

#8

Franklin/Hollywood Boulevard West Homeowners Association, Inc.
7470 Franklin Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90046-2242
323.333.7445

Comm from Public
Submitted in
APHA Cmtee 9/7/2011
CF 11-1338

16 March 2011

Councilmember Tom LaBonge
Council District 4 – CD4
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Room 480
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember LaBonge,

Re: Healthy, Safety, and Security Issues related to Runyon Canyon Park

Runyon Canyon Park was established in 1986 – 25 years ago, with a Master Plan designed to meet the residents' needs and minimize traffic impact on neighborhoods by creating "... public parking spaces on-site" in the park (page 72 of the Plan). Needless to say, the City has not fulfilled this commitment. The park is listed in every Los Angeles publication as the "Best Hike in L.A." (i.e., LA Weekly, Discover LA, Los Angeles Magazine, as well as several articles in the LA Times and websites emphasizing the largest off-leash dog park in LA) bringing between 15,000 and 25,000 people per week to the area with an estimated 10,000 dogs per week – and the only Park without parking facilities or toilet facilities.

Over the years, we have had numerous problems associated with irresponsible hikers and the related lack of visitor parking in the Park. Although the City of Los Angeles had once acquired funds for creating parking in the Park, the so-called "Friends of Runyon Canyon" (daytime non-resident hikers) put a stop to the effort based on a lack of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Consider the Park's impact on our residential neighborhood:

- **Total congestion of the streets** during the day in a 5-block radius of the park – the residents' visitors and workmen have to park blocks away
- **Traffic safety laws ignored** – no stopping at STOP signs, speeding, reckless maneuvering of vehicles, etc. endangering the several small children and adults in the area. This is especially prevalent during the early morning and evening rush-hour traffic.
- **Leash Laws ignored** -- numerous dogs off-leash wandering the streets and residents' properties – urinating, defecating, and endangering children. An uncontrolled dog went into one of our properties, and attacked and killed one of our resident's pets.
- **Pedestrians walking in the roadways** (meandering, jogging, exercising, pushing strollers) – a resident was physically attacked by hikers for merely suggesting that it is dangerous to use our streets as an outdoor gym (Police Report filed)
- **Enormous unhealthy levels of toxicity** (i.e., Fecal Coliform, e.Coli, Heterotrophic Bacteria) in Runyon Canyon Park runoff were measured in 2003 *far exceeding* State Limits. It is now significantly worse – endangering residents and hikers alike, as well as the runoff into the drainage system to the ocean, violating LAMC 64.70.
- **Illegal use of Handicap Signs** to park on No Parking Streets by *very-capable* hikers as they jog to the park! (noted in PP District #72)

This has driven us to have Preferential Parking (and the related expense to homeowners) on our streets, as well as Restricted Parking north of Franklin Avenue due to safety issues. This has really helped during the early morning and early evening hours, and late night hours when other problems occur. The daytime hours, however, still find our residential streets loaded with congestion and the related issues identified above.

Now, our community is faced with yet a new issue – not only do we have *irresponsible hikers* letting their dogs urinate and defecate on our properties and sidewalks, but the *irresponsible hikers*, themselves, have chosen to *use our properties as their toilets* (urination and defecation!!). This has been witnessed several times on Hillside Ave, Vista Street, and Franklin Avenue. The diseases spread by human waste are cholera, dysentery, typhoid fever, etc. It would not be good for the city to be perceived as the cause of such epidemics – this must be stopped!

