



Maria Espinoza <maria.espinoza@lacity.org>

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**Comment to Arts, Parks Committee re: 2/10/14 Agenda #7, CF 12-0899-S1**

1 message

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**Bernadette Soter** <bsoter@earthlink.net>

Sun, Feb 9, 2014 at 11:42 PM

To: Maria.Espinoza@lacity.org

Honorable Members of the Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee:

I have read the Final Report on the Status of the Park Ranger Division and am asking you to recommend to the full City Council that the "Optimum Investment" be made in the Division.

The "Optimum Investment" option will provide for Park Rangers in our regional parks--Griffith, Elysian, Sepulveda Basin, and Hansen Dam, among others--and will rebuild the Rangers' currently depleted ranks and increase their service hours.

Rangers are critical to ensuring public safety and a high quality of experience in our parks. I hope you will provide them with the maximum support possible.

Thanks in advance,  
Bernadette Soter  
2640 N. Commonwealth Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
323-660-4771



Maria Espinoza <maria.espinoza@lacity.org>

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## For File #12-0899-S1--Lake Hollywood Homeowners Association Support for Increasing Number of Park Rangers to Oversee Activities in Western Portion of Griffith Park

1 message

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Jane Goichman <goichphoto@earthlink.net>

Sun, Feb 9, 2014 at 10:52 PM

To: maria.espinoza@lacity.org

Cc: "Sheila Irani (E-mail)" <Pathcom@pacbell.net>, Daniel Halden <daniel.halden@lacity.org>

The Lake Hollywood Homeowners Association supports increasing the number of park rangers so that there is significant increase in ranger presence in the western portion of Griffith Park. Our neighborhood, Lake Hollywood, is located directly below Lake Hollywood Park and the vista area above the park. Our neighbors in Hollywoodland and along lower Beachwood Drive and we have experienced the impacts of a vast increase in visitor/tourism during the past few years, as web sites, GPS and other electronic devices let the world know that very good vistas of the Hollywood sign are available from our neighborhoods. This has resulted in a huge increase in car traffic as well as van tour buses driving through the narrow, winding streets of Hollywoodland, sometimes, like during the past Christmas/New Year holidays, resulting in such horrific traffic jams that the police had to be called out to turn cars back. Here in the Lake Hollywood area hundreds and hundreds of cars, if not more, visit the vista and park area to take photographs. Despite large Smoky the Bear signs that have been erected, our neighbors have frequently seen visitors as well as some of the tour van drivers smoking in front of the signs. In 2012 a brush fire, that luckily was quickly put out with the use of helicopter water drops, started at the vista.

Our neighborhoods have been working with Councilman LaBonge's office, the police, the park rangers and the Department of Transportation in an effort to deal with the rash of tourists. While everyone has been cooperative, what police, ranger and DOT representatives have told us is that more enforcement resources are needed to cope with the problem. Those agencies can provide more information about conditions that they regularly encounter in our neighborhoods. Likewise, Councilman LaBonge and his staff have personally witnessed the vast increases in tourism in our area and its impacts. The City of Los Angeles encourages tourism because of the revenues and jobs it provides. Our neighborhoods are not opposed to tourism, but we do feel that if the city encourages tourism, it also has to provide adequate resources so that its residents' quality of life and safety are not threatened by the tourists. We urge the city council to provide for increased enforcement in our neighborhoods by supporting the necessary budget increases to add more park rangers so that park ranger presence in our areas will be significantly increased on an ongoing basis. If increases to OPS or the police department also are needed, they should also be provided. We have also advised the Mayor's Budget Director of our concerns and asked for increased amounts in the next budget for more park rangers.

Unfortunately, I had conflict with this meeting. So I am sending you this email instead of personally appearing. Sheila Irani, the president of our homeowners association, has asked

me to add her name to this correspondence.

Thank you.

Jane Goichman

Member of the Board of Directors of Lake Hollywood Homeowners Association

Sheila Irani,

President of the Lake Hollywood Homeowners Association



This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.



Maria Espinoza <maria.espinoza@lacity.org>

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## Council File 12-0899-S1 - I fully support the Optimum Investment Rangers Funding Program

1 message

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**James Hanlon** <jfhanlon@roadrunner.com>  
To: Maria.Espinoza@lacity.org

Sun, Feb 9, 2014 at 10:38 PM

Dear Ms. Espinoza,

I fully support the Optimum Investment Park Ranger Funding program.

