALL**



---

**Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GRAFFITI CD1 LA 90065**

1 message

---

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

Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 11:20 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and sent to the appropriate staff. If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 9:58 AM Garcia Incareal <i> > wrote:  
JULY 9

Council member Gill Cedillo  
Last week I send you a request to remove the graffiti from the Sycamore Grove Park.  
I send attach photos.  
The painter miss a wall.  
I am attaching the picture again.  
How this happened.  
Mauro Garcia

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

## Re: Alert: Hollywoodland and the 4th of July

1 message

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

Fri, Jul 2, 2021 at 11:21 AM

To: sarah jane &gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Tue, Jun 29, 2021 at 4:57 PM <

> wrote:

Dear City Official,

I am writing to you as the Safety Chair of the Hollywoodland Homeowners Association.

We are requesting that you shut off public access to all of the illegal magnets in Hollywoodland over the 4th of July holiday weekend because of fire risk. This is an extremely modest request considering everything else that is going on, and leaving this location open with supervision by several officers covering an area of several hundred acres is not nearly enough and is totally inadequate.

All of the magnets within Hollywoodland have been bootlegged in without any proper public and legal process even though they are irresponsibly and dangerously promoted by the City. Not only do the magnets themselves not have the capacity to handle the crowds---one has as many as 90 cars parked there at a time---can you imagine another major attraction like this put into the park without any proper review--the areas and streets surrounding these magnets are also dangerously beyond capacity. I am talking about substandard winding streets with blind curves, dead ends with no turnarounds, no sidewalks and parked cars in streets, that are mostly barely 19 feet wide. And if this weren't bad enough Hollywoodland itself, unlike any of the other park-bordering neighborhoods, is a bottleneck that juts into Griffith Park, and is 80% surrounded by dry brush with extremely limited egress and ingress, and whose main artery dead ends at both ends. To evacuate just residents in the midst of an emergency would be extremely challenging bordering on impossible. There is also the element of emergency vehicles trying to get into these congested areas at the same time. Adding hundreds of visitor cars to this is down right negligent. The triple threat of public safety shortcomings at the magnets, the surroundings streets and the surrounding neighborhood is unimaginable--at least in the case of a public attraction. None of this should be happening any day of the week, but knowingly allowing this activity--with increased crowds along with increased threats-- during a particularly dangerous fire season over the 4th of July of all times is possibly criminal.

There is precedent for these shutdowns within Hollywoodland and beyond.

Councilman Tom Labonge put in most of the tourists magnets without any review. Because he knew how dangerous they really were, he made attempts to protect public safety by passing motions in LA City Council that shut down all of Hollywoodland to the public during high volume times, holidays, and vacations. This was frequently done for a number of years. Councilman Ryu irresponsibly stopped this practice. He questioned its legality. But in addition to Hollywoodland, many areas in other parts of the City are shut down. For example, for years many streets surrounding the Hollywood Bowl are shut off to the public during the long Hollywood Bowl season when there are performances. Many parks have closure if they reach capacity, and in conjunction with 4th of July holiday there are plans to have early closure of parks for each of the three days over the entire 4th of July weekend. Only Hollywoodland which is the most threatened, dangerous, substandard, inappropriate, fragile, and illegal location appears to have no limits to its capacities. It is always open to everything 24 hours a day, 365 days a year---a result of there never having been a legal, public process in creating these magnets--and the numbers of visitors continue to grow and are much greater than in the days of Tom Labonge. A disaster here is not a question of "if", but "when".

For this closure you will need the cooperation of CD4, RAP, LADOT, and LAPD. Catastrophes do happen, as we are now witnessing the horrible events in Surfside, Florida, and what is most disturbing is that it appears it involves issues

that were foreseen in reports. Hollywoodland and its public safety threats have also been recognized. We need you to act now, and we are waiting for your quick response as the 4th of July is almost here.

We want this letter to be put in the public record along with all of our other warnings and pleas for help. You, the representatives of the City, will not be able to plead ignorance.

