

November 1, 2022

Kimberly Simonet
Regional Director
Department of Recreation and Parks

RE: Petition to Transfer, Louise Merritt, Lincoln Park Director

To Whom It May Concern:

We the people, who represent the community of Lincoln Heights are petitioning to transfer Louise Merritt due to her lack of skills in Professionalism, Knowledge, Leadership, Vision, Direction, Organization, Communication, and Compassion of her position who serves the community as director of parks and recreation.

Her lack of leadership and organizational skills has led to severe consequences which has had a negative impact to our community. Her actions have impacted participants such as children, parents, referees, and umpires due to the lack of public information on upcoming events. The lack of communication to the public has led to not enough children, referees and umpires showing up to the community events. Additionally, the lack of participation has caused teams to forfeit because one team will have 3 children playing and the other 4 children playing. Evidently, Louise Merritt doesn't communicate with the community and shows a lack of interest otherwise there would always be enough people participating at the events. As director of parks and recreation; communication, information to the public, and participation plays a vital role in keeping the community events going. Thus, many participants have transferred to El Sereno and other nearby parks due to the lack of information about these public events. She is oblivious to how her actions and negativity impact's her staff and community.

Louise Merritt lacks compassion for our seniors, children and parents! For instance, Louise Merritt shows a lack of consideration for our seniors because she leaves our seniors locked out of the recreation center for hours especially during bad weather conditions. Furthermore, many of our seniors are disabled. Many of them utilize canes, walkers and wheelchair to get around. Louise Merritt has made it impossible for our seniors to get inside the recreational center because she forces them to go to the front of the recreational center to get inside instead of giving our seniors easy access to the back door of the recreation center. Moreover, she uses derogatory terms such as racial slurs, inappropriate language and bullies staff as well as parents. She intimidates the staff by embarrassing them, bullies, be-little's employees, and yell's at the seniors. On one occasion after school, one of the kid's mentioned to their parents – that Louise always yells at them. We are suppose to have a positive impact on our community while we try to educate them in a positive way. Using this type of language in front of our children, parents and staff is detrimental to our community.

Petition to Transfer Louise Merritt
November 1, 2022
Page 3

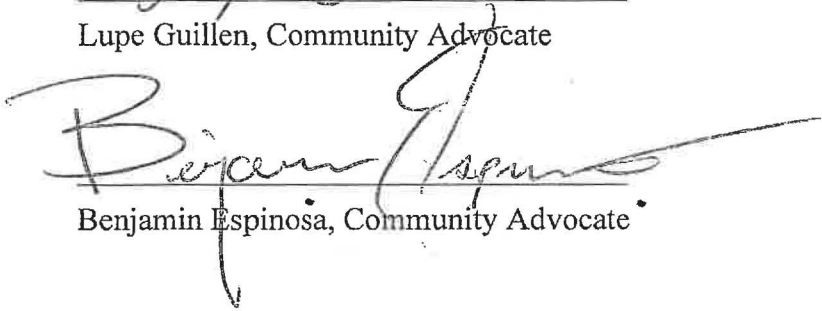
COPY

Thank you in advance for valuable time and attention to this very important community matter.

Sincerely and Concerned,



Lupe Guillen, Community Advocate



Benjamin Espinosa, Community Advocate

- c: Sylvia Patsouras, President, Rec. and Parks Commissioner,
Harold Arrivillaga, Board Secretary
Jimmy Gomez, Congressman
Jennifer Barraza, Chief of Staff for Kevin de Leon
Cynthia Cruz, Field Deputy for CD 14
Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council
Los Angeles City Clerk

CALIFORNIA ALL-PURPOSE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

COPY
CIVIL CODE § 1189

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

State of California }
County of Los Angeles }

On 04/21/2023 before me, Erick Caro, Notary Public
Date Here Insert Name and Title of the Officer
personally appeared Lupe Guillen & Benjamin Espinoza
Name(s) of Signer(s)

who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.



Signature [Handwritten Signature]
Signature of Notary Public

Place Notary Seal and/or Stamp Above

OPTIONAL

Completing this information can deter alteration of the document or fraudulent reattachment of this form to an unintended document.