Tom, I am requesting a neighborhood meeting with your office at my home within the next 2 weeks. We need your advice and assistance to resolve these issues in the near term, and consider the viable actions to eliminate the ever increasing **HEALTH, SECURITY, and SAFETY ISSUES** brought about by the lack of due diligence by The City with respect to Runyon Canyon Park. Actions that we want to discuss with you include:

1. Immediate closure of the Vista Street Gate to all except emergency traffic
2. Immediate deployment of port-a potties in Runyon Canyon Park
3. Increased and effective security/traffic patrol of our streets and in the Park
4. Traffic restrictions north of Hollywood Blvd. to local residents only (Franklin Ave, Vista St, Gardner St, Sierra Bonita St)
5. Closure of Runyon Canyon Park until an EIR and/or appropriate parking can be established
6. Litigation if necessary to ensure and restore a healthy, safe, and secure neighborhood

Runyon Canyon Park has become an *attractive nuisance* as a result of irresponsible hikers and inaction by the City of Los Angeles, resulting in **security, safety, and health issues** to the several small children and adults living in this residential neighborhood. The daily nuisance has become unbearable and damaging to the neighborhood. We live in a 1910/1920s historically important, well-preserved community and recommend this face-to-face opportunity to re-emphasize the significant importance of this set of issues and to workout solutions with you. While you will find it difficult to restore the quality-of-life we once had, the City needs to implement changes to greatly reduce these negative impacts, and reduce the health, safety, security hazards brought about by the irresponsible hikers.

NOW is the time for ACTION! Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Donald Andres, President
Franklin/Hollywood Blvd. West HOA, Inc.

Cc: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa

Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr – Vice Chair, City Council Committee on Parks, et al
Councilmember Ed Reyes – City Council Committee on Parks, et al
Zev Yaroslavsky – County Supervisor, BOS Third District
Barry A. Sanders - President, Board of Recreation and Parks Commission
John Kirk Mukri - General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks

Marian Dodge – President, Hillside Federation

Rory Fitzpatrick – Chief of Operations & Chief Field Deputy, CD4

Jeanne Min – Chief of Staff, CD4

Carolyn Ramsey – Deputy Chief of Staff, CD4

Don Andres

From: Don Andres [andres2007@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2011 11:50 AM
To: councilmember.reyes@lacity.org;
councilmember.wesson@lacity.org;
councilmember.koretz@lacity.org;
councilmember.Labonge@lacity.org
Cc: 'Dietrich Nelson'; 'Marian Dodge'
Subject: Diminished Quality of Life

Dear Councilmembers:

This email is being sent prior to the APHA Committee Meeting tomorrow morning at 8:30am at City Hall.

The reason for Item #8 (11-1338) on the APHA agenda is a result of the **Reduced Neighborhood Quality of Life** and several **City-created Health and Safety Hazards in our Neighborhood**. The City has not properly dealt with the lawlessness issues caused by Runyon Canyon Park hikers that have escalated over the past 10-15 years, and that were documented in my letter in March 2011 and subsequent meetings with the City. It has now been 6 more months of increased lawlessness with no **real concrete action** by the City to prevent the Health and Safety Issues.

Runyon Canyon Park has reduced our neighbor Quality of Life and created Health/Safety Hazards:

- **Total congestion of the streets** during the day in a 5-block radius of the park – the residents' visitors and workmen have to park blocks away
- **Traffic safety laws ignored** – no stopping at STOP signs, speeding, reckless maneuvering of vehicles, etc. endangering the several small children and adults in the area. This is especially prevalent during the early morning and evening rush-hour traffic.
- **Leash Laws ignored** -- numerous dogs off-leash wandering the streets and residents' properties – urinating, defecating, and endangering children. An uncontrolled dog went into one of our properties, and attacked and killed one of our resident's pets.
- **Pedestrians walking in the roadways** (meandering, jogging, exercising, pushing strollers) – a resident was physically attacked by hikers for merely suggesting that it is dangerous to use our streets as an outdoor gym (Police Report filed)
- **Enormous unhealthy levels of toxicity** (i.e., Fecal Coliform, e.Coli, Heterotrophic Bacteria) in Runyon Canyon Park runoff were measured in 2003 **far exceeding** State Limits. It is now significantly worse – endangering residents and hikers alike, as well as the runoff into the drainage system to the ocean, violating LAMC 64.70.
- **Illegal use of Handicap Signs** to park on No Parking Streets by **very-capable** hikers as they jog to the park! (noted in PP District #72)
- **Hikers urinating and defecating on personal property** - on numerous instances hikers have entered residential property on Hillside Avenue, Vista Street, Gardner Street, and Franklin Avenue since there are no facilities in the Park.
- **Property Damage/Invasion** – see enclosed email

Once again, our neighborhood requests the **Closing of the Vista Street Gate** and the **No parking without Permit seven days a week** as a means to reduce the City-created Health and Safety Hazards in our neighborhood. The time to do the right thing is NOW before a serious accident occurs.