Sincerely,  
Sarajane Schwartz  
Safety Chair  
Hollywoodland Homeowners Association

--

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

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





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

---

**Re: Alert: Hollywoodland and the 4th of July**

1 message

sschw56079@aol.com

Fri, Jul 2, 2021 at 2:40 PM

Reply-To:

To: "nithya.raman@lacity.org" <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, "sarah.tanberg@lacity.org" <sarah.tanberg@lacity.org>, "helene.rotolo@lacity.org" <helene.rotolo@lacity.org>, "michael.a.shull@lacity.org" <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, "stefanie.smith@lacity.org" <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>, "tracy.james@lacity.org" <tracy.james@lacity.org>, "rap.commissioners@lacity.org" <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, "john.white@lacity.org" <john.white@lacity.org>, "38074@lapd.online" <38074@lapd.online>, "jasmin.sanluis@lacity.org" <jasmin.sanluis@lacity.org>, "aram.sahakian@lacity.org" <aram.sahakian@lacity.org>

Dear City Official,

**The HHA is now DEMANDING that you shut down access to Hollywoodland over the 4th of July. Conditions have deteriorated in a significant way since we wrote the letter below.**

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The actions of the LA Times in recommending our fragile and endangered neighborhood on the most dangerous night and weekend of the year are incredibly reckless and irresponsible.

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Here is the link to the article. Please read it!

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Again I want this letter to be placed in the public record.

Sarajane Schwartz  
Safety Chair  
Hollywoodland Homeowners Association

-----Original Message-----

From:

To: [nithya.raman@lacity.org](mailto:nithya.raman@lacity.org) <nithya.raman@lacity.org>; [sarah.tanberg@lacity.org](mailto:sarah.tanberg@lacity.org) <sarah.tanberg@lacity.org>; [helene.rotolo@lacity.org](mailto:helene.rotolo@lacity.org) <helene.rotolo@lacity.org>; [michael.a.shull@lacity.org](mailto:michael.a.shull@lacity.org) <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>; [stefanie.smith@lacity.org](mailto:stefanie.smith@lacity.org) <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>; [tracy.james@lacity.org](mailto:tracy.james@lacity.org) <tracy.james@lacity.org>; [rap.commissioners@lacity.org](mailto:rap.commissioners@lacity.org) <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>; [john.white@lacity.org](mailto:john.white@lacity.org) <john.white@lacity.org>; [38074@lapd.online](mailto:38074@lapd.online) <38074@lapd.online>; [jasmin.sanluis@lacity.org](mailto:jasmin.sanluis@lacity.org) <jasmin.sanluis@lacity.org>; [aram.sahakian@lacity.org](mailto:aram.sahakian@lacity.org) <aram.sahakian@lacity.org>

Sent: Tue, Jun 29, 2021 4:57 pm

Subject: Alert: Hollywoodland and the 4th of July

Dear City Official,

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Sincerely,  
Sarajane Schwartz  
Safety Chair  
Hollywoodland Homeowners Association



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

## Re: Alert: Hollywoodland and the 4th of July

1 message

**Helene Rotolo** <helene.rotolo@lacity.org>

Sat, Jul 3, 2021 at 7:20 PM

To: Sarajane Schwartz

&gt;

Cc: "nithya.raman@lacity.org" <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, "sarah.tanberg@lacity.org" <sarah.tanberg@lacity.org>, "michael.a.shull@lacity.org" <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, "stefanie.smith@lacity.org" <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>, "tracy.james@lacity.org" <tracy.james@lacity.org>, "rap.commissioners@lacity.org" <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, "john.white@lacity.org" <john.white@lacity.org>, "38074@lapd.online" <38074@lapd.online>, "jasmin.sanluis@lacity.org" <jasmin.sanluis@lacity.org>, "aram.sahakian@lacity.org" <aram.sahakian@lacity.org>

Hi Sarajane -

Apologies for the delayed response, and thank you for raising the issue of the Los Angeles Times article when you did. Our team immediately reached out to the LA Times and have been assured that Lake Hollywood has been removed from its digital article, and it will not appear in any future print articles.

Furthermore, in an abundance of caution and at Councilmember Raman's request, LAPD Hollywood Division has confirmed that they will be sending extra patrols to the area. In addition to Rangers patrolling in brush patrol trucks in the Mt. Hollywood area, extra Park personnel will be deployed to monitor all activity within the park, and LADOT traffic officers will help monitor parking violations and direct traffic in congested areas all day. The City has zero tolerance for the use of illegal fireworks and smoking, and violators will be cited.