Description of Attached Document

Title or Type of Document: Petition

Document Date: November 1, 2022 Number of Pages: 3

Signer(s) Other Than Named Above: _____

Capacity(ies) Claimed by Signer(s)

Signer's Name: _____	Signer's Name: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Officer – Title(s): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Officer – Title(s): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Partner – <input type="checkbox"/> Limited <input type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Partner – <input type="checkbox"/> Limited <input type="checkbox"/> General
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney in Fact	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney in Fact
<input type="checkbox"/> Trustee <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian of Conservator	<input type="checkbox"/> Trustee <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian of Conservator
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Signer is Representing: _____	Signer is Representing: _____

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY

PETITION

We, the tax payers, who represent the past, current, and future generations of Lincoln Park Recreation of Lincoln Heights, hereby acknowledge the need for the transferring of Louise Merritt, Recreation Director, of Lincoln Park. Louise Merritt's ineffective Leadership has resulted in individual and community consequences and loss. Therefore, we the undersign DEMAND immediate change of leadership.

No.	PRINT NAME	PHONE # or E-MAIL	ADDRESS
1	Robert Vega		
2	NATE HIDALGO		
3	NICK HIDALGO		
4	NATALIA HIDALGO		
5	BENJAMIN ESPINOSA		
6	ERICK GOMEZ		
7	IVON RODRIGUEZ		
8	Peter DeVore		
9	Gabriel Lopez		
10	Matthew Castillo		
11	VICTOR BAUTISTA		
12	Johana Gabriel		
13	MOSES GARCIA		
14	Tania Gallegos		
15	John Espinoza		
16	Rosa Huittad		
17	Municipio Nacional		
18	Andres Flores		
19	Isabel Hernandez		
20	Karen Espinoza		
21	Garnett Jones		
22	Eddie Chase		
23	Robert Johnson		
24	TONY-ZARZA		
25	FRANCIS GARCIA		

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No.	PRINT NAME	PHONE # or E-MAIL	ADDRESS
1	Harig Torres		
2	Daniel Morales		
3	JOSE FELIX Cruz		
4	Davidson Molina		
5	Norma Vargas		
6	Lupe Vargas		
7	Mario Vargas		
8	Francis Torres		
9	Odileo Espinoza		
10	LORENZO Jimenez		
11	JOSE CASTRO		
12	ARMANDO DOMINGUEZ		
13	Lennon A Torres		
14	Rebecca Tadeo		
15	elsa Martinez		
16	marcalino Castro		
17	Isidra Torres		
18	ROBERT ROSADO		
19	Damon Hernandez		
20	WEEK RIVER		
21	Lois Pablo Hernandez		
22	Bertha Khandji		
23	Anthony Reynolds		
24	ROBERTO TORRES		
25			

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No.	PRINT NAME	PHONE # or E-MAIL	ADDRESS
1	Rosalio Munoz		
2	Anthony C		
3	ADRIANA RIVERA		
4	JOSEPH CERVANTES		
5	REY GALLEGOS		
6	TONY MEDINA		
7	ANTHONY GALLEGOS		
8	ROBERT SILVA		
9	TIMOTHY MEDINA		
10	ANTHONY MEDINA		
11	LOURDES CASTILLO		
12	ARTURO RIVERA		
13	RICHARD EPICANO		
14	LINDA EPICANO		
15	MARCELA ROBLES		
16	CESAR ROBLES		
17	YANEZ BUCARMA		
18	JAMES P		
19	JAMES J		
20	ROSIE P		
21	DOLores PENEZ		
22	LARRY MERIA		
23	HENRY VEGA		
24	HILARIO		
25	FRANCISCO GONZALEZ		

