

INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

January 19, 2023

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) Various comments regarding Griffith Park Pony Ride		Referred to General Manager
2) Karen Kazanci comments regarding A Bridge Home on Riverside Drive	#9232a	Referred to General Manager
3) Alexander Behar comments regarding A Bridge Home on Open Parkland Leased by Recreation and Parks	#9232b	Referred to General Manager
4) Preserving Public Places Committee comments Venice Lifeguard Station Tower	#9235a	Referred to General Manager
5) Tim Rudnick comments regarding Venice Lifeguard Tower/Venice Oceanarium	#9235b	Referred to General Manager
6) Tim Rudnick comments regarding Venice Lifeguard Tower/Venice Oceanarium	#9235c	Referred to General Manager
7) Geoff Kees Thompson comments regarding CD4 Councilmember Raman Letter of Support Under the Oaks P-22 Mural in Griffith Park	#9238	Referred to General Manager
8) John Joseph Coghlan comments regarding the renaming of Pershing Square	#9239	Referred to General Manager

9) Zohra Fahim comments regarding meeting request with herself and other animal groups	#9240	Referred to General Manager
10) Hollywoodland Homeowners Association comments regarding Lake Hollywood Park	#9241	Referred to General Manager
11) Cindy comments regarding Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park Repairs	#9242	Referred to General Manager
12) Jeannie Plumb comments regarding Stoney Point Horse Boarding Facility in Chatsworth	#9243	Referred to General Manager
13) Graham Kaye comments regarding teaching tennis at Poinsettia Park Tennis Courts	#9244	Referred to General Manager
14) Victoria English comments regarding opposition of Rodeo Ban.	#9245	Referred to General Manager
15) Sarajane Schwartz comments regarding Hollywoodland and Public Safety	#9246	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Esther Alailima Semeatu, RAP Commission Office



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

**Re: A comment in Regards to ABH on Riverside Dr.**

1 message

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

Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 3:04 PM

To: Karen Kazanci &lt;

&gt;

Good afternoon,

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

On Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 2:48 PM Karen Kazanci &lt;

&gt; wrote:

To RAP Commissioners:

I've been a Los Feliz resident and landlord for 12 years. I absolutely love the neighborhood. It's lively, vibrant, eclectic and feels like a community. In the last few years I've seen my beloved neighborhood deteriorate. A once safe neighborhood where I would be able to walk home from having dinner out with friends at midnight, has now become a magnet for crime and drug use. When the A Bridge Home opened its doors, I thought it was a good thing. Now I realize that it's a magnet for crime and drug use. I frequent the park and tennis courts across the street. I've been followed, threatened and harassed by multiple young men who stay ABH. The residents of ABH make their way into Los Feliz. I've been followed and harassed by unhoused men in Los Feliz. I've seen these same men pull their pants down and masturbate in front of me in broad daylight. We've seen dozens of young men smoke crack on our street. We had an issue with a young man selling drugs. Just the other day as I was walking down Vermont, an unhoused man threatened to beat me and punch me in the face. Just this morning I witnessed an unhoused man urinate next to the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf on Hillhurst. I understand that there are some people who need help and assistance however I have rights as well. I should be able to walk down the street at 10 a.m. without being threatened and yelled at. My tenants are all women and I worry for their safety constantly. We had to install security cameras. I'm taking jiu jitsu classes to be able to defend myself. I carry pepper spray. I rarely park on the street overnight mostly because my car was once stolen. Local businesses are vandalized constantly. This is not sustainable. This is a huge liability for RAP. I urge you to take action and do something to restore safety and sanity. Thank you for your time.

Best regards,  
Karen Voskanian

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City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza  
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300  
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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: FIRES, VIOLENCE, CRIME Surrounding A Bridge Home "ABH" on Open Parkland Leased by Recreation and Parks "R&P" at Riverside Drive and Los Feliz Blvd**

1 message

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

To: Alexander Behar &lt; &gt;

Cc: RAP-GPAB@lacity.org, Desiree Ramirez &lt;desiree.ramirez@lacity.org&gt;, Angeles Moreno &lt;angeles.moreno@lacity.org&gt;, Ryan Carpio &lt;ryan.carpio@lacity.org&gt;, Stephanie.Smith@lacity.org

Good afternoon,

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

On Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 6:21 AM Alexander Behar &lt; &gt; wrote:

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

From: **Alexander Behar** < >

Date: Mon, Jan 2, 2023, 6:06 AM

Subject: FIRES, VIOLENCE, CRIME Surrounding A Bridge Home "ABH" on Open Parkland Leased by Recreation and Parks "R&amp;P" at Riverside Drive and Los Feliz Blvd

To: &lt;RAP-GPAB@lacity.org&gt;, &lt;RAPCommissioners@lacity.com&gt;, &lt;matthew.rudnick@lacity.org&gt;, &lt;ryan.carpio@lacity.org&gt;

Cc: &lt;Stephanie.Smith@lacity.org&gt;, Tracy James &lt;tracy.james@lacity.org&gt;

**David (Jimmy) Kim**General Manager  
Recreation and Parks  
City of Los Angeles**Matthew Rudnick**Assistant General Manager  
Recreation and Parks  
City of Los Angeles**Ryan Carpio**Director of Government Affairs  
City of Los Angeles**Commissioners**Recreation and Parks  
City of Los Angeles

TWO SCREENSHOTS ATTACHED

Managers, Director and Commissioners:

The past few months I've been told by several Los Feliz residents and stakeholders there has been a profound change to the area surrounding the Southeastern portion of Los Feliz (which bo ABH placed there. This profound change has apparently spread in all four directions:

- Northeast Residential Hills above Los Feliz Blvd
- Tennis Courts, Open Parkland and the Preschool across the street on Riverside Drive
- Atwater to the East
- Los Feliz to the West and South

R&amp;P leases this land to ABH for free and this lease is up for renewal in 2023.

The 2023 ABH lease renewal should be investigated and considered for denial, and this consideration be added to the agendas for public discussion of all R&amp;P Commission and Griffith Park C

The three reasons provided below are:

1. SAFETY
2. R&P's MISSION
3. LIABILITY

\*\*\*

## 1. SAFETY

I've been told by residents and stakeholders of Los Feliz:

- ABH is a magnet for life-long active felons from throughout the surrounding City and County of Los Angeles and beyond, who settle long term into ABH and the surrounding area
- ABH's location, because it is so proximate to the LA River, induces a criminal community exchange between the criminal elements of ABH and the decades-long entrenched criir
- oversized RV's parked in front and around ABH, as well as luxury and other vehicles come and go, inside of which both prostitution and hard drug transactions take place

- fires are regularly set along this Open Parkland at ABH
- rapes regularly took place inside encampments, when they were intermittently set up along Riverside Drive in front of ABH
- residents' homes are broken into at the neighboring Northeast corner of the Los Feliz Hills (including two elderly people bound and gagged while robbed inside their home)
- and more

I found such reports to be so extreme and seemingly fantastical it was hard for me to believe

Then last month I took a momentary look at an app called "Next Door." (Local neighbors report and share events of the day, offer their possessions for sale, and report on other kinds of agenda.

