



**EL SERENO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
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May 10, 2012

To: Los Angeles City Council Members and to  
Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

From:  
El Sereno Historical Society  
PO Box 32-113  
Los Angeles CA, 90032

RE: Item No. 9 (Council file 11-2057; now file 11-0187-S3)

The purpose of this letter is to inform the City Council that as constituents of El Sereno we are opposed to the inclusion of item (g) of Council file 11-0187-S3, relative to the redistricting plans for Los Angeles City Council, proposed modifications, adjustments and related matters.

Adjustment Item (g) states "Move Rose Hills from CD 1 to CD 14". Our opposition stems from the fact that there is no community of "Rose Hills" within the Council Districts 1 or 14. The fact is that a motion to recognize a community under this name was only just submitted by Councilman Jose Huizar of District 14 on December 09, 2011 (Council File Motion 11-2057). Motion 11-2057 was sent to the Arts, Parks and Neighborhoods Committee, who then referred it to the Ad Hoc Arts, Park, Health and Aging Committee, where it still sits, having not been reviewed by said committee.

There is also strong community opposition to this motion because of the facts that follow:

1) This so-called "Rose Hills" community is trying to be grandfathered into existence within the community of El Sereno whose constituents do not agree with having the area renamed. The great majority of the constituents within the area in question strongly identify themselves as community members of El Sereno.

2) Historically "Rose Hills" has never existed at any time in the community of El Sereno, Lincoln Heights, or Montecito Heights. No historical documents have been presented that can validate a community of "Rose Hills" ever existing in or within these current communities. We have asked the councilman's office and the Rose Hills advocates for a copy of these documents and none have been presented to date. What our own research has found is historical evidence verifying a "Rose Hill" but this area is officially part of Lincoln Heights/Montecito Heights since the City's founding in 1781. Currently the only part of Rose Hill within El Sereno is the few blocks in the area containing the 100 units of the Rose Hill Public Housing Projects and the Rose Hill Recreational Center.

There are many residents who think that this unofficial community of "Rose Hills" is being favored and given special support by Councilman Huizar and his El Sereno Field Office representatives. "Rose Hills" has been used many, many times by the Councilman and his Field Office representatives as being an official community; Councilman Huizar has shown his favoritism for "Rose Hills" by promoting it on his official website and in official newsletters, even though there is no official city documents or files recognizing "Rose Hills" as a community. The constituents of El Sereno have not been allowed to voice their opinions on whether we want our Historic El Sereno community to be sliced up in order to create and rename this area "Rose Hills".

This unethical bias of promoting "Rose Hills" by our elected city official is compounded by the fact that our current Neighborhood Council President, Anthony Manzano, is the leading advocate for the creation of this "Rose Hills" area. Again, more evidence which points to bias representation towards the community of El Sereno in favor of the small group of "Rose Hills" advocates, which includes the President of our neighborhood Council (NC). Mr. Manzano is an elected representative within the City of Los Angeles which means that he too must adhere to the laws and code of ethics, as all other elected officials are legally bound to. Mr. Manzano must act in a fair and unbiased manner, making sure his personal beliefs and views do not conflict or hinder his role as president of the NC and as a representative of the El Sereno community. Yet, despite complaints by many community members, the bias continues, as is evident in the fact that "Rose Hills" is included as an official community within the redistricting process. See Appendix J of File 11-0187-S3 where Rose Hill is listed as a community. "Rose Hills" is listed among other communities that have followed the rules and have gone through the Office of the City Clerk's Naming/Renaming Process and have been approved by the City Council. "Rose Hills", on the other hand, has not gone through any process and much less been approved. It can't go unnoticed that the City Council has not even been presented with the motion; again the Ad Hoc Arts, Park, Health and Aging Committee has not even reviewed the motion, much less presented it to the City Council. Furthermore, a fellow constituent wrote and presented an opposing argument for motion 11-2057 showing just how much community opposition there is against "Rose Hills" as well as the fact that there is true historical evidence which disproves Rose Hills as a 240 year old community.

We have e-mailed and have personally gone to Councilman Huizar's El Sereno Field Office and requested, several times, for copies of the historical files that need to be presented to the City Council, which are needed in order to verify that "Rose Hills" may be grandfathered. On different occasions, Field Deputy Daniel Andalon and Area Director Arturo Gonzalez assured us that we would be receiving copies of these documents. Yet months have passed and no documents have been turned over to us. This is in direct violation of fair and equal access to information ordinance and violates the code of ethics on government transparency, which are crucial in order for the constituents of this city to have faith and trust in their government. Again, several requests were made and nothing was ever e-mailed or mailed to us.