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No.	PRINT NAME	HONE # or E-MAIL	ADDRESS
1	Ben Farber	311	
2	Chelsey Rosette		
3	Roberta Eterna		
4	Anna Smith		
5	Gloria Rojas		
6	John Rios		
7	Marcela Ceballos		
8	Carolyn D. Alvarez		
9	Isaac Alvarez		
10	Seba Quiñones		
11	Dora Pedraza		
12	Teresa Manzano		
13	Yosenia Cera		
14	Andrey Martinez		
15	Rose Lopez		
16	Santiago Torres		
17	Roy Gonzalez		
18	Jose Casillas		
19	Gregory Lopez		
20	Fernando Torres		
21	Mike Acirre		
22	MARY CASTRO		
23	TIM RICHARDSON		
24	Grace Fleming		
25	DILLON BALTRAGER		

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No.	PRINT NAME	PHONE # or E-MAIL	ADDRESS
1	JAI ME MEJIA		
2	Stilio Lora		
3	Alexandra P...		
4	Maria Salgado		
5	Mabel C...		
6	Mara Cassa		
7	Mara M...		
8	Rocío H...		
9	Jalmar H...		
10	Valeriano S...		
11	Pedro S...		
12	Fernando Gallegos		
13	Adriana Ferrer		
14	Francisca P...		
15	Mariana Rendon		
16	Dalila Gonzalez		
17	Francisco Zepeda		
18	Raquel H...		
19	Pedro Ferrer		
20	LURE WARRER		
21	MAGALI Ruiz		
22	Zulema Garcia		
23	Lorena Flores		
24	Carlos Flores		
25	Damaris Gonzalez		
26	Luis Gonzalez		

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No.	PRINT NAME	PHONE # or E-MAIL	ADDRESS
1	Celia Rodriguez		
2	NICK Badagna		
3	Veresa Martin		
4	Cecilia Ferrer		
5	Artie Ferrer		
6	Steven Durazo		
7	Eileen Perez		
8	Victor Martinez		
9	Karina Madrid		
10	Monica Martin		
11	Judy Gallardo		
12	Pillar Donato		
13	Sara Brando		
14	Rosario Jimenez		
15	Yaret Ullca		
16	Maria Lopez		
17	Margaret Lopez		
18	ALBERT GONZALES		
19	RINO CASTRO		
20	HENRI VALCHER		
21	BORUNDA EVER		
22	Steven Durazo		
23	Celia Rodriguez		
24	Debbie Gonzalez		
25	Marie Montano		

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY

PETITION

We the people of Lincoln Park Recreation Center hereby acknowledge the need for the transferring of Louise Merritt, Recreation Director, of Lincoln Park Recreation. Ineffective Leadership has resulted in individual and community consequences and loss. Therefore, we the undersign DEMAND immediate change of leadership.

No.	PRINT NAME	PHONE # or E-MAIL	ADDRESS
1	Alejandro Ram		
2	Anita Gonzales		
3	Danny Medina		
4	Terry Gonzales		
5	David Gomez		
6	Melli Murray		
7	Veronica Sanchez		
8	JR. SANCHEZ		
9	Luis Diaz		
10	Jaere Holby		
11	Kevin Diaz		
12	KAREN Balbrena		
13	ANTHONY C		
14	Rosalbina		
15	Esmeralda Castro		
16	Wendy Silva		
17	Rafael Murrieta Jr		
18	Jennifer Soto		
19	Sandra Flores		
20	Adela Bulleret		
21	Roxanne Martinez		
22	Richard Sepulveda		
23	Richard Olivares		
24	Genora		
25	Savannah Gonzalez		

26. Trinidad Veranejo

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No.	PRINT NAME	PHONE # or E-MAIL	ADDRESS
1	Jasmine Pacheco		
2	MANUEL JACOBO		
3	Julio Arredondo		
4	Roxanne Martinez		
5	Adela Bullaert		
6	MARIE AREIOLA		
7	Richard Casillas		
8	TOMMY SANCHEZ		
9	Jean Flores		
10	Sara Saucedo		
11	GRANSTON WARD		
12	Valeri Margez		
13	Cindy Aguilar		
14	Nancy Herrera		
15	José Soto		
16	And Salgado		
17	Nehemy Jimenez		
18	MIKE SANDOVAL		
19	Javier Leal		
20	REY MARTINEZ		
21	MANNY GUEVARA		
22	Justine Lopez		
23	Marie Montano		
24	DAVID ORNELA		
25	Angela Duran		
26.	Jean Flores		