Attached to this email are screenshots of two posts I came across after a cursory glance. Below are its transcripts:

- Ann Daniels, Atwater Village: "Hello Atwater, Approximately 7:30pm Saturday, 11/26/22, I ran into a woman who was crying frantically as she ran for help at Shell [sic] gas station a knife point raped at LA river near Sunnynook. The rapist ran to Griffith View according to the victims [sic] statement. Please be on the outlook [sic] as our neighborhood has no"
- Laura Garcia, Atwater Village: "Hello all. Today my mom was forced by an older woman and a man in his thirties on Seneca Ave around 11:30AM to give them money. They force of dollars. They even came to the house and asked for more money and threatened her. Has anyone had anything like this happen to them? We would appreciate if [sic] anyone

If this is what can be found by merely a one-time, casual, momentary glance at a local app, it begs the question - how much more is also going on?

One obviously cannot absolutely surmise these two violent crimes - a rape and a kidnapping/extortion - are directly caused by ABH and/or the environment which ABH is creating.

But then another neighbor a few days later reported this to me:

- In the handicapped bathroom stall of the Tennis Courts directly across from ABH a woman was in a state of undress after sexual activity with a male resident of ABH which me nearby and was reluctant and afraid to report what happened

Given all the above, there is good cause for an investigation by R&P as to the possible severe degradation of safety - both fire and threats to persons and property - which may be occu

## 2. R&P's MISSION

In this very same corner of R&P at Griffith Park several services which used to provide leisure activity - most often to those who are less affluent - have now been in disrepair and either

These include:

- Mulholland Fountain (previously a regular photography site for wedding pictures by many in the Hispanic community)
- The Public Swimming Pool
- The Petting Zoo
- The Merry-Go Round

In this area, R&P and Griffith Park have lost their focus. Instead, dangers possibly brought to this area by ABH are the antithesis and direct violation of R&P's explicit - both legal and ch: Angeles.

This corner of R&P at Griffith Park needs to return to focusing on its assets in this location, and on the ones there it also plans to build, after years of degradation and neglect, and excl

## 3. LIABILITY

The other question is - what forms of legal and financial liability do the possible ongoing events brought by ABH on R&P Open Parkland place at the feet of R&P and therefore the taxp

Who might be forced to pay and face lawsuits and prosecution by Los Feliz, Atwater, and/or others who are impacted by ABH?

Shelters are well outside the expertise of R&P. It unfortunately seems a case can be made of negligence by R&P by entering into this kind of enterprise on its grounds, for which R&P ai accounts are true evidence of both an ongoing fire and person & property threat, a liability case of negligence likely exists.

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All decision-makers within R&P should make a concerted, responsible effort to become educated about what is happening around this Southeast corner of Los Feliz and its surrounding areas, Los Feliz Blvd.

This would include talking to LAPD, LAFD and inquiring the surrounding residents and park participants. And include an investigation of all reported activities which apparently are happening e

R&P has a clear and obvious responsibility to its communities, in this case Southeast Los Feliz and the neighborhoods surrounding it including Atwater, when deciding which institutions it hou hazard causing damage both on the record and untold to innocent and vulnerable adults, children and property around this ABH location.

As well, both its Parkland and potentially the surrounding Residential Areas are also subject to ongoing fire hazards due to ABH.

R&P also needs to give all due attention to if the free lease to ABH is violating R&P's mission of safe leisure for all residents of Los Angeles.

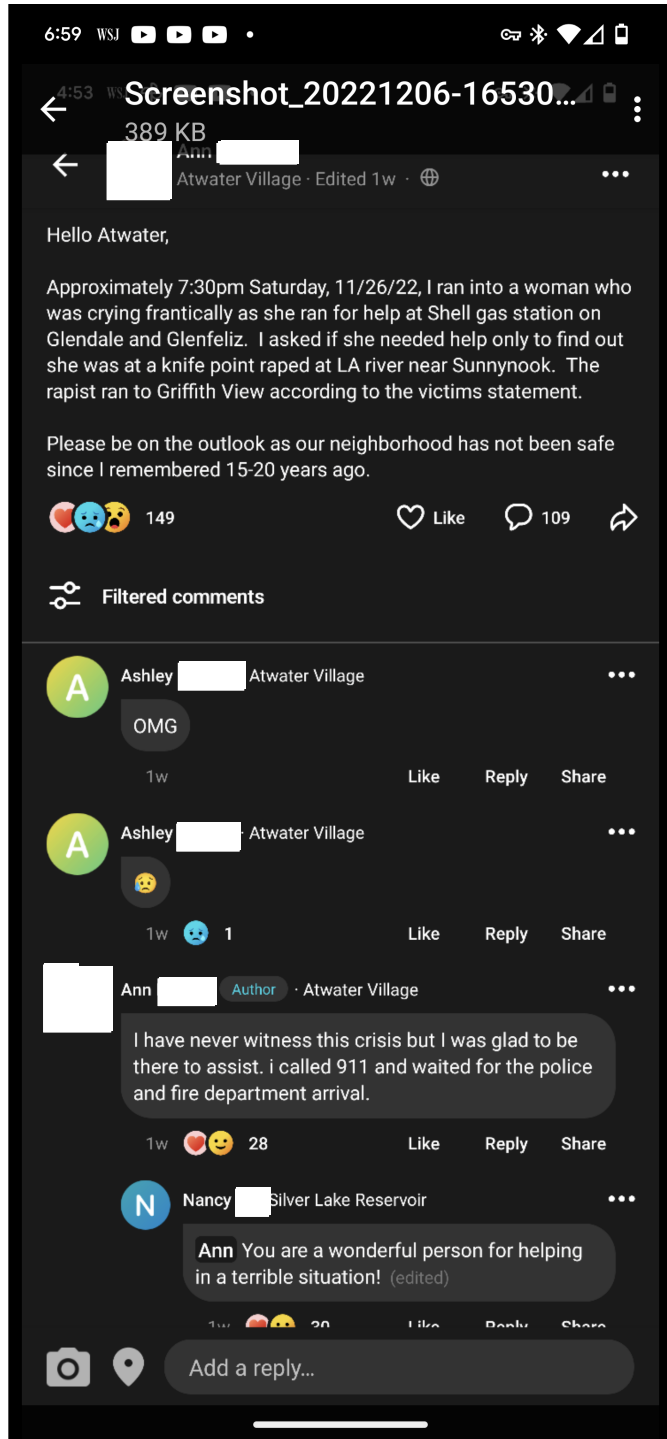
A 2023 lease renewal denial to ABH is a reasonable, prudent consideration in light of all the above, and needs to be a scheduled Agenda for public discussion at all R&P and Griffith Park Mee

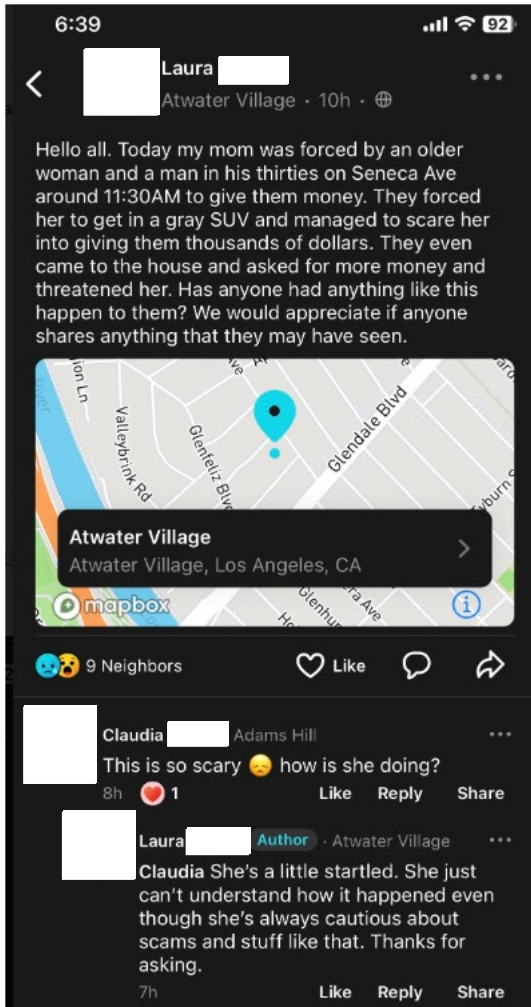
Otherwise R&P and Griffith Park leaves itself unnecessarily open to liability. Without a good faith effort to explore and address these safety issues, a case could be made of willful negligence at this area of Griffith Park, including: the toddlers and their parents at the Riverside Drive Preschool on R&P grounds; the surrounding home and land owners; and the Los Angeles citizens who section Griffith Park.