Rangers and LAPD officers will be aiding with Griffith Park & Observatory traffic, and LADOT overtime officers will be providing additional assistance on the 4th. Fire trucks will be on "ready standby" for fast deployment.

Additionally, LAFD will have active brush patrols throughout the Hollywood and Griffith Park area after 9pm, all weekend long. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers have been patrolling high fire risk areas since Thursday, July 1st.

I look forward to working with you on the public safety concerns of the Hollywoodland and Lake Hollywood residents.

All the best,  
Helene

On Fri, Jul 2, 2021 at 2:40 PM <sschw56079@aol.com> wrote:

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Sincerely,  
Sarajane Schwartz  
Safety Chair  
Hollywoodland Homeowners Association

--  
Helene Rotolo  
Field Deputy  
*Griffith Park, Silver Lake, Los Feliz & Hollywood United NC areas*  
Direct line: 213-999-1078



\*\*\*DISCLOSURE: All emails sent to or from this account (including any attachments) are subject to the California Public Records Act and may be released upon request.



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

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**Re: Alert: Hollywoodland and the 4th of July**

1 message

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**Bhuvan Bajaj** <bhuvan.bajaj@lacity.org>

Wed, Jul 7, 2021 at 10:23 AM

To: s  
Cc: Roy Kim <roy.kim@lacity.org>, Tim Fremaux <tim.fremaux@lacity.org>, Brian Gallagher <brian.gallagher@lacity.org>, Dennis To <dennis.to@lacity.org>, Nithya Raman <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, Sarah Tanberg <sarah.tanberg@lacity.org>, Helene Rotolo <helene.rotolo@lacity.org>, Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Stefanie Smith <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>, Tracy James <tracy.james@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, John White <john.white@lacity.org>, Brian White <38074@lapd.online>, Jasmin San Luis <jasmin.sanluis@lacity.org>, Aram Sahakian <aram.sahakian@lacity.org>, Lupe Sandoval <lupe.sandoval@lacity.org>, Jessie Dyar <jessie.dyar@lacity.org>

Hi Sarajane,

I am responding to your email on behalf of LADOT. I know that we are past the holiday weekend for when you were requesting closures of the tourist magnets in the Hollywoodland neighborhood, however, there may be more upcoming weekends where heavy crowds are to be expected and a similar request from your HOA is received (i.e. Labor Day Weekend). I want to clarify that LADOT is not the decision-making entity to proactively close down the areas you mentioned, but are committed to assist in any efforts to safely close off the streets on the public right-of-way if determined to be necessary by LAPD, LAFD, or RAP due to public safety concerns.

Please include myself, and Lupe Sandoval (LADOT Special Traffic Operations), on future correspondence.

Thank you,

**Bhuvan Bajaj, P.E.**

Transportation Engineer  
Hollywood-Wilshire District Operations

Los Angeles Department of Transportation

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

From:

Date: Tue, Jun 29, 2021 at 4:57 PM

Subject: Alert: Hollywoodland and the 4th of July

To: nithya.raman@lacity.org <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, sarah.tanberg@lacity.org <sarah.tanberg@lacity.org>, helene.rotolo@lacity.org <helene.rotolo@lacity.org>, michael.a.shull@lacity.org <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, stefanie.smith@lacity.org <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>, tracy.james@lacity.org <tracy.james@lacity.org>, rap.commissioners@lacity.org <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, john.white@lacity.org <john.white@lacity.org>, 38074@lapd.online <38074@lapd.online>, jasmin.sanluis@lacity.org <jasmin.sanluis@lacity.org>, aram.sahakian@lacity.org <aram.sahakian@lacity.org>

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Sincerely,  
Sarajane Schwartz  
Safety Chair  
Hollywoodland Homeowners Association



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**Re: GPAB Observatory Parking letter**

1 message

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

Fri, Jul 2, 2021 at 3:55 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, Jul 2, 2021 at 3:42 PM Jason Greenwald wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

Please see attached letter from the Griffith Park Advisory Board, as sent to the RAP Executive Team.

