

On 3/17/09, **Brad Lee** <[bradleelaw@gmail.com](mailto:bradleelaw@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Ms. Hoppes:

Attached please find WCKNC's community impact statement in response to "Little Bangladesh" petition.

This statement was issued and approved by the WCKNC board meeting of March 9, 2009.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your cooperation and courtesy.

Respectfully,

Brad Lee

Boardmember/WCKNC

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**Community Impact Statement -  
Opposition to "Little Bangladesh" Neighborhood Designation**

Contact Information: Brad Lee, Boardmember/WCKNC  
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**Impact Information**

Date: March 9, 2009  
Update to a Previous Input: No  
Directed To: City Council and Committees  
Reference Number:  
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Item Number:

**Brief Summary:**

The WCKNC strongly urges the City of L.A. to oppose the petition to designate the area from Wilshire Blvd. to 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and Western Ave. to Vermont Ave. as "Little Bangladesh." Irreparable harm would be caused by such a designation to its commercial and cultural growth since the Area carved out as "Little Bangladesh" constitutes the heart of what is widely identified as Koreatown. Though Koreatown may not have the City of L.A.'s *de jure* designation, the *de facto* designation is recognized by the LAPD, LAFD, LAUSD, L.A. County, U.S. Census Bureau, DONE, WCKNC, and the millions of citizens of City of L.A.

**Additional Information:**

It is the consensus belief of the WCKNC and our stakeholders that the proposed renaming of the area encompassed by Wilshire Blvd. to 3<sup>rd</sup> St. (south to north) and Western Ave. to Vermont Ave. (west to east) ("the Area"), if approved, would be detrimental to the community and against the City of Los Angeles Policy for Naming or Renaming a Community. The area proposed to be renamed "Little Bangladesh" occupies a large portion of what is already recognized to be Koreatown.

Although Koreatown does not have an official neighborhood designation by the City of L.A., it is widely recognized within different City administrative bodies, amongst the population of the City, and within the international community as a whole. Some of the City bodies that have an internal designation of Koreatown include, but are not limited to, the Wilshire Center-Koreatown Neighborhood Council, Community Redevelopment Agency, LAPD, LAFD, and LAUSD. Koreatown is also recognized by the County of Los Angeles and on the federal scale by the U.S. Census Bureau. Furthermore, Koreatown's *de facto* designation amongst the general population of the L.A. and the world is illustrated through its recognition in traditional media outlets such as the LA Times, NY Times, and the Local TV news; and such the popular online collections of human knowledge as *Wikipedia.com* and *Google.com*.

It is our belief that designating the Area as "Little Bangladesh" will have a negative effect on commercial growth. The Korean-American community has invested, and re-invested in the aftermath of the L.A. Riots, millions of dollars into the development of Koreatown. Korean-Americans continue to invest in their businesses in Koreatown. Koreatown serves as a nexus for Korean-American business and it continues to attract investment from investors who reside outside of the City of L.A. Koreatown's high concentration of Korean-American businesses and its vibrant nightlife continue to attract high-level revenue streams from outside of the City of L.A. It is our belief that a re-designation of the center of Koreatown as "Little Bangladesh" will raise a strong negative reaction from within the Korean-American community and will negatively affect commercial growth within the area.

The "Little Bangladesh" designation will also have an adverse cultural effect on the Area. Koreatown is currently one of the most ethnically diverse areas in the entire world. Korean-Americans make up the largest proportion of the population at 18%, followed by Mexican-Americans at 15%. It is very common to find Korean-Americans and Mexican-Americans speaking to each other in each other's respective languages. It is truly one of the only places where the so-called "Multi-ethnicity" model of cross-cultural integration is actually in practice. It has spawned such cultural phenomena as the Kogi BBQ Truck, a catering truck selling tacos and burritos filled with Korean BBQ short ribs and kimchi. On any given day, stalwart Mexican restaurants, such as El Taurino and King Taco, serve almost as many Korean-Americans as they do Mexican-Americans. The large numbers of Vietnamese restaurants in Koreatown boast Korean-language translations to their English-language signage and menus. We believe that the designation of the Area to "Little Bangladesh" may upset the symbiotic relationships that have grown between many of the cultures represented in Koreatown.

The Koreatown neighborhood designation is ingrained in the minds of the residents of the Area as well as amongst the general population of the City of L.A. and the rest of the world. As per the official City of L.A. Policy for Naming or Renaming a Community, "any previously recognized name should be given consideration" prior to a neighborhood naming or renaming itself. In accordance with the findings above, we believe that the "Koreatown" designation takes precedence over a "Little Bangladesh" designation. Therefore, we urge the City of L.A. to oppose this petition to designate the Area as "Little Bangladesh."