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No.	PRINT NAME	PHONE # or E-MAIL	ADDRESS
1	Francine Perez		
2	Argenis Lopez		
3	Mayra Vaca		
4	Martha Vaca		
5	Veronica Vaca		
6	Maria Vaca		
7	Jovana Reyes		
8	UZBETH VIVERO		
9	Maria VIVERO		
10	ARTURO ARELLANO		
11	Rodolfo Vivero		
12	ANTONIO ALVAREZ		
13	Jeimy Vasquez		
14	yessina Cortez		
15	Cynthia Vega		
16	Irene Barba		
17	Roselle Casimiro		
18	Luis Gutierrez		
19	Ty Rone Casimiro		
20	Miguel Sion		
21	Chloe Blair		
22	April Sion		
23	Katsy Salcido		
24	Mirada		
25	Carlos R Flores		
26	Fabiana Amerquita		

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No.	PRINT NAME	PHONE # or E-MAIL	ADDRESS
1	MAURICIO VARGA		
2	Ricard Sandoz		
3	JAVIER PEYE		
4	PAYI LOPEZ		
5	Kubert Villenas		
6	Emilio Torres		
7	Alicia Lopez		
8	Cecilia Ledezma		
9	Perta Colin		
10	Saul Rodriguez		
11	Paulina Hernandez		
12	Juliana Hernandez		
13	Foufou Cruz		
14	Ana Dela Cruz		
15	YASMIN MONTAN		
16	Frank T.		
17	JESUS VASQUEZ		
18	Monica Escobedo		
19	Elizabeth Medrano E		
20	Brooklyn Sanchez		
21	Diego Cortez		
22	BUSTOS, John		
23	Arac Diaz Arthur		
24	Michelle Watson		
25	MARY WATSON		

26. Joshua Guzman (555) 700 6107

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY

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No.	PRINT NAME	PHONE # or E-MAIL	ADDRESS
1	Lico Erami		
2	Devin Erami		
3	Armando Ahumada		
4	Arturo Villaneda		
5	JOSE GODINEZ		
6	Luis Cervantes		
7	Edward Warr		
8	Joseph Cervantes		
9	Stefani Durazo		
10	VALERIE GODINEZ		
11	Vanessa Godinez		
12	George DIAZ		
13	NEFTALI HIOALGO		
14	ARNOLDO GARCIA		
15	Rosie Garcia		
16	Rudy Vargas		
17	MANUEL PORRAS		
18	MIKE MADAME		
19	ARMANDO MARTINEZ		
20	Marco Vargas		
21	Robert Guzman		
22	Raymond Vega		
23	Martina Arnelas		
24	Padro Luis Cruz		
25	Janelle Dufro		



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No.	PRINT NAME	PHONE # or E-MAIL	ADDRESS
1	Jose Roldes		
2	Teresa Manzano		
3	Andree Martinez		
4	Louie Cisneros		
5	Lisa Vazquez		
6	Mary Watson		
7	Michelle Wilson		
8	Joselyn Garcia		
9	DAVID RIOS		
10	Edgar K. Badillo		
11	Pearl Contreras		
12	Julian Arredondo		
13	Rose Barragan		
14	Margie Gamba		
15	Joseph Ayala		
16	Marlo Carlos Anaya		
17	Sherrill Chavez		
18	Mungie Zavala		
19	Joseph Cervantes		
20	Daniel de Jesus Camillo		
21	Moises Ochoa		
22	Carlos Espinosa		
23	Vivette Rivera		
24	Megan Rodriguez		
25	Freddy Portillo		

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No.	PRINT NAME	PHONE # or E-MAIL	ADDRESS
1	Cecilia Silva		
2	Jonathan Montufar		
3	Nancy Leon		
4	Juan Meraz		
5	Maribel Servellon		
6	Paula Gonzalez		
7	Lourdes Leon.		
8	Elizabeth Rivas		
9	Laura Rivas		
10	Luz Maria Rojas.		
11	Melissa Maldonado.		
12	Maura Rodriguez		
13	Gisselle Garcia		
14	Rosario Valenzuela		
15	Norma Gonzalez.		
16	Martha Castellanos		
17	Rosa Estrada		
18	Rogelio Contreras.		
19	Julian Acosta.		
20	Aurelio Contreras.		
21	Gabriela Navelo.		
22	Lamberto Acosta		
23	Bernard Gandara		
24	Enise Hernandez		
25	Gavino Pios		

look in the back.

