

Council

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Los Feliz Neighborhood Council, Los Feliz Neighborhood

Name: Linda Demmers

Phone Number: [213-973-9758](tel:213-973-9758)

Email: ldemmers@lofeliznc.org

Date of NC Board Action: 03/17/2015

Type of NC Board Action: Neutral Position

Impact Information

Date: 04/14/2015

Update to a Previous Input: Yes

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 14-0881

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Brief Summary: On March 17, Los Feliz Neighborhood Council held a public hearing regarding the expansion of the Franklin Hills boundaries. There were 8 public comments for, 17 against, and 3 neutral. We recommend that the Franklin Hills Residence Association demonstrate additional substantial outreach to all of the homes in the affected area before the Education and Neighborhoods committee holds their hearing to make a more informed decision.

Additional Information:



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Los FELIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Your Neighborhood. Your Voice. Your Council



PRESIDENT
Linda Demmers

VICE PRESIDENTS
Mark F. Mauceri- Administration
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CERTIFIED COUNCIL #36

PO Box 27003
Los Angeles, CA 90027

(213) 973-9758

info@losfeliznc.org

www.losfeliznc.org

April 10, 2015

Education and Neighborhoods Committee

Re: CF 14-0881

Honorable City Councilmembers,

On February 17, 2015, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council moved by a vote of 13 to 4 not to waive its right to hold a public hearing on CF 14-0881, a request from the Franklin Hills Residents Association to install one additional community naming sign at the intersection of Tracy and Talmadge Street.

On March 17, 2015, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council held a public hearing relative to CF 14-0881. The project was presented by the President and Vice President of the Franklin Hills Residents Association. The application packet also included a petition with 92 signatures.

At the meeting, eight community members spoke in support of the project, three were neutral, and a combined 17 either spoke or emailed written comments opposed to the sign. The opposing comments focused on a lack of information and outreach, and, in some cases, a general opposition to their area being designated as Franklin Hills.

Upon deliberation, the Neighborhood Council concurred that there had not been significant outreach to the affected area and so declined to approve the request. A CIS recommending additional outreach was passed by a vote of 10 to 2.

The public comments and subsequent comments are provided as an attachment.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda Demmers

Linda Demmers
President



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Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda Demmers

Linda Demmers
President

Franklin Hills Boundary Sign Public Hearing

Public Comment

Dear LFNC,

I am a homeowner on Holly Knoll Drive, and I've been a resident of this community for more than 13 years. I care deeply about our neighborhood. My children attend our local elementary school, Franklin Ave Elementary, and I previously served as President of its parent association (Friends of Franklin).

A neighbor has informed me of a proposed change to remove Holly Knoll Drive's designation as part of "Los Feliz," and designate it as part of "Franklin Hills." I was surprised to learn that this development has been in the works for several months, as no one on our street (including me) seemed to be aware of it.

I would ask the LFNC to defer making any decision on this matter until our community is better informed about the issue. Specifically, we would like to know why this re-designation has been proposed, who has proposed it, and whether there are benefits (or costs) for residents as a result of the re-designation.

I know the mission of the LFNC is community empowerment. To satisfy that mission, LFNC should provide its residents with complete information so we can take an educated position and have a say in how our community is designated.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Salvaty

4133 Holly Knoll Drive

+++++

Hello,

It came to my attention only yesterday that a petition had been circulating which, as explained to me by a neighbor, would change my neighborhood street, Holly Knoll Dr, to be ceded from Los Feliz and become part of Franklin Hills. I was not informed of this campaign by its sponsors and consequently have no information as to why this change is being sought and what ramifications or attributes may result. If a petition was circulated, it didn't come to me either in the mail, phone call, in-person visit, or even as articles in local papers, as far as I know.

I consider it an abridgement of my rights not to have been informed prior to this hearing and feel it is appropriate no action ensue in this matter until the proposal is more publicly announced and debated by all residents affected. Additionally, I have questions as to whom is circulating the petition, and who is verifying petition signatures, etc? I'm wondering if a study of the petition signers might reveal that only a targeted group, such as households with school age children, for example, have been approached. Or, perhaps, it is a random sampling but having no information whatsoever has prompted me to send you this note, expressing my concern.