Sincerely,

Alexander Behar  
A 25-Year Los Feliz Resident

SCREENSHOT ATTACHMENTS FROM THE "NEXT DOOR" APP





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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Re: PowerPoint for Jan 5 Commissioners Meetings

1 message

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

Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 2:46 PM

To: Preserving Public Places Committee <

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Good afternoon,

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

On Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 8:58 AM Preserving Public Places Committee <

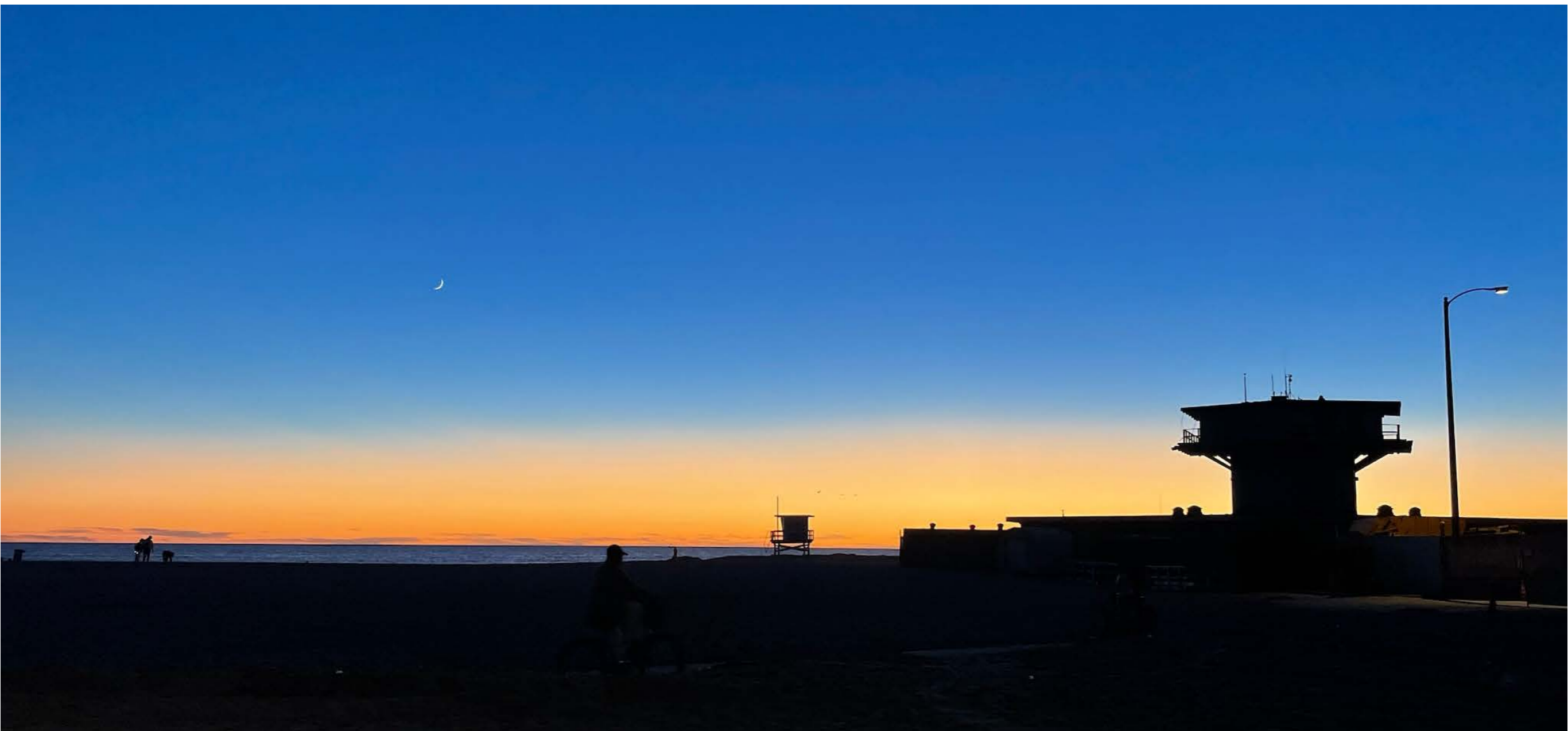
> wrote:

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**Please save our iconic  
VENICE LIFEGUARD STATION TOWER**



# Unanimous motion by the Venice Neighborhood Council



## Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294

[www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org) Email: [info@VeniceNC.org](mailto:info@VeniceNC.org)



December 26, 2022

### **RE: RESTORATION OF THE VENICE LIFEGUARD HEADQUARTERS TOWER**

NOW THEREFORE, The Venice Neighborhood Council, Board of Officers requests that the California Coastal Commission, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors, and the City of Los Angeles refrain from demolishing the Venice Lifeguard Headquarters Tower until the feasibility of its repairs and restoration for use by lifeguards OR other purpose such as a public observation tower and/or lifeguard / ocean or other museum can be fully evaluated in conjunction with representatives of the Venice Neighborhood Council, and public and private nonprofit organizations.

**OVERWHELMING COMMUNITY CONCERN:** Over 1,230 past and current lifeguards & chief lifeguards, historic and cultural preservationists, ocean ecologists, surfers, adjacent neighbors and beach goers have signed a petition and made compelling comments.

[www.change.org/VeniceLifeguardTower](http://www.change.org/VeniceLifeguardTower)

## SAVE THE VENICE LIFEGUARD TOWER



1,231 have signed. Let's get to 1,500!



**At 1,500 signatures**, this petition is more likely to get picked up by **local news!**



Nick James signed 11 hours ago



Toma Bowen signed 21 hours ago



SAVE THE VENICE LIFEGUARD TOWER

 Share on Facebook

A 3 story building, **built and owned by the City of Los Angeles** since 1969

1st floor & yard - continuously used for equipment, services & vehicles

2nd & 3rd floors - **fully integrated**; LA Lifeguard Headquarters for 50yrs

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

Sam Yorty, Mayor

Marvin Braude, Councilman, Eleventh District

**BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

Mrs. Harold C. Merton, President

Brad Pye, Jr., Vice President

James Madrid

Patricia A. Delaney

A. E. England

**RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT**

William Frederickson, Jr., General Manager

Seymour Greben, Executive Officer

*Dedication Ceremonies*

10:30 a.m., Saturday, November 29, 1969

LOS ANGELES CITY LIFEGUARD HEADQUARTERS AT VENICE BEACH



1975 LA City transferred lifeguard and beach maintenance services to the County per the:

**JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT  
NO. 25273**

“County shall **lease** headquarters buildings from City for \$1/year...”

“**County shall maintain** all equipment and facilities...”