I'm a naturalist and wildlife photographer, and after 5 years of studying the diverse yet relatively distressed wildlife at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, I can definitively say that a ranger (even part time) would go a long way in enhancing the quality of life for both the park patrons and the wildlife. It's a win win for everyone, except the recreational poachers. The ranger program would also save money by reducing the amount of resources required from the LAPD, which is currently responsible for overseeing security and limited wildlife protection at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve.

Sincerely,

Jim Hanlon

Van Nuys, CA

jfhanlon@roadrunner.com

hanlon.smugmug.com



María Espinoza <maria.espinoza@lacity.org>

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**Fwd: Council File 12-0899-S1**

1 message

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**Debra George** <debraleegeorge@gmail.com>  
To: María.Espinoza@lacity.org

Sun, Feb 9, 2014 at 10:31 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jackie Hunsicker** <thejax@me.com>  
Date: Sunday, February 9, 2014  
Subject: Council File 12-0899-S1  
To: debraleegeorge@gmail.com

Dear Debra George:

I would like you to know that I support Optimum Ranger Funding. Our parks need to be protected, for us, for wildlife and for future generations. Woodley Park needs our help. Please help us keep our parks free of illegal fishing.

Jackie Hunsicker



Maria Espinoza <maria.espinoza@lacity.org>

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## Council File 12-0899-S1, FoGP #2

1 message

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**Gerry Hans** <gerry@friendsofgriffithpark.org>  
To: Maria.Espinoza@lacity.org

Sun, Feb 9, 2014 at 9:58 PM

Ms. Espinoza,

#2 - letter previously sent to Rec & Parks Commission

Please submit for council file 12-0899-S1.

Thank you,  
Gerry Hans  
Friends of Griffith Park

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 **2013 11 Rangers commission.pdf**  
212K



Friends of Griffith Park  
P.O. Box 27573  
Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573  
friendsofgriffithpark.org

November 20, 2013

Mr. Barry Sanders  
President, Board of Commissioners  
Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department  
221 N. Figueroa St. Suite 1510  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Sanders,

We would like to reaffirm our support for a fully staffed Ranger Division for LA's regional parks. Citizens using Griffith Park continue to be extremely proud of the quality, professionalism and dedication displayed by our park rangers on a day-to-day basis. As advocates for Griffith Park we strongly urge an increase in the overall positions filled for this important role in the Park.

The genesis of rangers is founded in the idea of having generalists in the field who react according to the day-to-day, hour-to-hour needs which supports security and safety of park users. They rescue the lost and injured, administer first aid, patrol, unlock traffic jams, diffuse disputes, enforce regulations, provide friendly interpretive guidance to park patrons and respond with knowledge and sensitivity to wildlife issues. Rangers in Griffith Park nearly always are the first responders to brush fires and emergency situations.

We further believe that the chain of command in directing all these tasks needs to be on the same hierarchy, such that priorities and effectiveness are optimized. In this regard, we urge an appointment to the position of Ranger Chief immediately. The concept of the 2006 "consolidation" was to save money, by combining security forces including the Office of Public Safety. However, this proved not a good solution for Regional Parks. In our opinion, the role of rangers was diminished and confused with the Office of Public Safety becoming involved. "Who is in charge?" is the question the community asked for about six years.

Finally, we hope that in the near future some kind of plan will be implemented such that rangers are again on duty 24/7, or at a minimum when Griffith Park and other regional park are open. The 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. hours currently maintained by the Ranger Division leaves citizens vulnerable. Rangers are sometimes needed when we least expect them to be needed, and that is just the nature of the service they should provide. There are no good alternatives to having a fully staffed ranger division.

Rangers are the City's best bargain, as they can perform a remarkable range of tasks! To not have enough leaves our park assets vulnerable which costs the city more in the long run.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerry H" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gerry Hans  
President

[www.friendsofgriffithpark.org](http://www.friendsofgriffithpark.org)  
[gerry@friendsofgriffithpark.org](mailto:gerry@friendsofgriffithpark.org)





Maria Espinoza <maria.espinoza@lacity.org>

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**Council File 12-0899-S1, FoGP #1 submission**

1 message

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**Gerry Hans** <gerry@friendsofgriffithpark.org>  
To: Maria.Espinoza@lacity.org

Sun, Feb 9, 2014 at 9:56 PM

Ms. Espinoza,

#1 - letter to Committee

Please submit for council file 12-0899-S1.