Sincerely,

Josh Margolies

4161 Holly Knoll Dr

+++++

To whom it may concern:

It was brought to my attention yesterday a proposal is in the works to possibly expand the boundaries of Franklin Hills to include my street Holly Knoll Drive.

I have been on this incredible street for 13 years.. I love my neighborhood and am prideful to say Los Feliz is my home. When I purchased my house I bought into the Los Feliz zip code. There are concrete differences between the neighborhoods of Franklin Hills and Los Feliz. Differences that could effect real estate value and insurance costs to an owner. Both very big valid issues one would have as a current Los Feliz resident. I have learned that the crime rate is significantly worse in Franklin Hills as compared to Los Feliz. It seems it would bring more value to a Franklin Hills resident to include my street but clearly could lower mine. I know my house is in District D which has a relatively low crime rate. Franklin Hills is in District E which has a much higher crime rate (see map below). No property owner would want their property reassessed into a higher crime rate area....would you?

I truly come home with a smile on my face everyday. I am grateful to be here and to have Franklin Hills as part of my neighborhood as I am all of Los Feliz and Silverlake. My home is in Los Feliz and I am asking my boundary of my neighborhood be left untouched.

Thank you for any consideration you give this matter.

(crime map attached - <http://www.crimemapping.com/map.aspx?aid=3db8cf99-a73b-46d2-b218-bd24cf491577>)

With respect,

Wendy Weitz

4136 Holly Knoll Dr.

90027

+++++

To whom it may concern:

I write to voice my opposition to the proposal to expand the boundary of Franklin Hills to include my neighborhood.

My wife and I have owned a house on Holly Knoll Drive for 18 years, and we are aware of the good intentions of our friends in Franklin Hills over the years. Being helpful to one another is what neighbors do -- they enact neighborhood watches, they clean common areas, they look out for each other's common welfare. The fundamental act of one neighbor helping another seems inviolable to us. That's why it seems so wrong that anyone should say, "Because I have been such a good neighbor to you, you should now call yourself what I call myself" -- thus effectively erasing the boundary that made us neighbors in the first place.

This seemingly small act, moving a sign to the corner of Tracy and Talmadge, would break our community's nearly 100 year-old bond with Los Feliz, a legacy which is the primary reason we invested in this neighborhood in the first place. And on a purely practical level, what will happen to our investment when future buyers look at our neighborhood's home values -- Will they appraise by the crime rate for District D, which is relatively very low? Or will they judge it by the much higher crime rate of District E (see map below)? If this one little sign is moved, what will be the result when my insurance provider clicks on my street, and finds that the crime rate has shot up dramatically (compare on the map below)? These are fair and honest questions.

We are grateful for our neighborhood, and our neighbors. They have proven that you do not have to be part of a group to support it. But neither does your past support of a group mean that it now has to be part of you. While I have absolutely no malice toward our neighbors in Franklin Hills, it was our dream to live in Los Feliz, and we respectfully ask that the boundary be left untouched.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carlos Brooks

P.S. The attached map shows the relative crime rates for this year (it indicates one crime in the expansion area; the rest are all District E, Franklin Hills). You can find further statistics, over different periods, at the following link:

<http://www.crimemapping.com/map.aspx?aid=3db8cf99-a73b-46d2-b218-bd24cf491577>

+++++

To whom it may concern,

I live on the border of the affected area of the Franklin Hills expansion (Tracy Street). I oppose the expansion, because I don't want people to confuse my house with Franklin Hills when I moved to Los Feliz to be in Los Feliz. I don't know if my opinion counts because I'm on the north side of Tracy, but I'm writing in anyway. Thanks for your time.

Natasha Darnall

+++++

To whom it may concern: I live in the Franklin Hills "expansion area" under consideration and would like to better understand how the proposed boundary changes will affect residents of this area. At this time, I am neither for nor against the change, but simply concerned about the proposed/imposed changes and their impact. The reasons for the change are still unclear. I hope there will be some explanation of the issues at the LFNC meeting tomorrow evening.