Megan Quinonez
Luis Quinonez

Antwan Trammel

Geary Trammel

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY

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No.	PRINT NAME	PHONE # or E-MAIL	ADDRESS
1	Jesse Vela		
2	Jose Avverola		
3	Junior Perez		
4	Patricio Martin		
5	Alex Zendejas		
6	Leticia Candelas		
7	Magaly Velazquez		
8	Eduy Sanchez		
9	HEURIC VIGCH		
10	VINCENT KAL		
11	Cynthia Salvatore		
12	Ignacio Torres		
13	Momene Torres		
14	Robert JUREK		
15	Pamela R...		
16	Cabrina Sanchez		
17	Randy Mariscal		
18	James Galindo		
19	Jaime Cabrales		
20	Isabella Hano		
21	Diana Rente		
22	Georgio Vasquez		
23	Leo Garcia		
24	Daniel Carrillo		
25	Eddie Renteria		

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No.	PRINT NAME	PHONE # or E-MAIL	ADDRESS
1	Edith B Vargas		
2	Grace Perez		
3	Consuelo Echovan		
4	AT		
5	David Dominguez		
6	Lisette Velasquez		
7	Andrea Quintana		
8	Alvin Gonzalez		
9	Nathan Crane		
10	EDGAR CHAVEZ		
11	Pat Hanesikat		
12	MIRYAM FLORES		
13	DAVID PAREAN		
14	Maria Cuarenta		
15	David Brown		
16	Ana Mota		
17	Adalberto Leon		
18	JUAN CASTILLO		
19	Marta Lopez		
20	Rose Estrada		
21	Jorge Erazmi		
22	Cristina Garcia		
23	Gerard Watson		
24	Mariane Reyes		
25	Jesse Sampedro		

26 CARESS TORRES

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY

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No.	PRINT NAME	PHONE # or E-MAIL	ADDRESS
1	MARIA Cortez		
2	Luisa Gane		
3	Andre Toledo		
4	Maria Cruz		
5	Eva Lopez		
6	Elena Valle		
7	Isabel Lew		
8	OFFELIA GUTIER		
9	Marie Lallie Rodry		
10	Luisa Angela		
11	Florencia Hernandez		
12	Wahid Morad		
13	Maria Dize		
14	Maria abuelo		
15	Armando Green		
16 th			
17	JOSE CASTRO		
18	Andrew Garcia		
19	MARCELINO CAS		
20	Robert Martinez		
21	Veronica Perez		
22	Frank Perez		
23	Raydian Perez		
24	FRANCINE GARCIA		
25	ROGER SILVA		

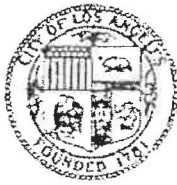
for all

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No.	PRINT NAME	PHONE # or E-MAIL	ADDRESS
1	Lorreta Vrias		
2	Lupe Guillen		
3	JUAN RUIZ		
4	Jorge Alvarez		
5	Vicente Cobos		
6	Jase Ruiz		
7	Paul Mendez		
8	Peter Molina		
9	Ruth Galendo		
10	Victor Bisuet		
11	Justin Bisuet		
12	Francisco Bisuet		
13	Tommy Saveria		
14	JOHNNY BECERRA		
15	Lucille Carrillo		
16	Mary Jasca		
17	Melba Egan		
18	ANITA GONZALEZ		
19	Richard Gonzalez		
20	Margie Guba		
21	Vicente Boff		
22	Pedro Olmeda		
23	Germán M. S.		
24	VERONICA SILVA		
25	Andrés Ruvalec		



