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Motion 12-0899-S1

1 message

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Cc: "Sheila Irani (E-mail)" <Pathcom@pacbell.net>

Mon, Sep 23, 2013 at 8:07 AM

Dear Council Members O'Farrell, LaBonge, Buscaino, and Cedillo:

The Lake Hollywood Estates Homeowners Association supports the proposed motion for a study (this actually sounds more like a report and perhaps should be so designated) regarding the challenges that the city's department of Parks and Recreation is facing in light of the reduced funds available to carry out its functions. Our association has been working in concert with the Hollywoodland Homeowners and Beachwood Neighborhood Association and with Councilman LaBonge's office as well as representatives of the city's transportation, parks and recreation and police departments to address the huge increase in traffic and tourism that our neighborhoods have been facing during the past few years. We are located adjacent to the western portions of Griffith Park. Because of GPS and web sites that recommend our areas as prime spots from which to view the Hollywood sign, we all are experiencing large increases in tourism and concomitant traffic congestion on the narrow, winding streets of Hollywoodland. Large numbers of the tourists stop in spots clearly marked with No Parking signs and redlined sidewalks, resulting in dangerous traffic situations on old and narrow city streets with blind curves. At the "vista" area above Lake Hollywood, despite the existence of a very large Smoky the Bear No Smoking sign, we regularly encounter tourists who smoke. Last year our neighborhood experienced a fire across from the vista, requiring the city to use helicopters to put out the fire. We also are experiencing increasing numbers of Los Angeles residents who come to hike in our area.

All departments of the city have been friendly, helpful and cooperative, but all these departments also repeatedly remind us of their limited resources. A Department of Transportation representative, who has been working with Councilman LaBonge's office to help our associations address these issues, directly stated that without additional enforcement of the existing legal restrictions, our problems and the concomitant fire dangers and congestion problems that can and have inhibited city emergency services from reaching sick or injured individuals, there is no tenable solution of our problems.

We encourage a speedy study (with a due date within three months) to provide you with information. Our communities want to see the city budget for next year include at a minimum another \$150,000 per year to fund one more full-time ranger to cover our areas from Mon.-Sun. 11am-7pm. The study may show that additional funds are needed to address other issues faced by the Department of Parks and Recreation. While we support visitors enjoying Griffith Park, our communities feel that they are entitled to adequate staff in the park to deal with the large numbers of people who use the park. Providing the needed funding for additional staff is certainly less expensive than dealing with even one small fire caused by visitors who smoke in a high fire danger area.

Jane Goichman, Board Member

Lake Hollywood Estates Homeowners Association