Thank you,

Irena Calinescu

4263 Holly Knoll Dr.

LA, CA 90027

+++++

I oppose the proposed expansion of Franklin Hills' boundaries. My family--my wife, two teenaged children, and I--live in the proposed expansion area, at 4116 Holly Knoll Drive, Los Angeles 90027. I have lived in my house for over thirty years. During those thirty years:

- I have served as a president of the Los Feliz Improvement Association.
- I helped to found the Friends of Los Feliz Library. (I spoke at the library's groundbreaking; at my request, my former law firm incorporated the Friends group and secured the Friends' 501(c)(3) designation; and I helped raise money for the library's opening ceremony.)
- I regularly make my garage available as my Los Feliz precinct's polling place.

In all of those activities, and in my family's and my day-to-day life, we have consistently referred to our house, and our little neighborhood, as a part of "Los Feliz." In sum, our little Holly Knoll area has long been identified as part of Los Feliz, and I would expect that the area would continue to be part of Los Feliz.

Also, I am unaware of any reason for the City to change the designation. My understanding is that, in our area, Franklin Avenue has long been a dividing line between Los Feliz and the Franklin Hills. For example, the 1995 Franklin Avenue median beautification, right next to the Shakespeare Bridge, was jointly supported by the Los Feliz Improvement Association (which contributed funding) and the Franklin Hills Residents Association, because the location is a gateway to both neighborhoods and because the beautification would benefit both neighborhoods. (I was part of the planting

crew for the beautification and have continued to help with weeding, litter pick-up, and other maintenance for over twenty years.) Indeed, even areas south of Franklin Avenue have long been identified as part of Los Feliz, ranging from the "Los Feliz Branch" of the public library (on the south side of Franklin Avenue) to the officially designated "Los Feliz Village" (which extends on Vermont Avenue, south of Franklin Avenue). Finally, in talking with neighbors on Holly Knoll Drive, I have yet to find a single one who favors changing our neighborhood designation from Los Feliz to Franklin Hills; instead, neighbors have been unanimously opposed to the proposed change.

Bottom line: whether via signage or otherwise, the City should not expand the Franklin Hills boundaries to include what has long been considered by residents and non-residents as Los Feliz.

Thank you.

John Caragozian

4116 Holly Knoll Drive

Los Angeles, California 90027

+++++

I oppose the attempt of Franklin Hills expanding their boundaries. Thank You.
Livinio Stuyck

4309 Price Street

Los Angeles CA 90027

(310) 497-9108

+++++

Regarding the expansion of Franklin Hills:

We live in the affected area (4226 Holly Knoll Drive).

We are happy to pay homeowner dues to both organizations and for them to overlap in our area. However, if we can only be in one district in the eyes of the city, I'd have to pick Los Feliz.

I always thought that Franklin Hills was a subset of Los Feliz and within the historic boundaries of the Los Feliz area. But nowadays, that doesn't seem to matter. Neighborhoods are "breaking away" from their historic denominations.

In this case, I would prefer to stay a part of Los Feliz for official mapping purposes.

Aaron Paley

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I live in the affected "expansion area" at 4215 Franklin Ave. and I oppose this motion.

Alexandra Weiss

+++++

I am sending this as a resident and not in my position working with the City of LA.

I oppose the expansion of Franklin Hills from Franklin Ave. to Tracy St. I feel a sign on the corner of Talmadge St. and Tracy St. is unnecessary for inclusion to participate in the Franklin Hills Residents Association. Since moving to the

neighborhood in 1980 I have accepted my home, at the corner of Tracy St. and Myra Ave., to be within Los Feliz. I am a member of both the Los Feliz Improvement Association and the Franklin Hills Residents Association. I think that Franklin Ave. is a good boundary of the FHRA and I see no reason to change it. Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Rodriguez
4102 Tracy St.
LA, CA 90027

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PUBLIC COMMENT sent from Windows Mail