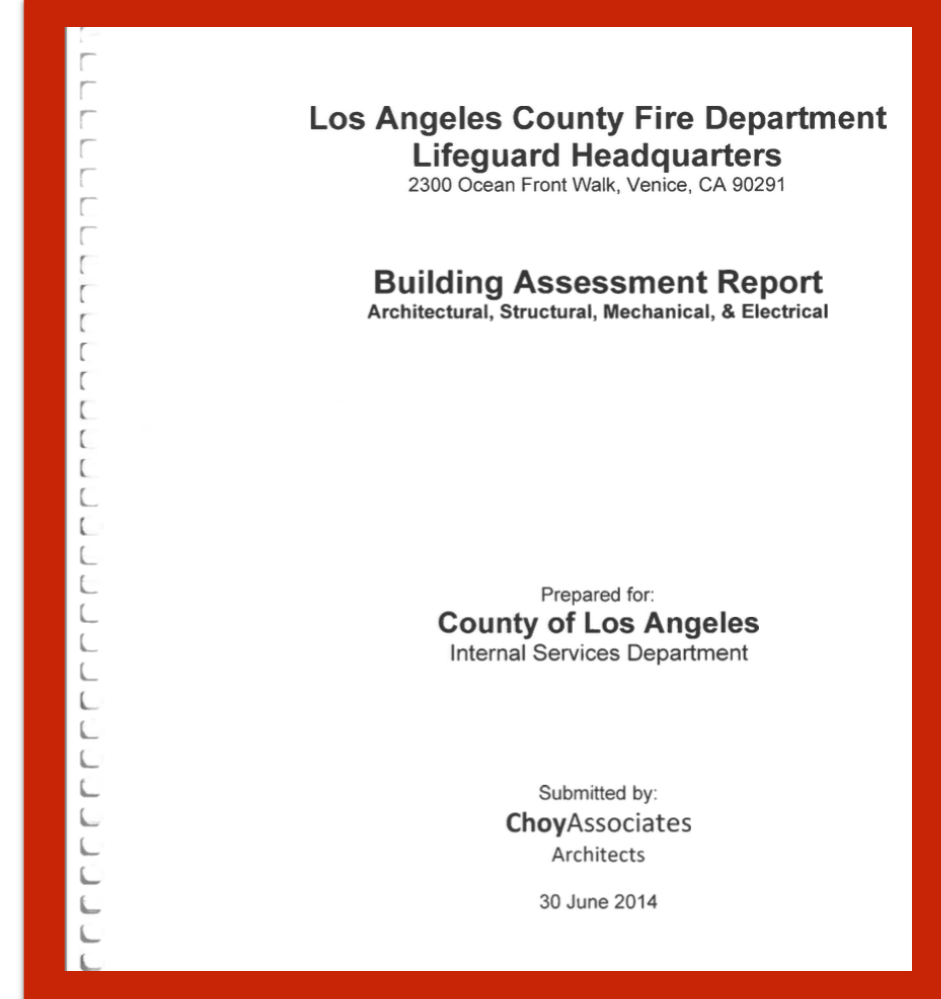
If “capital development or improvements” are desired, approval must first be obtained from the Commissioners of the LA City Department of Recreation & Parks. This does not include “demolition.”

**NOTHING AUTHORIZES** the County to **DEMOLISH** any portion of the building. As noted in County correspondence, demolition would require modification of the Agreement and full City approval.

Rumors of the tower being an “immediate safety concern” are not supported by the facts nor County’s structural engineers.

County commissioned an “Architectural, Structural, Mechanical and Electrical” Building Assessment in 2014

**Regarding the 2nd & 3rd floors, “tower,” the report repeatedly states:**



**There is no structural deficiency found**

**Further, the building remains in constant use 24/7.**

A Coastal Development Permit De Minimis Waiver was issued July 2022 **based upon material factual errors.**

Per CCC guidelines, we are requesting that it be invalidated.

June 27, 2022

### **Coastal Development Permit De Minimis Waiver Coastal Act Section 30624.7**

Based on the project plans and information provided in your permit application for the development described below, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirement for a Coastal Development Permit pursuant to Section 13238.1, Title 14, California Code of Regulations. If, at a later date, this information is found to be incorrect or the plans revised, this decision will become invalid; and any development occurring must cease until a coastal development permit is obtained or any discrepancy is resolved in writing.

**Waiver:** 5-22-0482-W  
**Applicant:** Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors  
**Location:** 2300 Ocean Front Walk, Venice (APN: 4226-002-900)

**Proposed Development:** Demolition of a two-story, 40-ft. tall lifeguard tower on top of an existing County-owned structure, construction of a new roof where the tower will be removed, and addition of one new parking space to the existing 21-space County staff parking lot. No other work is proposed to the existing 11,600 sq. ft. structure and no grading proposed.

**Rationale:** The lifeguard tower is attached to a one-story County building with a maintenance yard and 21 parking spaces limited to County staff use. The tower has reached the end of its development lifespan and has not been used since 2017. The applicant proposes to remove the tower and replace the portion of first floor roof exposed by removal of the tower. The project also



**The Venice Lifeguard Station is identified as historic by  
LA City Department of Planning Office of Historic Resources**

"Rare example of a lifeguard station headquarters building in Venice; appe

Its unique hexagonal design repeats historic Venice Beach architecture suc

Other CA Cities, including Long Beach, Laguna and San Diego, have resto



**The Venice Lifeguard Station Tower provides a phenomenal, unmatched and irreplaceable expansive view of the entire Santa Monica Bay.**

If not needed for lifeguard services, we ask that it be evaluated for repurposing it for use as a public venue such as an Observation Tower and/or Lifeguard / Oceans Museum.

**County has not evaluated repurposing the tower for alternate uses.**

Repair estimate: \$400,000 Demolition estimate: \$1.2 Million?!\*

Repurposed it would be an exceptional cultural, environmental, architectural, recreational and educational venue, providing greater enjoyment of Venice Beach for visitors and residents, alike.

**Please do not enable the irreversible destruction of this fabulous asset!**

# LA County Lifeguards

Our historic Venice Lifeguard Headquarters would be the perfect site for a long awaited LA Lifeguard Museum.





The Lifeguard Tower would provide a wonderful site for this Venice nonprofit of 20 years which ignites a passion for abundance, diversity and significance of the web of life in our ocean and its shores.



**Please save our fabulous cultural, environmental,  
recreational, architectural and historic  
VENICE LIFEGUARD STATION TOWER**





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

**Re: Venice Life Guard Tower/ Venice Oceanarium**

1 message

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

Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 12:11 PM

To:

Good afternoon,

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

On Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 10:10 AM &lt; &gt; wrote:

My name is Tim Rudnick. I have lived in my house in Venice since 1967, more than 50 years.

I am director of the non-profit Venice Oceanarium, a Museum-Without-Walls. We do not have a permanent facility, but, nevertheless, for the last 30+ years we have been doing events on the Venice Fishing Pier and on Venice beach, itself. Our events have become a tradition in Venice. We conduct an annual reading of Moby Dick, on the beach, at the Venice Breakwater, and we do a grunion party in the Spring that attracts hundreds of people. We do beach walks, and tide pool talks. We go to schools and rec Centers and do workshops on beach ecology.

We see the iconic and architecturally significant Tower at Venice to be a very attractive possible venue for the Oceanarium and we will submit a proposal for it's renovation, upgrading and repurposing to be used as an ocean themed museum and a permanent home for the Venice Oceanarium.

Please do not tear it down.