LINCOLNHEIGHTSNC.
ORG

Lincoln Heights
Est 1769

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

of the
City of Los Angeles
Council Districts
1 & 14

CERTIFIED COUNCIL
2002

Letter of Support



Executive Board

President
Fernanda Sanchez
Vice President
Selena Ortega
Treasurer
Vincent "Chente"
Montalvo
Secretary
Daisy Quinones

This letter was approved by the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council on February 1, 2024, by a vote of: 10 YES 0 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 INELIGIBLE

RE: The Executive Director, Louise Merritt, for the Lincoln Heights Parks and Recreation Center located at 3501 Valley Blvd, Los Angeles California.

We, the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council hereby put forth a Letter of Support to the community stakeholders and over 431 signatures, regarding the Lincoln Park Recreation Center located at 3501 Valley Boulevard in their request to transfer the Executive Director Louise Merritt due to the disservice perpetuated onto our community, as well as the allegations of mistreatment of community members and employees.

We also request that the Lincoln Park Recreation Center put their best effort forward to finally establish a PAB board, as required by the city, to further collaborate and make amends with our community. The LHNC is highly interested in facilitating with this matter.

We request facilitation in the most amicable way to resolve the issues and tensions between our community and the recreation center. As public officials, it is our fiduciary duty to serve our community with the best of intentions, while upholding integrity to our stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

Mayor Karen Bass, General Manager Jimmy Kim, Superintendent Chinyere Stoneham

As a former Lincoln Park Advisory Board Member I am submitting this complaint against Lincoln Park Director Louise Merritt due her unprofessional behavior. Ms. Merritt closed the front door access to the recreational center during high peak summer days. I had to attend to a young boy who fainted due to heat exhaustion. All he wanted was a drink of water and could not access the water fountain. I called 911 and administered first aid. This gross negligence was reported immediately to park supervisors. I also complained several times about the dirty bathrooms and the prostitution and drug sales taking place at the park. I requested that the Park Advisory Board be established and why when I questioned her about it she responded "No we don't need a PAB. I questioned her about the PAB on several occasions. I continue to receive complaints about her by community members who know me. People in the community are scared of her. Those who are undocumented do not want to step forward. I do not want to cause any hardship on our seniors most of them signed the petition we circulated. A number of them transferred to Montecito Park because they could not tolerate her abusive language hateful statements she used. Ms. Merritt would yell out "Speak English" in a Spanish speaking community. I received several senior complaints so I followed up with Congressman Jimmy Gomez office and requested they look into it. I then submitted another letter to General Manager Jimmy Kim that documents our concerns and submitted a petition of 431 signatures to Supervisor Kimberly Simonet. Her response was "Do what you got to do". At my age I should not have to organize a protest or hold press conference in or order for the City of Los Angeles to respond to our community concerns.

Lupe Guillen

Former Park Advisory Board Member



Lincoln Heights Cultural Preservation Coalition, Lincoln Park Fourth of July Committee (23 Years)

Fw: Fw: Formal Complaint: Director Louise Merritt Lincoln Park Recreation Center

From: carolyn alvarez (c)

To:

Date: Monday, February 5, 2024 at 03:14 PM PST

Response to my email

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Begin forwarded message:

On Monday, February 5, 2024, 3:13 PM, Anita Meacham <anita.meacham@lacity.org> wrote:

[+Kimberly Simonet +Sharon Nishihara](#)

Good Afternoon Ms. Alvarez,

Thank you for your email. Your concerns are very important to us and as you stated, we have conducted an investigation into this matter on several occasions interviewing staff, volunteers, patrons and parents and found that Ms. Merritt has a track record of being a committed, diligent and responsible employee serving the community.