Respectfully,

Don

Don Andres, President
Franklin/Hollywood Blvd. West Homeowners Association
7470 Franklin Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90046-2242
andres2007@sbcglobal.net
323.333.7445 (cell)

Note: The Franklin/Hollywood Boulevard West Homeowners Association consists of more than 175 residents. If copied on this email, their respective email addresses do not appear due to privacy reasons.

From: Dietrich Nelson [mailto:dnelson@dnaepr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2011 10:44 AM
To: 'Don Andres'
Subject: RE: Stop Signs and Property Damage/Invasion

Don,

I'd recommend sending also sending it to Councilmembers Ed Reyes and Herb Wesson, Jr. who also serve on the committee for tomorrow's hearing and to Councilmember Koretz who shared the Quality of Life motion with Tom LaBonge.

I hope you bring many people to the hearing at City Hall tomorrow (8:30 am, room 1010). You should each pick one quality of life issue to discuss and be precise in your message points as you will only have 2 minutes per person. Redundancy is not good. Remind everyone to fill out a speaker's card when they enter.

Good luck!
Dietrich

From: Don Andres [mailto:andres2007@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2011 9:56 AM
To: councilmember.Labonge@lacity.org; 'David Ahern'; 'Jeanne Min'; 'Sharon Shapiro'; ctrutanich@lacity.org; jane.usher@lacity.org; 'Fabiola Vilchez'; kevin.regan@lacity.org; 24916@lapd.lacity.org; 30735@lapd.lacity.org; 'Marian Dodge'; 'Dietrich Nelson'
Cc: 'Susan Davis Taylor'; 'Kristoffer Winters'; Arthur Vogelsgang; Brian Reise & Elizabeth MacDonald; Candice Harding & Vince Bracato; Don Andres; Eddie Nestlebusch; Elizabeth MacDonald; Jess Winfield - Home; Joel Ashley; Judy Vogelsgang; Leigh French; Nadia Conners; Sa Winfield; Walton Goggins; Yvonne Hessler
Subject: Stop Signs and Property Damage/Invasion

The Continuing Runyon Canyon Lawlessness within the last 3 weeks ---

1. No Respect for Stop Signs

Susan Taylor Lives on the 1700 block of North Gardner Street with her husband and two small children. She posted the following on youtube last night.



"I just posted a video on YouTube that I took tonight at 7:13 pm. I thought it might help our cause. It's 8 minutes and 53 seconds long and shows 26 cars crossing the intersection of Franklin and Gardner in front of Nadia and Walton's house. I counted 12 cars that followed the law and stopped at the stop signs (although a couple were rolling California stops - are they legal?). 19 cars ran the stop signs. That's a hair over two cars per minute running those stop signs. And...this was a quiet Monday night, last night of a holiday weekend, after parking hours. Could you imagine if I filmed a Saturday or Sunday during the day or a weeknight?

This is the title of the video: Gardner and Franklin Failed Stops 9/5/11 @ 7:13pm
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ws13-aXjyQ>

Don't following the count I had on the audio - I missed a few. I went back and watched it again twice to confirm the final numbers." -- Susan Taylor

2. Continuing Property Damage

Additionally, I returned home from a trip on September 2 to find my front gate damaged (see picture below). A hiker's car hit the closed gate and broke the wrought iron hinge, knocked it off its hinges, and bent the gate. Numerous hikers per day turn around in my driveway anxious to find parking spots. Now, I cannot even secure my property to prevent the City's Hikers from personally urinating and defecating on my property - along with their dog poop -- all of which was recently discovered.