MY WIFE AND FAMILY DO NOT SUPPORT THE MOTION TO ADD THE EXPANSION AREA TO LFNC. I LIVE IN THE EXPANSION AREA ON HOLLY KNOLL AND DO NOT WANT THE CHANGE

Harley HAAS

+++++

OPPOSED FRANKLIN HILLS EXPANSION

I AM WITHIN THE AFFECTED AREA. WE HAVE LIVED HERE SINCE 4/7/1987!! Our address is 4196 Holly Knoll Drive Los Angeles, Calif. 90027 My name is Kenneth P. Erlich

+++++

To whom it may concern,

I, Gary Silk, and my wife, Sandra Macarelli-Silk, live at 4164 Wanda Drive. We are within the area being considered to be designated as Franklin Hills. We do NOT want to be part of Franklin Hills. We bought our home in Los Feliz in 1979. We did not buy a house in Franklin Hills. We prefer the designation "Los Feliz".

Sincerely,

Gary and Sandy Silk

+++++

RECEIVED AFTER MARCH 17 HEARING

My family and I own a home in Los Feliz, the neighborhood which is the proposed expansion area of Franklin Hills. We OPPOSE being folded into and designated as Franklin Hills.

Carmen Wolf
1936 Myra Ave
Los Feliz, CA 90027

+++++

March 17.2015

My name is Chris Runge and I live on Holly Knoll Drive. Last year I signed a petition for the expansion of Franklin Hills to include my area. I wish to rescind that signature until such time as I am able to learn more of the reasons and issues for this change. I never received any communications either by telephone, emails, pamphlets, or flyers. I feel that it would be in the best interest of the community to be more transparent so that we can then make an informed decision.

Thank you,

Chris Runge

+++++

Irena Calinescu

After attending the LFNC hearing, going in undecided about this matter, I have a better understanding of the issues surrounding the FHRA's proposed expansion. We should all be grateful for the dedication and great work FHRA has done in our neighborhood, including the expansion area. Undoubtedly they have only good intentions. However, residents of the affected area should have a say in this decision, just like membership in FHRA should be (and is) voluntary. To impose this change on folks that see no need for it, nor anything to be gained from it, is a mistake as there will always be opposition and misgivings. Instead, why doesn't the FHRA go around and ask all these neighbors if it's really something they would want. And if the majority are on board (not just 20% who signed a petition without understanding the full implications) then by all means, proceed with the plans. At least the process will have been fair and transparent, and people won't feel so much like the change is being forced upon them against their wills. I personally do not want to be "moved" into Franklin Hills, even though I do want to support the FHRA and their other efforts in any way I can.

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I presume that you have already seen the LFIA's letter dated today with regard to the Franklin Hills. If, for some reason, you have not, I attach a copy.

I wish to reiterate my own opposition to the proposed Franklin Hills expansion (for reasons set forth in my March 16, 2015 public comment). Based on what my neighbors have told me, many of us on Holly Knoll Drive were never informed of the proposed expansion, learned of it only at the last minute, and oppose it. With substantial neighborhood opposition and with the LFIA making its position clear, I hope that the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council will not now recommend the proposed expansion. Please contact me if you wish further information.

Thank you.

John Caragozian

4116 Holly Knoll Drive

Los Angeles, California 90027

Los Feliz improvement association

2014-2015

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Valerie Vanaman

Denise Weintraub

Gail Zaritsky

*Past President

March 25, 2015

Councilman Tom La Bonge
200 N. Spring Street, Room 480
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilman La Bonge:

In a previous letter, we approved your request that a new 'Franklin Hills' sign be installed at the corner of Talmadge and Tracy Streets.

Upon further information, the Los Feliz Improvement Association Board of Directors hereby withdraws its approval of this sign.

Numerous of our members have expressed their opposition, have stated that they haven't been consulted, and we think this matter should be decided exclusively by the neighbors within the boundaries impacted.

Sincerely,



Los Feliz Improvement Association
Chris Laib, President

100 years of service to our community
post office box 23375, los angeles, california 90023
323-660-1714 www.lfia.org