Thank you,  
Gerry Hans  
Friends of Griffith Park

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 **2014 02 Rangers, APHAR, 12-0899-S1.pdf**  
203K



Friends of Griffith Park  
P.O. Box 27573  
Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573  
friendsofgriffithpark.org

February 9, 2014

Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee  
Attn: Maria Espinoza, Legislative Assistant  
City Hall, Room 360  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Park Rangers - Council File CF 12-0899-S1

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Over the years Friends of Griffith Park has advocated for the expansion of ranger forces in our Regional Parks. We voiced support for additional rangers at the previous Committee meeting on September 23, 2013. We also emphatically requested that the Council Motion be amended to restore and fill the Chief Ranger position, which was done promptly.

We also spoke and submitted a ranger support letter at the Recreation and Parks Commission on November 20, 2013 (also submitted to the Council file). At that meeting, we were pleased that the Commission, led by Mr. Sanders, engaged in a long series of questioning about the history of the ranger program, including the multiple "consolidations" and budget cuts leaving too few skilled rangers to do all the work. The impression we received is that the Commission is very concerned and is not satisfied with the current level of Park Ranger staffing.

We have reviewed the Department's Report and make these comments:

1. The report likely understates the real importance and value of the rangers in fulfilling minimum standards for public safety in our regional parks. Counting the number and category of ranger responses gives a sense of the importance of their work to public safety, but it is impossible to predict the amount of emergencies that could be prevented through proactive patrols and enforcement. The cost efficiency of deploying Park Rangers versus any other public safety agency, we feel, is extremely high. They are the City's best value. Finally, it is hard to analyze how many lives our Park Rangers have saved over time or how many they could protect if the staffing levels were sufficiently increased.

2. The report does not adequately predict the longer term cost savings to taxpayers that would result from increased Park Ranger staffing. Habitat damage continues to proliferate in Griffith Park and Hansen Dam because of zero to low general patrol capabilities. An "ounce of prevention" is worth it versus the enormous costs of irreparable habitat damage. Park infrastructure is being permanently damaged in some cases, as well. And the probability for brush igniting because of illegal fires and smoking has an inverse relationship with the number of ranger patrols in the park.

3. We support administrative citation programs of the City's dog leash law and other citable codes which relate to public safety and habitat protection. The safety of families with young children is in jeopardy every day in our regional parks because of the low level of patrols, presence and enforcement by Park Rangers and other law enforcement agencies.

4. Our recommendation is "optimal staffing and service level" for the Ranger Division. We support the most aggressive implementation plan possible in order to expand our Park Ranger force to this staffing level as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerry H.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gerry Hans  
President

[www.friendsofgriffithpark.org](http://www.friendsofgriffithpark.org)  
[gerry@friendsofgriffithpark.org](mailto:gerry@friendsofgriffithpark.org)



Maria Espinoza <maria.espinoza@lacity.org>

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## APHAR Committee Meeting - Feb. 10, 2014

1 message

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**Carol Ng** <carolng38@yahoo.com>

Sun, Feb 9, 2014 at 4:42 PM

Reply-To: Carol Ng <carolng38@yahoo.com>

To: "Maria.Espinoza@lacity.org" <Maria.Espinoza@lacity.org>

Hi Maria,

Attached is my comment in favor of the Optimum Program for the Park Rangers, agenda items no. 7 & 8. I would appreciate your distributing a copy to the committee members.

I will be attending the meeting, but felt my comments were better expressed in writing.

Thank you,

Carol Ng

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 **Letter to APHAR re Park Rangers 2.10.2014.rtf**  
4K

February 10, 2014

Los Angeles City Council  
Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee  
Room 1060, City Hall

Attn: Council Member Mitch O'Farrell, Chair  
Council Member Tom LaBonge  
Council Member Joe Buscaino  
Council Member Gilbert A. Cedillo  
Council Member Curren D. Price

Re: Agenda Item No.7 - Council File #12-0899  
Agenda Item No.8 - Council File #12-0899 - S1

Honorable Members:

I am writing to express my approval of Item No. 7 and my desire that you approve Item No. 8 at the "Optimum Program" level.