Tim Rudnick

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

**Re: CD4 Raman Letter of Support -- Under the Oaks P-22 Mural**

1 message

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

Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 2:34 PM

To: Geoff Thompson &lt;geoff.thompson@lacity.org&gt;

Cc: Jimmy Kim &lt;jimmy.kim@lacity.org&gt;, Stefanie Smith &lt;stefanie.smith@lacity.org&gt;, Tracy James &lt;tracy.james@lacity.org&gt;, Mehmet Berker &lt;mehmet.berker@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.

On Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 12:22 PM Geoff Thompson &lt;geoff.thompson@lacity.org&gt; wrote:

Honorable RAP Commissioners --

Attached please find a letter of support from Councilmember Raman for the Under The Oaks Mural Project honoring the life and legacy of P-22 in Griffith Park.

Many Thanks,

Geoff Kees Thompson  
Deputy Chief of Staff**Connect With Us:**

- Sign Up For Our Newsletter [Here](#)
- Follow Us On [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), & [Facebook](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

DISCLOSURE: All emails sent to or from this account are subject to the California Public Records Act and may be released upon request.

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**NITHYA  
RAMAN**

| Los Angeles  
★ City Councilmember  
| 4th District

January 5, 2022

Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department Board of Commissioners  
221 N. Figueroa St, Ste 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Council District 4 Letter of Support for *Under the Oaks* Mural Proposal at Griffith Park Visitor Center**

Dear Commissioners,

Griffith Park is Los Angeles' preeminent park in the region, located at the heart of a sprawling metropolis, and containing some of the region's most beloved park assets in over 4200 acres of park land. In addition to the built and maintained portions of the park, Griffith Park is also an integral part of the Rim of the Valley and the wider Southern California ecology, containing thousands of acres of natural habitat, that until recently, hosted an adult mountain lion named P-22. I am proud to be the Councilmember whose district encompasses the entirety of Griffith Park and P-22's range throughout the Hollywood Hills.

Several weeks ago, medical professionals with the California Department of Fish & Wildlife and the National Park Service made the difficult decision to euthanize P-22, after he experienced acute injury and age-related health issues. Prior to this decision, planning to honor P-22's unique presence in our city had already been underway via a mural.

*Under the Oaks*, a three-wall mural installation at the Griffith Park Visitor Center designed by Studio Tutto, a local public art studio, captures P-22 in a layered style, presenting the local flora and fauna in an absorbing piece which calls to mind water-color landscapes and decoupage. P-22 sits at the center of this mural, but is hidden in plain sight by the trees, shrubs, and grasses on the hillsides that were his home. The mural will be painted at the Griffith Park Visitor Center and donated to the City by the Friends of Griffith Park.

The full scope of work will include a mural as well as the relocation of existing building signage, and replacement of existing non-native shrubbery, with a *Seed Spire* pollinator garden. These compressed soil spires form a conical shape with native wildflower seeds, and naturally disintegrate back into the earth.

I am writing to you all to express my strong support for this thoughtful project and generous donation, as we honor P-22 in the many special ways he graced us with his presence in our city for nearly a decade.



Sincerely,

*Nithya Raman*

Nithya Raman  
Councilmember, 4th Council District  
City of Los Angeles

Cc: Jimmy Kim, RAP General Manager  
Stefanie Smith, RAP Superintendent for Griffith Park Region





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

**Re: Opposed to the Renaming of Pershing Square**

1 message

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

Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 7:17 AM

To: " " < >  
Cc: Esther Alailima Semeatu <esther.alailimasemeatu@lacity.org>

Good morning Mr. Coghlan,

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

On Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 3:59 PM Esther Alailima Semeatu <esther.alailimasemeatu@lacity.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

A concerned citizen, MR. JOHN JOSEPH COGHLAN, called the Board Office on Tuesday, 1/3/23 at 3:54 p.m. voicing his opposition against the renaming of Pershing Square after a preacher.

He would like a returned phone call at ( I have also included Mr. Coghlan in the cc: of this email message.

Thank you,



**Esther N. Alailima Semeatu** | Commission Executive Assistant I  
**City of Los Angeles: Department of Recreation and Parks**  
**Board of Commissioners Office**  
Figueroa Plaza  
221 North Figueroa Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 300 Los Angeles, CA. 90012  
**Office:** (213) 202-2640 **Fax:** (213) 202-2610  
**Email:** [esther.alailimasemeatu@lacity.org](mailto:esther.alailimasemeatu@lacity.org) **Mail Stop:** 625-15

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

---

**Re: Meeting request with Recreation & Parks Commissioners**

1 message

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

Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 12:10 PM

To: Zohra Fahim &lt;

&gt;

Good afternoon,

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

On Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 6:23 PM Zohra Fahim &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Commissioners Bayne and Commissioners Chase,

My name is Zohra Fahim and I am the founder of Los Angeles Animals, and I am reaching out to you to request a meeting with myself and other animal groups.

Does next week work for the both of you?

Thank you,

**Zohra Fahim**

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City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza  
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Mail Stop: 625/15  
Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)



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

**Re:  An urgent message for RAP Commissioners from the HHA!**

1 message

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

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 12:47 PM

To:

Good afternoon,

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

On Sat, Jan 7, 2023 at 7:05 PM Official Hollywoodland Homeowners Association eMail &lt;

&gt; wrote:

## Urgent Hollywoodland Homeowner Alert

Hollywood United Neighborhood Council  
Draft Report Recommends and Claims Your Support

Dear Hollywoodland Homeowners:

The City of Los Angeles' actions to promote and develop tourist destinations within and contiguous to Hollywoodland have already created significant adverse impacts in Hollywoodland.

The Draft Report from HUNC's Ad Hoc Hollywood Sign Committee, which is going to be presented and voted on this coming Monday, recommends further development as noted below. The report claims your support of these Ad Hoc Committee's "recommendations":

- 1 Permanent Bathroom Facilities at Lake Hollywood Park
- 2 A Ranger Station (read Visitor Information Center) at Lake Hollywood Park
- 3 A vehicle turnaround (roundabout), the Mulholland Highway/Durand View Site, which the City developed without Environmental Review.
4. Tourist Shuttles through Hollywoodland.

5. Revenue generating Parking Meters at View Site/Lake Hollywood Park.

6. Appeal to the City of Los Angeles to overturn the closure of the gate at the end of Beachwood Drive.

**THE HAA STRONGLY DISAGREES WITH THESE RECOMMENDATIONS**

For years the city has been illegally developing the view site at Lake Hollywood Park without environmental review, or consideration to safety, traffic, noise pollution, gridlock, pedestrians, wildlife and adverse impacts to the surrounding neighborhoods (Witness Garcetti's recent failed effort to light the Hollywood Sign). The Ad Hoc Hollywood Sign Committee is claiming YOUR support of the above recommendations. We urge you to attend the zoom meeting on Monday, and let your concerns be known to HUNC.

**Monday, January 9, 2023 6:30 PM**

**[Zoom Meeting Link](#)**

**Webinar ID: 828 3698 1526**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82836981526>**

**Call in number dial 1 (669) 900-6833**

**[Meeting Agenda Link](#)**

**[Read the HUNC Hollywood Sign Ad Hoc Committee Draft Report here](#)**

**[Read the HHA response to the report here](#)**

**[Read our HHA Policy here](#)**

If you are unable to attend this important meeting, please email us at [HHA@Hollywoodland.org](mailto:HHA@Hollywoodland.org) with your comments and we will make sure they are presented to the full HUNC Board.