We turned to the Honorable Gloria Molina, Los Angeles County Supervisor, 1st District, for help in this matter. We appealed to Supervisor Gloria Molina for help after seeing that all our request and inquiries were being systematically ignored by the councilman's office. Supervisor Molina replied to our request and sent Councilman Huizar a formal letter notifying him of our request for information regarding the legality of both Hillside Village and Rose Hills, reminding him that this matter is under his jurisdiction. Supervisor Molina's reply and request is dated April 5, 2012; we are now in mid-May, 2012 and again, no one from the Councilman Huizar's office has contacted us nor have we received any of the information we have requested. The notification and request made by Supervisor, First District, Gloria Molina, has been ignored as well. We have enclosed copies of Los Angeles County Supervisor, First District, Gloria Molina's reply to us and her formal request to Councilman Huizar so that you may have a copy for your records.

The strong community opposition towards the creation of a "Rose Hills" is mainly due to the fact that there is a lack of Transparency, lack of respect for the Rights of the constituents, and a lack of Fair and Equal access to the historical documents that are being used to grandfather "Rose Hills" as a community.

The fact that "Rose Hills" was never reviewed by the Ad Hoc Committee, was never presented to the City Council, and is now being included in a City Council file as an official community is further evidence of the bias treatment against the community of El Sereno and its residents, who are being systematically ignored and marginalized. Many residents of the El Sereno community are at the end of their patience and are looking into filing a lawsuit against the City, Councilman Jose Huizar and his office, as well as the Neighborhood Council.

It is our belief that such needless waste of the public's money over a clear-cut bias can be avoided. We are requesting that "Rose Hills" not be recognized as a community and that motion 11-2057, which is requesting that "Rose Hills" be grandfathered, also be denied and made invalid. The simple act of taking out "Rose Hills" from among the group of official communities will begin the process of correcting and amending item (g) and Appendix J of Council file 11-0187-S3, relative to the redistricting plans for Los Angeles City Council. Making sure that "Rose Hills" is not given special treatment by circumventing the renaming process will restore the community's faith and trust in its local and city government. "Rose Hills" needs to go through the same process all the other legal and officially recognized communities have; this is what Fair and Equal means, and will allow for Transparency. Please help the historic community of El Sereno, its constituents, and the City of Los Angeles, begin the process towards a just and positive solution to this issue. The constituents of the historic community of El Sereno are only asking for equal and fair representation.

We also strongly urge the City Attorney's Office to keep the area outlined in Council File No. 11-0187-S3-Item (g), relative to the redistricting plans for Los Angeles City Council, proposed modifications, adjustments and related matters, in CD 1 and NOT move it to CD 14. This area is considered and is historically part of Lincoln Heights/Montecito Heights. We have sent a letter to the Los Angeles City Council Members and Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee with the same made request outlined here. We have also faxed a copy of the letter to your office for you to review and add to your files.

Our current Neighborhood Council is so divided and opposed to this "Rose Hills" Anthony Manzano insist on claiming and representing as an official community, that the NC has failed to even review and vote on passing the By-laws for this year. DONE representatives had to be called or stepped in several times this year because of the high number of complaints by constituents and board members who do not want this division in our community or within our Neighborhood Council.

There are NC elections coming up and the stakeholders of El Sereno are going to vote in new Neighborhood Council representatives. As part of the new NC, stakeholders and candidates seeking to be elected to the new NC board are ready to redraw the boundaries of our NC to only represent and include what officially is recognized as the community of El Sereno. Currently, the only reason that we have a zip code number (90032) as the name of the NC representing our community is because Mr. Manzano has tried for many years to create this "Rose Hills" community, without any success. We, the stakeholders of El Sereno, do not want any part of Lincoln Heights or Montecito Heights within El Sereno's Neighborhood Council area of representation.

The proposed changes in the by-laws will reflect this exclusion of any part outside the community of El Sereno. That the zip code 90032 falls over into Lincoln Heights and Montecito Heights is no reason to include those small areas of respective communities. It makes no sense to divide the communities of Lincoln Heights and Montecito Heights just to satisfy the imaginary delusion that these areas are a "Rose Hills" community. The residents of Lincoln Height and Montecito Heights were never asked or notified of this grandfathering motion to create "Rose Hills". Allowing this illegal and unofficial "Rose Hills" community to circumvent any fair and equal official process would affect the residents in Lincoln Heights, Montecito Heights, and El Sereno for the simple fact that these residents identify themselves with their already established communities.