3. Property Invasion on Hillside Avenue ----

On Aug 15, 2011, at 9:03 PM, J Candice Harding <jchinc@pacbell.net> wrote:

We are under construction and have construction fencing and gates on both sides of the corner on which we live. We have a Porta Pottie inside the gated area for workmen. We have an invasion of people trespassing (yes we have no trespassing signs!)... Two days ago a young woman almost knocked my son off a ladder as she pushed through the gate and stormed the porta pottie. My son told her this is not public and it's an insurance issue, she may not use it. She didn't care about it and forced her way through with her large dog. This is happening almost daily now. They come in through the wired closed partitions. They are rude and abusive. I have now put a pad lock on the porta pottie. I have posted that the portable toilet is not in service and is locked! We are losing our minds. The fake handicap hikers come early and one man in particular changes his clothes at his car, and then pees in the bushes almost daily (he is in a small blue compact car). Another woman (with handicap placard, in a large white SUV) comes very early several mornings a week and makes sure her car is locked by setting the loud audible alarm at least twice and then again when she returns. It is warm and we have

to sleep with the windows open... There is no sleep... Hikers come down from the park until at least 11PM. They are quite vocal and it all echoes up the hill. Today two women were trying to undo the wire barricade when my neighbor came out and stopped them. This is insane! I am actually afraid when they approach for my safety. I am now afraid when they find the porta pottie locked they will go in the new garage, under construction or by my house. There is no relief!

4. Summary

Needless to say, the **Lawlessness in Runyon Canyon Park** continues its spread in the neighborhood – several of these people not stopping at the STOP Sign were hikers leaving the park – this no-STOPping is **extremely prevalent** during the day with the numerous hikers anxiously trying to find a parking spot. The video also shows several people **Walking in the Street** at the same time -- a daily occurrence on several blocks. You should also know that the streets were completely jammed with parked cars even though there is **No Parking after 7pm**. The hikers all know that Parking Enforcement does not ticket until after midnight on Holidays – so they disregard the signs.

All of this is a result of the several **City-creating Health and Safety Hazards in our Neighborhood** by not properly dealing with the lawlessness issues caused by Runyon Canyon Park hikers that have escalated over the past 10-15 years, and were documented in my letter to you in March 2011 and subsequent meetings with the City. It has now been 6 months of increased lawlessness with no **real concrete action** by the City to prevent the Health and Safety Issues.

Once again, our neighborhood requests the **Closing of the Vista Street Gate** and the **No parking without Permit seven days a week** as a means to reduce the City-created Health and Safety Hazards in our neighborhood. The time to do the right thing is NOW before a serious accident occurs.

Please let us know if we have to pursue alternative options to reduce the lawlessness and prevent the City-created Health and Safety Hazards.

Respectfully,

Don

Don Andres, President
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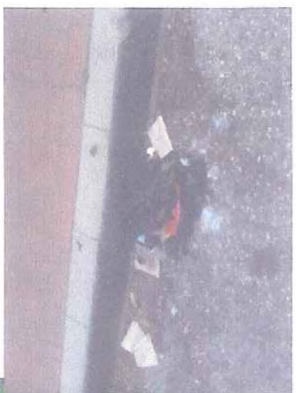
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Comm from Public
submitted in APHA Cont
9/1/2011, CF 11-1338

#8



Endless Trash



Daily Life in Our Neighborhood - Health Issues



Dog Poop



Street Changing



Property Damage/ Invasion



Human Poop

Daily Life in Our Neighborhood – Safety Issues



***Total Congestion –
Blocking Fire Vehicles***



***Blocked
Driveways***



***Vendors Block Gates –
Fire Vehicle Access?***



***Running Stop
Signs***



***Walking in the
Roadway***



Act Now to Resolve the Many Health/Safety Issues and Prevent City Lawsuits

Request to Restore the Quality of Life to Our Neighborhood --

1. Close Vista Street Gate – emergency only
2. Grant residential “24/7 No Parking without Permit” on R-1 streets
3. Continue to Ticket the traffic and parking violations

***We need your help to restore our quality of life
– it is the just and right thing to do!***