**Please help our voice to be heard by attending Monday.**

Please join the HHA





Share This Email



Share This Email

Hollywoodland Homeowners Association | 2700 N. Beachwood Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90068

Unsubscribe [rap.commissioners@lacity.org](mailto:rap.commissioners@lacity.org)

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: VNSO park repairs CD4

1 message

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

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 1:18 PM

Good afternoon,

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

On Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 10:31 AM

<

> wrote:

Hi,

I was asked to send my concerns to this email address. There are numerous repairs needed for the VNSO park children's play area and the repairs have been needed for years now; the conditions just gets worse. Ryan Ahari from Nithya Raman's office (CD4) says that it is parks and recs fault that the repairs have not been made as their staff has submitted orders and there is no progress and no one explaining when any fixes will be made. Mr. Ahari says that it is out of his hands since they have no power over parks and recs so this is why no improvements have been made and he has no updates.

From Ryan Ahari,

**"They're now sharing with me that they're not sure why Rec and Parks hasn't processed the requests/made progress. Because the playground is Rec and Parks property, only Rec and Parks can make the needed fixes (unlike with other City agencies where I can get very involved to solve a problem). I lack any access to work order requests and am unfamiliar with the bureaucracy as well as anything slowing down the park staff's requests. There also seems to have been some slow down since the VNSO Park Director left in the middle of 2022 and the Park still lacks a dedicated Parks Director."**

Is this the case? What can be done...

Thanks!

Cindy

--

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

**Re: Stoney Point Horse Boarding Facility - Chatsworth**

1 message

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

Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 10:37 AM

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 11:23 AM Marianne King <  
Attention: Syliva Patsaouras

&gt; wrote:

Dear Ms. Patsaouras,

(Writing on behalf of Jeannie Plumb):

I just wanted to remind you that you had requested a task force update on the STONEY POINT HORSE BOARDING FACILITY in Chatsworth with regards to the Request For Bid for a new contract to run the facility per Councilman Lee's Motion.

This item was supposed to be on the RAP December 2022 agenda but it was set aside due to the Griffith Park Pony Ride issue.

Can this please be added to the RAP January 2023 agenda so we can hear the Task Force report on this item?

Please confirm,

Thank you,  
Jeannie Plumb

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

**Re: Poinsettia Park Tennis**

1 message

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

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 12:42 PM

Good afternoon,

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

On Sat, Jan 7, 2023 at 6:32 PM G R K &lt;

&gt; wrote:

To whom it may concern:

I am a tennis instructor with the City of Los Angeles. I have a permit to teach tennis at Poinsettia Park Tennis Courts.

I need to inform you that the courts have been neglected. Unfortunately, the courts at times can be slick and dangerous for myself, the children I teach, and the general public who pay to use the facilities.

My concern arose a few days before Christmas when yet another one of my young students slipped in the corner of the court which had been neglected, this same issue came up 2 weeks prior with an adult that slipped on court and has been out for 3 weeks with that injury. In this most recent incident the parent voiced their concern with me about the neglect of the facility and asked who was responsible for the maintenance of the courts. I informed her the City of Los Angeles. It's with this incident and my own close call that I wanted to voice my concern.

The trees around the court have been pruned but the berries from the trees fall on the court and when the courts aren't washed, the combination of weeks of dirt, soot, and leaves falling on the court combines to make them slick and dangerous.

We have a tennis shack that provides a leaf blower and brooms which would help remedy this situation. However, even though they have these supplies and don't use them they now refuse to let us use them to remedy this problem.

Along with the rise in the homeless sleeping on the courts, drug paraphernalia, used rubbers, bed spreads, dirty needles, broken meth pipes, and other debris I'm finding myself sweeping up more and more, it would be nice to have some support from Parks and Recreations at Poinsettia to support each other in keeping the parks as safe as possible.

Because of my concern for the welfare of myself, the teaching staff, the children I teach, and the general public, I wanted to make sure it's noted that I attempted to voice my concerns to find a solution to make Poinsettia Tennis Courts a safe place to enjoy recreation in our great city.

Please let me know how I can help. I'm happy to sweep, squeegee, or clean I just access to the equipment.

Best regards,

Graham Kaye  
Tennis Professional

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





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

---

**Re: Oppose Rodeo Ban**

1 message

---

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

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 1:05 PM

Good afternoon,

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

On Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:53 AM VICTORIA ENGLISH < > wrote:

I love horses. Horses have been the great passion of my life since I was a small child. I want only the best for my four legged friends.

I currently own twenty-three horses. Every spare cent I have goes to their upkeep, keeping them safe, well fed, exercised, happy and most importantly, loved.

I strongly opposed the rodeo ban. The current wording of the rodeo ban would prevent the upcoming Olympics because necessary equipment used in most Olympic disciplines would be banned.

Thank you,

Tori English

"No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle." -Winston Churchill

--  
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1/9/23, 1:21 PM

City of Los Angeles Mail - Re: Poinsettia Park Tennis

Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Fax: (213) 202-2610

Mail Stop: 625/15

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: Hollywoodland and Public Safety for the 2022 Winter Holidays

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 7:39 AM

To:

Cc: "emma.taylor@lacity.org" <emma.taylor@lacity.org>, "nithya.raman@lacity.org" <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, "josef.siroky@lacity.org" <josef.siroky@lacity.org>, "mehmet.berker@lacity.org" <mehmet.berker@lacity.org>, "geoff.thompson@lacity.org" <geoff.thompson@lacity.org>, "stefanie.smith@lacity.org" <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>, "tracy.james@lacity.org" <tracy.james@lacity.org>,

Good morning,

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

On Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 5:23 PM < > wrote:

I WANT THIS EMAIL TO BE PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD

Dear City Officials,

I first want to give you an additional brief and limited update on the New Years holidays in Hollywoodland. The holiday weekend was a continuation of gridlock caused by unsustainable numbers of vehicles and pedestrians. The use of DOT locked into a particular location and not ticketing even nearby cars, continued. Yes, the rain did cut down on the number of visitors, but we were still impacted, including on the Monday holiday. In the face of the City for the first time since we've had these problems deciding to basically provide nothing, residents felt they had to act on their own. Barriers were put up in Hollywoodland at various locations. Some residents felt more comfortable leaving the neighborhood for the day, because they did not feel safe in their own homes. This is unacceptable. I did a brief drive around at the end of the day because I thought doing this in the rain and approaching darkness would probably present me with the best of conditions. On Deronda pedestrians were walking in the middle of the street and would not move over to the side. Because of all the blind curves, I had to follow them past 15 houses before I felt I could go around them. There were illegally parked cars at Deronda and Rockcliff. When I got to the illegal view site there were pedestrian walking past the no pedestrian signs, and I counted approximately 60 cars. This was in the dark in the rain! What was it like earlier in the day?

We have another holiday weekend approaching with the Martin Luther King Holiday. I am asking what are your specific plans? So far we have been told nothing. Why are we always kept in the dark? Why are we not asked for input? Why do you not approach us with your planning? Why are we always begging for help and for responses from the City? These are all dates on a calendar with issues that are foreseeable months ahead.

Yes, we are expecting rain, but you can see it lessens the impacts but does not eliminate them. Will DOT again be stationing personnel at the magnets? You need additional enforcers to roam and a supervisor stationed here in order to direct your resources where they are needed. But again, the best solution to most efficiently use your limited resources and accomplish the greatest result for Hollywoodland in order to achieve public safety and navigable streets would be to close down Hollywoodland entirely to tourists over the holidays as was done in the past.