We will be meeting internally to review your concerns again.

kindly, Anita

On Mon, Feb 5, 2024 at 2:32 PM carolyn alvarez < > wrote:
Hello

Subject: Follow-up on Formal Complaint: Director Louise Merritt Lincoln Park Recreation Center

This is a follow-up to this email sent in 2021. We know the City removed or she took a leave during the investigation and now she is back in her position. Apparently, No evidence was found. But, No parents were interviewed or no one talked to the hair dresser or asked for the address of the place. This initial email was sent back in 2021. But, the park has still not improved and the sports programs are dead. The field of dreams fields are locked up and not being used by the kids in the community. We still demand a more active, involved, respectable director. We need her to be held accountable for her actions and lack of. She is not trusted and lost the respect of the community. She does not work well with the community and only wants to do the minimum for the community. Especially, when it comes to the sports program. Mrs. Merritt needs to go and the voices of the community need to be heard!!!!

Please reconsider your action and replace Mrs Merritt

Thank you

Carolyn Diaz Alvarez

July 27, 2021

Reg: Director Louise Merritt

Lincoln Park Recreation Center

3501 Valley Blvd

Los Angeles, CA 90031

To whom it may concern

I am writing to submit a formal complaint against Mrs. Louise Merritt, Director at Lincoln Park Recreational Center. This letter is to highlight the poor management of the parks Sports Programs and facilities. Which our community kids are very fond of. It is a community meeting place where parents and kids meet up and enjoy themselves. The summer sports programs have always been a very big attraction for the community kids and parents. This is one of the ways the community parents encourage their kids to go out and play in a safe friendly environment. As you know, in an era of digital media, gang activity, and homelessness it has been a challenge to inculcate kids in healthy safe activities.

The following are injustices practiced by the Director that have affected the community sports program, parents and park facilities users. These are issues since 2021 when the issues started and this original email was sent.

1. The Director is non-co-operative and shows non-willingness towards managing the park programs and her staff. The office has a high staff turnover and there is no one answering parents or community member's calls or concerns. On any given day if you call no one answers the phones or opens the office doors. If calls are answered you get the same response every time "We are working on it". Staff members confirmed the Director

closes the office for 2 to 4 hour during lunch to do her nails and hair at Noel's salon on North Broadway. If an emergency happens and the office is closed she runs the risk of putting community members and the kids that use the park in jeopardy.

2. Parents, kids and a staff member confirmed a meeting to talk about parents' concerns about the parks mismanagement and lack of communication. During this meeting Mrs. Merritt announced out loud in front of everyone including kids "Go ahead call me a Nigger you know you want to." As you can imagine the shock and dismay of the parents and children and the distress this caused everyone present. Everyone was wondering why she would say something so insulting and what point she was trying to make or what was she trying to insinuate. Parents were frustrated at the meeting. But, would have never thought to say or think something so disrespectful. This was very unprofessional and shocking on her part and unacceptable behavior.

3. The Dodgers are sponsoring the RBI Field of Dreams program this year. The ribbon cutting was on June 13th. As of today the program has not taken off. We had over 45 kid's turn out for try outs and due to the disorganization and lack of communication with the parents the majority of kids have left to other parks. We only have four kids on most teams and have to borrow kids from other teams to have games. We are going to miss a wonderful opportunity if we don't start getting the program up and running.

4. The Director blames the kids and parents stating "they only came to get the uniforms" And "it's the parents fault for not bringing them" "I tried everything other than sending a pigeon". When the reality is they are sending emails at the last minute or not notifying parents at all. We have explained to Mrs. Merritt that phone calls are needed and noting that it is vital to communicate with parents well in advance since most parents work weekends and have to arrange transportation and care taker. Most parents are not email savvy and do not have asses to emails. The area is predominantly Hispanic and most are immigrants or many are homeless. So communicating via email has proven ineffective.

5. The need to have someone that speaks Spanish in the office or just having staff is vital to meeting the needs of the community. Having staff that answers calls in the office just in case parents or community member's call to ask questions is vital to have a park that flourishes. Having someone in the office during games in case of an emergency is also vital. Many parents are frustrated and up-set with the lack of communication with the office and Director. So frustrated they are choosing to take their kids to El Sereno Park. Although, it is farther and not their community park.