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jason Greenwald

Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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

Telephone: (213) 202-2640  
Fax: (213) 202-2610  
Mail Stop: 625/15  
Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)





## **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](http://www.laparks.org/griffithpark/advisory)

July 2, 2021

Matthew Rudnick  
Assistant General Manager  
Recreation & Parks Department

Re: Griffith Observatory Parking Revenue & Expenditures

Dear Mr. Rudnick,

Our board would like to thank you and the entire RAP executive team for your responsiveness to several recent requests. It was gratifying to see that input from our board and others in the community led to a reduction in parking rates at and near the Observatory. Further, we deeply appreciate the transparency shown by RAP's decision to release detailed historical revenue and expenditure figures for the Griffith Park paid parking program.

With that in mind, we would like to invite you to our next GPAB meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Your participation will aid us in better understanding the information that has been provided – and, crucially, will help to start a conversation about how we can best serve in our role as community stewards to aid RAP officials in future decisions related to Observatory parking revenue.

As you know, the paid parking program launched in 2016 with the intent of improving public transit and reducing the number of private vehicles in the park – and with the explicit understanding that all revenue would remain in Griffith Park, as stated in the [2016 board report](#). Community support largely hinged on that key point. At the time, a number of priorities were identified, some of which remain unfunded. We are hopeful that the improved post-pandemic budget situation will enable the following:

- Hiring a park biologist

Not only was this priority cited specifically in the 2016 board report that created the paid parking program, but it is also part of [A Vision for Griffith Park](#), adopted as department policy several years earlier. In fact, park advocates have stated that the goal of hiring a biologist dates to at least 2005 – and the need is greater than ever, both in Griffith Park and elsewhere.

*BOARD MEMBERS: Chair – Jason Greenwald; Vice Chair – Michelle Cramés; Secretary – Chris Laib;  
Past Chair – Ron Deutsch; Gene Gilbert; Mike Hain; Alex Phillips; Karen Thornton*

We understand that RAP is taking steps toward filling this essential need, and welcome any opportunity to be part of the process, in terms of helping to define the role, clarify resources that are needed, etc.

- Re-opening the Parkline Shuttle

It was an unfortunate quirk of timing that the Parkline Shuttle opened just a few months before the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. Yet this free park-wide shuttle is an important outgrowth of the paid parking program – and a key pillar of RAP’s strategy to reduce private vehicles in Griffith Park. As such, it deserves sufficient funding to enable its long-term success. We understand that RAP is looking at resuming Parkline as part of a phase two transit re-opening, and look forward to any details you are able to share regarding the timing, extent and future expansion of this important shuttle service.

- Future allocation of Observatory Parking funds

Our board is fully aware of the emergency nature of the past year, and therefore understands RAP’s need to tap available revenue sources to prevent further layoffs and staff reductions. That being said, we would appreciate the opportunity to better understand the RAP General Fund diversions that have exceeded \$2 million in each of the last three fiscal years. Most essentially, we would welcome any commitment regarding the extent to which future Observatory parking revenue will remain in Griffith Park, as initially intended. Further, our board would appreciate the opportunity to help set priorities for the future use of funds – ideally in a manner that would become a routine part of the budget process.

In its first five years, the Observatory parking program has led to significant improvements in Griffith Park: transit solutions such as the DASH Observatory and Parkline Shuttle; capital projects that include the walkway from the Greek Theatre parking lot to the Observatory; better traffic control; and more. Moving forward, in our role as park stewards and community advocates, we would like to collaborate in identifying additional funding priorities. Together, we can ensure that funds are best used to support Griffith Park and its users, while moving toward our shared goals of fewer cars, more transit & better access for all Angelenos.

Sincerely,



Jason Greenwald  
Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

cc: LA Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners  
RAP: Mike Shull, AP Diaz, Darryl Ford, Stefanie Smith  
CD4 District & Field Team



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

---

**Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GANG GRAFFITI CD1 LA 90065**

1 message

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

Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 11:02 AM

To: Garcia Incareal &lt;i

Cc: Bill Cody &lt;bill.cody@lacity.org&gt;, Yovonte Robinson &lt;yovonte.robinson@lacity.org&gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and the appropriate staff. Please note for your convenience you may also report items on the city website: [myla311.lacity.org](http://myla311.lacity.org) . If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 8:33 AM Garcia Incareal

&gt; wrote:

7-6-21

Council member Gill Cedillo

The Sycamore Grove Park has Gang graffiti.