**We are requesting something very simple, obvious, proper and of utmost importance---that the City finally make public safety the PRIORITY in dealing with the impacts of the Hollywood Sign on the visitors and residents in Hollywoodland. The alternative is unsustainable and dangerous and should not be allowed to continue a single hour. We want the same protections that are norms throughout the rest of the City.**

Thank you.  
I await your reply.

Sarajane Schwartz

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

From:

To: [emma.taylor@lacity.org](mailto:emma.taylor@lacity.org) <[emma.taylor@lacity.org](mailto:emma.taylor@lacity.org)>; [nithya.raman@lacity.org](mailto:nithya.raman@lacity.org) <[nithya.raman@lacity.org](mailto:nithya.raman@lacity.org)>  
Cc: [mehmet.berker@lacity.org](mailto:mehmet.berker@lacity.org) <[mehmet.berker@lacity.org](mailto:mehmet.berker@lacity.org)>; [geoff.thompson@lacity.org](mailto:geoff.thompson@lacity.org) <[geoff.thompson@lacity.org](mailto:geoff.thompson@lacity.org)>; [stefanie.smith@lacity.org](mailto:stefanie.smith@lacity.org) <[stefanie.smith@lacity.org](mailto:stefanie.smith@lacity.org)>; [tracy.james@lacity.org](mailto:tracy.james@lacity.org) <[tracy.james@lacity.org](mailto:tracy.james@lacity.org)>;

Sent: Thu, Dec 29, 2022 5:09 pm

Subject: Re: Hollywoodland and Public Safety for the 2022 Winter Holidays

I WANT THIS EMAIL TO BE PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD

Update Wednesday, Dec. 28th,

Residents reported additional deteriorating conditions throughout Hollywoodland.

For example, LedgeWood was particularly hard hit. Several people reported that it took **15 minutes to go 2 blocks** because of the total gridlock! LedgeWood is not directly adjacent to any of the magnets, so the negative impacts, because of the huge number of visitors, are spreading. LedgeWood, although very narrow and where every parked car prevents two way traffic, is an evacuation route and a major artery in Hollywoodland, secondary to Beachwood Drive. How are these conditions acceptable if emergency vehicles need access? How is this acceptable in case of emergencies like a fire? I did not know you could block "fire doors/exits".

Yesterday was not an official holiday, but is in the holiday period when up until this year we have had supervision and enforcement. Nothing was provided this year. **This year's holiday planning for Hollywoodland has been lacking, haphazard, insufficient, and negligent.**

Thursday, Dec. 29th,

There has been light rain on and off today so the crowds are fewer.

**We still need help. Will we have more supervision on Friday? Will the 2PM deadline on Jan. 1st for deployment be extended? Will we have supervision/enforcement on Monday, Jan 2nd, which is also an official holiday?**

**So far, no one has responded.**

**If you cannot help us, will you please forward it on to officials who can. Or if you can do nothing, you must shut this all down.**

Sarajane Schwartz

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

From:

To: [emma.taylor@lacity.org](mailto:emma.taylor@lacity.org) <[emma.taylor@lacity.org](mailto:emma.taylor@lacity.org)>; [nithya.raman@lacity.org](mailto:nithya.raman@lacity.org) <[nithya.raman@lacity.org](mailto:nithya.raman@lacity.org)>  
Cc: [mehmet.berker@lacity.org](mailto:mehmet.berker@lacity.org) <[mehmet.berker@lacity.org](mailto:mehmet.berker@lacity.org)>; [geoff.thompson@lacity.org](mailto:geoff.thompson@lacity.org) <[geoff.thompson@lacity.org](mailto:geoff.thompson@lacity.org)>; [stefanie.smith@lacity.org](mailto:stefanie.smith@lacity.org) <[stefanie.smith@lacity.org](mailto:stefanie.smith@lacity.org)>; [tracy.james@lacity.org](mailto:tracy.james@lacity.org) <[tracy.james@lacity.org](mailto:tracy.james@lacity.org)>;



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

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**Re: Continued violations of California Law at Griffith Park and Pony Ride**

1 message

---

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

Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 3:37 PM

To: michelle walsh &lt; &gt;

Cc: matthew.rudnick@lacity.org, mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org, michael.a.shull@lacity.org, rachel.ramos@lacity.org

Good afternoon,

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

On Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 11:03 PM michelle walsh < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners and Michael Shull, Last weekend horses and ponies were hit and overworked for 8 ½ hours. Sheep in the petting was in distress with no worker attending to her needs, and many horses and ponies halters were itching. <https://youtu.be/Ob0pD58k4E0> <https://youtu.be/DGcWj9G1k3Y> As a LA constituent, I do not want city funds generated from animal abuse. Pony rides regardless of who is operating them, are no longer acceptable in these modern times when we reject the exploitation of animals for amusement and profit. The institution, itself, the pony rides are problematic because they inevitably teach children the wrong lessons about animals, that they are not sentient beings but objects for amusement. I am requesting from you that the pony ride contract not be renewed, and that a study be undertaken to consider alternative proposals for the site that would engage children and families, that are generated from a non-animal model. Thank you

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

**Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides concession**

1 message

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

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 10:24 AM

To: Gerry Hans < >

Cc: Cultural Heritage Commission <chc@lacity.org>, Nithya Raman <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, Andrea Conant <andrea.conant@lacity.org>, Mehmet Berker <mehmet.berker@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Matthew Rudnick <matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Stefanie Smith <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>, GPAB <rap-gpab@lacity.org>

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:53 AM Gerry Hans < > wrote:

Good morning,

Please consider our letter regarding the pony rides concession in Griffith Park, attached.

Best regards,



Gerry Hans  
President  
<https://www.friendsofgriffithpark.org/>

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

**Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides**

1 message

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

Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 3:30 PM

Good afternoon,

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

On Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 1:23 PM Sew The Seeds &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Hello,

I have written to you already voicing my anger at the egregious manner by which the Griffith Park Pony Rides were shut down. You are now soliciting ideas for "reimagining" the venue. I think you need look no further than the recommendations of Dr Rachael Sachar DVM, CVA, the veterinarian hired by the city. In the conclusion her final report she stated

"I suggest there be additional discussions, provisions, and modifications to expand the concession's potential use beyond its current value as a recreational activity and/or place of entertainment. It would be of greater value to the community for the concession to incorporate educational opportunities to the public and collaborate with existing community programs to ensure that it continues to be a viable and sustainable concession and feature for Los Angeles and surrounding communities as well as an important attraction and recreational activity for its residents." This sentiment was echoed by Dr Ramey DVM and President of the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Board who wrote in strong support of keeping a pony ride concession in Griffith Park.

Dr Sachar in her first report says that she was asked to research policies for working animals in other cities which she said was beyond the scope of her initial contract with RAP. She also noted that she has worked with sanctuaries and animals in film and TV that are under intense scrutiny by the most extreme animal rights advocates. They voluntarily follow more intense guidelines She recommends that Griffith Park Pony Rides do the same. To me this is the win/win answer. The current, mostly older ponies have all gone to good homes, the more reasonable protesters can claim a victory. The most extreme protesters who hold that riding a horse, in and of itself, is a form of abuse, as well as those who continue to attack Mr Weeks personally should have no place in this discussion. We should start again with new ponies and far stricter guidelines and regulations, as well as educational components. No one supports animal abuse, but the vast majority of people do not believe that riding a horse is abusive. If we allow the pony rides to be shut down we embolden Ms Fahim and LAAA to go after other horse related venues. What's next, trail rides, and Griffith Park Mounted Rangers? The LA mounted police horses? What about the Rose Parade? And how do we justify holding the Olympics in Los Angeles if we are not an equestrian friendly city?

