

Urgent! Comments to Council File No. 11-1179 - Street Vacation not justified - Hillside needs to be accessible for brush clearance

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Subject Council File No. 11-1179

Gentlemen

I became aware of the issue of an unjustified proposed street vacation in my old neighborhood Beverly Glen Canyon, namely a portion of Scenario Lane, an unimproved street.

Robert Graham owns 11 acres behind the houses on Basil Lane, which he accesses via that part of Scenario Lane.

Ms. Lorraine Arzt (Artz? - there are 2 different spellings in the files) now owns the 2 properties, 2165 and 2171 Basil Lane. Between them is the public, unimproved street Scenario Lane. Mr. Graham has been using that street for over 30 years to access the hillside behind the houses to do the annual brush clearing required by the Fire Department. The City Engineer has recommended to deny the vacation.

City Council Members Huizar and Koretz are recommending a street vacation in contradiction to the advice of the City Engineer.

Mr. Graham, received the notice only on Friday, 6/22 and the hearing is this Wednesday, 6/27. Mr. Koontz in Paul Koretz' office told Mr. Graham, the vacation will be approved, even though the city engineer opposed it.

Is Ms. Arzt offering to do the brush clearance of Mr. Grahams 11 acres? Probably not.

Therefore, ingress and egress to the property behind her land needs to be granted in the interest of public safety.

Mr. Graham would be amenable to supporting the vacation, if an easement was created on the edge of 2171 Basil Lane to allow access to the hillside behind for the required and necessary brush clearance.

Since this public street provides access to a property of 11 acres, for which annual property taxes are being paid, it is probably not legal to cut off that access. To determine this, more time is needed. Why would the city give away 1,9000 sqft of very valuable land?

So to ensure that this matter is handled correctly, also in the interest of public safety – including the safety of the applicant's property, a postponement of the decision is the least City Council Members Koretz and Huizar should do.

Respectfully

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