Attach pictures

Mauro Garcia

--

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

Telephone: (213) 202-2640  
Fax: (213) 202-2610  
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Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)



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T.W. Lohas

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SKULL BANG





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

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**Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GANG GRAFFITI CD1 LA 90065**

1 message

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**Bill Cody** <bill.cody@lacity.org>  
To: Garcia Incareal <

Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 9:39 AM

Bertha Calderon <bertha.calderon@lacity.org>, Laura Island <laura.island@lacity.org>, Art Gomez <art.gomez@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Iris Davis <iris.davis@lacity.org>, Valentine Brown <valentine.brown@lacity.org>, Yovonte Robinson <yovonte.robinson@lacity.org>

Thank you!

On Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 8:33 AM Garcia Incareal &lt; &gt; wrote:

7-6-21

Council member Gill Cedillo

The Sycamore Grove Park has Gang graffiti.

Attach pictures

Mauro Garcia

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**Bill Cody**  
**Senior Field Deputy Office of Gil Cedillo - CD1**  
**Highland Park, Mt. Washington, Montecito Heights, Glassell Park**  
[bill.cody@lacity.org](mailto:bill.cody@lacity.org)  
**323-550-1538 (o)**





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: The egregious behaviour of CD11 staff

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 11:16 AM

To: John Betz <

Cc: Mike Bonin <mike.bonin@lacity.org>, Dexter O'Connell <dexter.oconnell@lacity.org>, councilmember Harris-Dawson <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, councilmember Krekorian <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, councilmember Martinez <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, councilmember Ofarrell <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, councilmember Price <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, councilmember Koretz <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, Councildistrict15 <councildistrict15@lacity.org>, councilmember Blumenfield <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, Joe Buscaino

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 10:07 AM John Betz <

> wrote:

Councilman Bonin.

Hannah Levien and Dexter O'Connell need to resign or be fired for their betrayal of the community. Like Venice, residents of Westchester have lost their park, suffered violent crimes, lived in unsafe and unsanitary conditions, all because the City (your council district) **has refused** to provide proper services and remedies to the growing homeless population in their park. You and your District Director, Hannah Levien, have refused to enforce any laws in the park on the basis of your claims that you cannot criminalize the homeless. Yet you have not provided them with services, sanitation or security. The park is a disgrace. It has turned into a meth graveyard that has only brought chaos to the community.

But apparently, you can criminalize the homeless when it is in your best interest to do so? Recently, Dexter O'Connell, who is your Deputy responsible for the Bridge Home in Venice, was caught on video harassing and threatening a news reporter who wanted to ask Hannah Levien a few questions after an email she wrote to the City Attorney was leaked in the media. Hannah's solution to moving a homeless man away from the front of her office was to charge him with business trespass. It was also seen on camera that the homeless man in question was unaware he was a bother and the City had not offered him any services. We also discovered that Hannah was putting in a request for the Office to get security now that they were returning to work.

You have wrongly called us hard hearted "NIMBYs" and "a vocal minority" when we've pleaded with you and your staff for help to resolve the growing disruptions caused in our communities by the homeless. Member's of your staff have brushed off our complaints and concerns, and at times have been downright condescending. Now, when Hannah Levien returns to her office and finds a homeless man camping in the

entry way, what does she do? Does she show compassion? No! She emails the city attorney's office and attempts to "criminalize" this man!

What kind of double-standard are you practicing? The level of hypocrisy demonstrated by your staff is off the charts. And Dexter O'Connell's behaviour, as caught on camera, was absolutely deplorable - it likely constituted civil assault. You cannot avoid personal responsibility for the actions of your staff. They work for you. You are responsible for their actions and behaviours. If you really believe the words that come out of your mouth, the only proper course of action moving forward is for you to personally apologize to this community for the actions of your staff (no more meaningless excuses) and fire Hannah Levien and Dexter O'Connell.

**John Betz**

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Re: Basketball courts

1 message

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

Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 1:37 PM

To: Mollie Jones >

Cc: Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Mitch O'Farrell <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 12:20 PM Mollie Jones

> wrote:

Hello Mayor Garcetti,

I spoke with a representative of the Parks and Rec department today and was told that they are waiting on your approval to get the basketball rims back up at the parks. Please give them the go-ahead immediately. Outdoor basketball is safe and provides a necessary physical outlet, particularly for teenagers. I've got one at my house who would be over the moon if he could play again at the Silverlake Recreation Center.

Many thanks -  
Mollie Jones

Sent from my iPhone

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