I live adjacent to Bellevue Park in Silver Lake and, over the years, observed and interacted with the Park Rangers assigned there. I became a Park Advisory Board member and a LVNOC and RVNOC member. I saw how the patrons of the park, especially the children, fearlessly approached the Rangers and willingly accepted whatever instructions the unarmed Rangers issue. They saw them as helping the community. After the murder of a 15-year-old girl in the park, the PAB requested an early (10 p.m.) closing ordinance to include Bellevue. The Rangers always secured the park, even though short-staffed and covering the City from San Pedro to Sylmar.

Then the City developed the Office of Public Safety, assigned to the General Services Division. Rangers were removed from neighborhood parks and OPS was assigned responsibility for them. OPS officers were armed and wore black uniforms, a la LAPD, making them adversarial to the community. After that, I noticed that the park was only sporadically locked. Often OPS locked the gates to the parking lot, but not the pedestrian gates on Lucile and Edgecliffe, allowing pedestrian access to the park. Therefore, on 4th of July and New Year's Eve, Bellevue became a popular spot for setting off fire works. One late night, a group of about 50 - 75 bicyclists rode down to the park and lit a "ball" of paper, which they kicked around like a soccer ball. By the time OPS responded to my call, most had left. On numerous occasions, I have called

OPS to request they secure the park. In response to my letter about this, I was told that they had many parks to close and the budget precluded their locking every park every night, despite the ordinance mandating this.

Last Thursday, February 6th, at about 1:30 a.m., I heard gunshots coming from the park - at least two, maybe more. After about 15 minutes, a LAPD car came down Edgecliffe to the park gate and a helicopter circled above. Once again, not all the park gates were not secured, thus allowing the shooters to enter the park. Since OPS has been absorbed into LAPD, I suspect they have taken on the LAPD attitude that the Bellevue area is "the Beverly Hills of Rampart Division", making response spotty.

So, my ultimate desire would be for the Park Ranger Program to be funded to the extent that the Rangers are returned to neighborhood parks. But that's not under consideration today so, at a minimum, I hope that your committee recommends that they be funded at the Optimum level enabling them to get closer to the Ranger Program we knew and appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Carol Ng

960 Edgecliffe Drive

Los Angeles, CA 90026-1502

(323) 665-4448



Maria Espinoza <maria.espinoza@lacity.org>

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## City Parks in L.A.

1 message

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**Suzanne DeRusha** <suzannederusha@gmail.com>

Sun, Feb 9, 2014 at 12:03 PM

To: Maria.Espinoza@lacity.org

Council People:

The wealthy have Beverly Hills. The teens and young adults have Santa Monica and the beaches. But for almost all working class -- middle class -- families in Los Angeles, it is our wonderful parks that are the go-to destination -- allowing parents to get themselves and children out of the house and claustrophobic apartments for family celebrations, games, picnics, hikes and walks. The Rangers not only make these areas safe for families, they also keep vigilance on the legacy of our parks by dealing with the animals, flora, and the dangers of fire. If we are going to have parks, let's protect them -- It is like having a beautiful house and not keeping it protected.

As a city, we invest millions of tax dollars in theaters for people who can pay \$100 a ticket to see events there, so it seems only fair to provide something affordable and safe for beleaguered working parents in this city -- those who clean our streets, work our restaurants, put in cable, work at McDonald's etc. As a city we can at least give hardworking parents a place to take their families for some respite...and for moms to take their children to learn about wildlife and trains and to feel safe doing so. If we care about family values, about our environment, about keeping our city beautiful -- which means keeping parks and outdoor areas protected and safe....we must approve the OPTIMUM INVESTMENT OPTION for our Rangers.

As peace officers, fire fighters, wildlife managers, naturalists and environmental managers, our Park Rangers are a bargain. Give our families a break. Give them safe parks. Give us all pride in our city. The results in payback for our city is huge.

Thank you for your time and attention - Suzanne DeRusha



Maria Espinoza <maria.espinoza@lacity.org>

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## CF 12-0899-S1: Los Angeles Park Ranger Program

1 message

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**Lucinda Phillips** <pavementpictures@dslextreme.com>  
To: Maria.Espinoza@lacity.org

Sun, Feb 9, 2014 at 8:37 AM

Unfortunately we cannot attend the meeting but would like to add to the public comment on two different files:

1. **APHAR Committee meeting 2/10/14 - Agenda Item 7**
2. **Council File 12-0899-S1**

We fully support the Optimum Investment option for the Rangers. We believe the Rangers are indispensable in the safety and conservation of our parks and are greatly under-represented. We need more Rangers and also a Chief Ranger.

Lucinda Phillips and Glen Scantlebury