6. Another issue is the Director is not hiring enough Umpires. There was a game and only 1 or 2 Umpires are available on the weekend. They are always 45 to 30 minutes late or no show. We had to forfeit every game this weekend due to the umpire no showing. This is frustrating since the parents make the effort to be at the park on time and the kids are excited to play. Kids have asked many times why they are not playing real games and that is a good legitimate question.

7. I have spoken to many parents and we all feel the same about the poor standard of community service and effort. At this point, we are gathering to demand change in the form of a petition to remove or have the Director transferred. We demand better accountability, oversight and responsibility from anyone placed in her position.

I believe it is in the City's best interest to take strict action regarding the above mentioned matters and I implore that you please take any necessary action on behalf of the kids in the community and the community members that use the park. I ask for a remedy and solution to these problems so our kids can enjoy the facilities and programs again.

Thank you for your time on this urgent issue

Carolyn Alvarez Diaz

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Anita D. Meacham, M.B.A.
City of Los Angeles
Superintendent of Recreation & Parks
Metro Region
3900 W. Chevy Chase Drive.
Los Angeles CA. 90039
Phone: (213) 485-5027
(818) 552-3689
E-mail: anita.meacham@lacity.org

"We Rise by Lifting Others," "Brighten Someone's day"



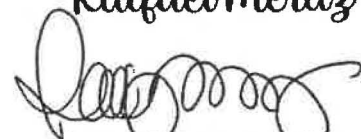
To whom it may concern.

The reason for this letter is to make a formal complain and make you aware of what is going on at a Los Angeles County Park that is funded by us the taxpayers. A few years back I enrolled my 4 children in basketball and then in baseball and was excited to have my kids enrolled in sports at the same park that I grew up at. My childhood park because I grew up in Lincoln Heights on Lincoln Pk Ave and bought my home in Lincoln Heights by Lincoln High School. In the beginning everything was fine because we were dealing with Allen and he was so pleasant to work with very professional and always eager to assist all parents. As time went on, we had to deal with Louise Merritt and let me tell you this was such an unpleasant experience. Louise is unprofessional, rude and racist. Every time we went in to ask question about registrations, schedules or just about anything she would not even acknowledge we were in the room, she would just ignore us until she was ready to talk to us. Once she did talk to us, she always had an attitude and her answers would be sarcastic or she would answer as if we were inconveniencing her. I am a very passive person and I always tried to understand and justify her actions to my friends. I let this bad treatment and bad customer service continue until one day during a Halloween event that they had for the kids she made my 3 daughters' cry. I asked them what had happened they said Mrs. Louise had accused them of stealing a bell that was in the common area outside of her office and was yelling at them and stooping to their level when they came to me I went and confronted Louise and she said my daughter most likely took the bell because they were in the hallway when she noticed the bell missing. I told her she had to come to me if there was a problem and that she had not right to fight with my children. Later that night the bell was found with another kid and there were no apologies to me or my children. Once that season was over we left the park and signed my children up at Hazard Park. We had previously filed a complaint with Franchesca Pitsmeyer who had a meeting with her bosses, and nothing came out of it. I understand Louise

is part of a protected class at the moment and you guys are afraid of firing her out of fear of retaliations and lawsuits, but I can assure you she if the reason year after year your sign up continue to decrease and why so many parents have signed up their kids to Hazard Park, Rose Hill Park and El Sereno. This is very upsetting because it is us parents who pay taxes to keep these people employed and Louise Merrit is the worse kind of employee any business can have. I don't understand why she has not been fired or at a minimum demoted or moved into a position where she does not deal with the public. There was a petition signed by hundreds of people in the area who agreed with me and the county did nothing. I demand answers and a change needs to happen because like me there are hundreds of parents like me.

Attentively,

Raquel Meraz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raquel Meraz', written in a cursive style.

DATE: February 7, 2024

I am writing this letter because I support the community. I want to acknowledge that Louise Merritt is a person who came to our business and used our services which lasted four hours. I do not want to be involved in meetings so I hope this brief letter is good enough because I like to respect the privacy of my clients.

Thank You