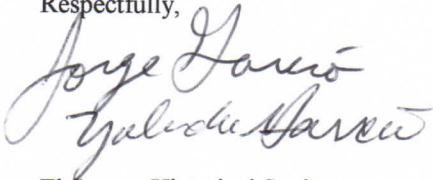
As mentioned before, even the stakeholders of El Sereno did not have the opportunity to review any documents or files claimed by Mr. Manzano as historical evidence of a 240 year old "Rose Hills" community. As founding members of the El Sereno Historical Society we can say beyond a reasonable doubt that NO SUCH EVIDENCE EXIST of a 240 year old "Rose Hills" community. What Mr. Manzano is claiming as historical fact and evidence needs to be examined not only by the residents of all communities but by academics professionals as well. Every resident from any of the communities that will be negatively impacted by the unfair creation of "Rose Hills" as well

as from this proposed redistricting, need to have Fair and Equal access to this material AND their opinions need to be heard before any decision is made by the City Council or City Council Committee.

The return of this small area of Rose Hill, as outlined in Council File No. 11-0187-S3-Item (g), back to District 1, would eliminate all the division and animosity currently being experienced within the El Sereno Neighborhood Council. The return of this small area of Rose Hill back to District 1 would eliminate the division of communities and would instead promote unity among each community of Lincoln Heights, Montecito Heights, and El Sereno. Again, we are requesting that Item (g), as outlined in Council File No. 11-0187-S3, be kept in District 1 and NOT be moved to District 14.

The historic community of El Sereno does not deserve to be illegally divided. Our community needs to have effective and un-bias representation and this must be put back on track. We thank you for your time and patience in this matter.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signatures of Jorge Garcia and Yolanda Garcia in cursive script.

El Sereno Historical Society  
Jorge and Yolanda Garcia  
Founding Members

C: Los Angeles City Attorney's Office

Attachments



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

856 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA 90012 / (213) 974-4111

**GLORIA MOLINA**  
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

April 5, 2012

The Honorable José Huizar  
Councilmember, 14<sup>th</sup> District  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street, Room 465  
Los Angeles, California 90012

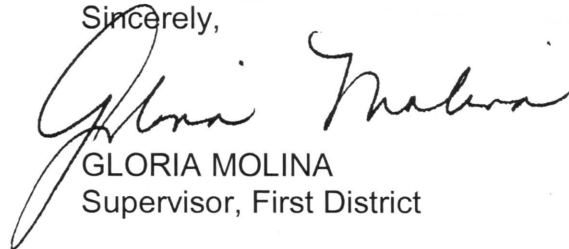
Dear Councilmember Huizar:

I am referring to you the concerns of our mutual constituents, Jorge and Yolanda Garcia, who reside at 2486 Endicott Street, Los Angeles, 90032. They may be reached at [info@elsereno90032.org](mailto:info@elsereno90032.org).

Jorge and Yolanda are requesting information regarding the legality of the Hillside Village and Rose Hills neighborhood designation. I advised them that this matter is under your jurisdiction. Their correspondence is enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding this referral, please do not hesitate to contact my Field Deputy Suzanne Manriquez at (323) 881-4601.

Sincerely,



GLORIA MOLINA  
Supervisor, First District

GM/SM/sg

c: Jorge and Yolanda Garcia

Enclosure



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

856 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA 90012 / (213) 974-4111

**GLORIA MOLINA**  
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

April 5, 2012

Jorge and Yolanda Garcia  
2486 Endicott Street  
Los Angeles, California 90032

Dear Jorge and Yolanda:

Thank you for providing to me a copy of your correspondence to your Los Angeles City representative, Councilmember Jose Huizar, regarding the legality of the Hillside Village and Rose Hills neighborhood designations.

This matter is under the jurisdiction of Councilmember Huizar, therefore, I forwarded your concerns to his office. Councilmember Huizar may be reached at (323) 526-3059.

For assistance with a County-related matter, please contact my East Los Angeles community services office at (323) 881-4601 and refer to the case number below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gloria Molina".

GLORIA MOLINA  
Supervisor, First District

GM/SM/sg

c: Councilmember José Huizar, 14<sup>th</sup> District

Case No. CAS25435