Lastly there is Sec. 595 b) Lease of Facilities from the Los Angeles Charter Recreation and Parks Department. I'm not a lawyer, but if this is still current and means what I think it means, then the venue can only be leased as a pony ride.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this,

Sherrell Cuneo

**Sec. 595. Lease of Facilities.**

The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners may lease for recreational purposes any municipal auditoriums, arenas, sports centers or related facilities subject to the following conditions:

(a) The term of the lease shall not exceed 35 years. Leases in excess of five years shall be approved by the Council by ordinance.

(b) The public must be entitled to use and enjoy the property or facility for the purposes for which it was acquired, constructed or completed and any lease shall require the lessee to operate the property or facility so as to furnish the public with that use and enjoyment.

(c) The board may enter into the lease without inviting bids and may prescribe other terms and conditions as it deems appropriate.

[https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/los\\_angeles/latest/laac/0-0-0-2875](https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/los_angeles/latest/laac/0-0-0-2875)

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Re: Pony rides and Bronson

1 message

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

Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 10:28 AM

To: ida dizon < >

Cc: Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, "nithya.raman@lacity.org" <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, Councilmember Nithya Raman <contactcd4@lacity.org>, "karen.bass@lacity.org" <karen.bass@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 7:40 PM ida dizon < > wrote:

The Bronson item I would like to suggest a DG path instead of concrete sidewalk. Aesthetics, and less infringing on next-to sycamores.

Please reinstate pony rides !! They are beloved and a historical treasure.

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: Pony Rides

1 message

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

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 12:50 PM

Good afternoon,

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

On Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:22 AM Sharla < > wrote:

To whom it may concern,

I saw Zora screaming at the birthday parties one day so I stopped and I told her she was scaring the children a few were crying.

This was after the vet check passed so I didn't understand why she was still out there screaming her lies.

The vet check debunked her false animal abuse accusations yet she continues to smear his name.  
And Then somehow she won?

She screamed at me that I was an animal abuser and owning horses was slavery. She said I was a slave owner.

I tried to explain to her that she should be down at the auction where they sell the overpopulated horses to kill factories.

I asked her if she knew about the mustangs problem?

I asked her where will the horses go?

Sanctuary's s? I asked her if she knew how much it cost to keep a horse... who's going to pay....

A person on a horses back a kid on a pony's back is like a person carrying a backpack.

They think when a pony's head is down it's sad but that's how they relax or rest...or look for food

A simple Google search can tell you this.

Quote. A dropped head is **a sign your horse is relaxed and feeling good**. If he's standing in his stall or pasture with a lowered head, he's probably either resting, relaxing or asleep.

They have no knowledge.

They have no facts.

They have no solutions.

Griffith Park Pony Rides have been there for 73 years. Packed every weekend with happy little kids.

I've met two and three generations there. Family traditions.

When the ponies retire they get to stay with their herd and receive love and care until they pass.

They have rehomed numerous ponies into our community and I'm sure have been used by the studios over the years.

Her complaints had been addressed and resolved.

A vet came out and inspected and passed. So what changed?

What facts have been presented?

What were the new legitimate complaints?

I think we deserve to know.

I haven't heard a valid reason yet so my suspicion is they were sick of her coming to their offices screaming so they caved to an obnoxious extremist activist who is uninformed and has zero evidence of anything that supports this action.

Who is fighting for the Equestrian community because I keep reaching out to my local representatives and get crickets and we're losing ground every day.

Activists don't understand and obviously the politicians don't understand that many horses/ponies without jobs or a purpose are often sold for meat or glue or euthanized.

I would like an answer on how this happened. This was wrong.

Sharla Fisher

--

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)



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Pony Rides (Please watch)

1 message

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

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 1:51 AM

This is who you let win.  
She lied about the ponies. She was proven wrong. Yet she kept lying and you let her win.  
This isn't a rare occurrence, this is her normal behavior.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/318876296806949?mibextid=0NULKw&fs=e&s=TleQ9V>



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

**Re: re the pony rides at Griffith Park**

1 message

**Rose Watson** <rose.watson@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 4:00 PM

To:

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

Hello Steve,

Thank you for your inquiry. I'll work with the team to get responses to you by your deadline.

Best,

Rose

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

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

Date: Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 1:34 PM

Subject: Re: re the pony rides at Griffith Park

To: Stephen Scauzillo &lt; &gt;

Good afternoon,

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

On Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 10:48 AM Stephen Scauzillo &lt; &gt; wrote:

Hi Commissioners

To: President Sylvia Patsaouras,  
and Lynn Alvarez, Vice President, et al:

I am Steve Scauzillo, staff writer, with Southern California News Group. I've covered the closing of the Griffith Park Pony Rides during these past few weeks.

I will put my questions below. I would certainly like to hear back from you or your designated spokesperson regarding any future plans, ideas, concepts for the now closed Pony Rides location within the Park.

1. Can you tell me about what I've learned are some historic structures there? I believe it is the ticket kiosk and the customer waiting area, as well as the pony path and fencing. Weren't these original (circa 1946 or 1947?)
2. Can you tell me more about these structures?
3. Would any new use, development, concession have to keep these structures? Or can they be taken down?

4. Can you or your spokesperson tell me what ideas, concepts are being planned or thought of for this area no longer in use? What do you personally think might be a good use there in the future? If none, can you tell me about that and perhaps explain.

5. Is there upcoming RAP meeting agenda that have future of this area of Griffith Park as a discussion or action item? Please, if you will be so kind, to let me know.

I have a deadline for my story on Wednesday, Jan. 4, at 2 p.m.

Sincerely,  
Steve Scauzillo  
staff writer, Southern California News Group  
The Daily News, etc.

PS: The administrative assistant whom I just spoke to said she would not be taking a message to give to you. She suggested using email format.

--

Steve Scauzillo  
staff writer  
public health/environment/transportation  
Southern California News Group

The Southern California News Group represents 11 daily newspapers: Los Angeles Daily News, Long Beach Press -Telegram, Torrance Daily Breeze, Pasadena Star-News, San Gabriel Valley Tribune, Whittier Daily News, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, San Bernardino Sun, Redlands Facts, Riverside Press-Enterprise, Orange County Register.

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**Rose Watson**

Public Information Director  
Media Relations/Marketing Division  
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Follow us on social media for everything LA Parks related!





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

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**Re: Replace Griffith Park Pony Rides & Petting Zoo with a Non-Animal Model**

1 message

---

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

Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 12:11 PM

To:

Good afternoon,

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

On Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 11:06 AM Anita Carswell < > wrote:

Dear Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Los Angeles Recreation and Parks,

As someone who cares about the well-being of animals and one of over 250,000 In Defense of Animals supporters, I thank you for not renewing the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo contract and ending the prolonged suffering of the ponies and farmed animals at the facility. Not only do pony rides involve animal suffering, but they also teach children that it's acceptable to use animals for entertainment instead of teaching them to respect and appreciate animals as sentient beings.

I urge you to replace the current concession with a non-animal model. There are many options to consider that do not involve exploiting animals, including environmental education programs, where families can learn how to respect and care for native plants and animals within the park. Creating an opportunity for children to learn about respecting nature and wild animals at the iconic Griffith Park would provide an enriching and positive experience. Ideas that involve entertainment include go-karts, inflatable obstacle courses, or a FUNBOX (an inflatable bounce park). Now is the perfect time to switch all city parks to non-animal entertainment models.

Thank you for your consideration, and for continuing Los Angeles' legacy as leaders of humane animal welfare policies.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Anita Carswell

--  
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