

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@losfeliznc.org

Date of NC Board Action: 04/21/2015

Type of NC Board Action:

Impact Information

Date: 06/08/2015

Update to a Previous Input: Yes

Directed To: **City Council and Committees**

Council File Number: 14-0881

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Brief Summary: The Los Feliz Neighborhood Council held a public hearing regarding expansion of the Franklin Hills Boundaries on March 17, 2015. There were 8 Public Comments for, 17 Public Comments against, and 3 Neutral. As new information has become available and given the balance of community opposition to the proposal, we recommend that the Committee not approve this expansion at this time.

Additional Information: The Council continued to receive written public comment on this topic and formally rescinded its March motion requesting the Franklin Hills Resident Association conduct more outreach. The Los Feliz Improvement Association has withdrawn their support of the boundary sign at the request of their board. The full text of public comments is included in the attachment. At this time the Neighborhood Council cannot support the boundary sign.

**Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
Funding Request Form**



NC NAME: Los Feliz
 Budget Fiscal Year: 2014-2015
 Request Date: _____
 Meeting Date: _____
 Agenda Item: 6A

Requestor: _____
 Vendor: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____
 Amount: \$ _____
 # of payments: _____

- Operations Outreach NC Sponsored Event Neighborhood Purpose Grant
 Contract / Lease Board Member Reimbursement Community Improvement Project
 Out of State 1099 Expense One Time Expense Monthly ? , Multiple

If a bank card exemption of the daily \$1,000 limit is required for this request, please provide the date(s) and amount needed for the daily limit to be lifted:

Public Benefit
Description

Community Impact Statement regarding CF 14-0881: Expansion of Franklin Hills Boundary. Moved by Rossman. Seconded by Cassadore.

Vote Count (Continued on page 2 if more than 20 Board Members)

*Recused-Boardmember must leave the room prior to any discussion and may not return to the room until after the vote is completed.

Board Member Name	Board Position	Yes	No	Abstain	*Recused	Absent	Ineligible
Bellamy, Robbie	Education		✓				
Brandt, Kate	Outreach	✓					
Carlson, Shannon	Business	✓					
Carter-Gargani, Nicola	VP Communications					✓	✓
Cassadore, Brian (2)	District C	✓					
Dammann, Reid	District A	✓					
Demmers, Linda	President	✓					
Jamison, Julie	District E	✓					
Khanjian, Christina	District B	✓					
Klipp, Luke	Treasurer	✓					
Lao, Jennifer	Secretary		✓				
Lim, Chris	District D	✓					
Longfellow, Juan	District D	✓					
Mauceri, Mark	Sports & Recreation	✓					
Maloney, Michael	Public Safety	✓					
Rodriquez, Marcus	District C	✓					
Rossman, Scott (1)	District D	✓					
Vacant	District A						
Vacant	District C						
NC Quorum:	Grand Total (including page 2):	14	2	0	0	1	1

We, the Treasurer and Signer of the above indicated Council, declare that the information presented on this form is accurate and complete, and that a public meeting was held in accordance with the Brown Act, where with a quorum of Board Members present, the Council approved the above action.

Once the Department approves a Funding Request submitted, the Department will transfer the requested amount into the Neighborhood Council's checking account automatically, i.e. no additional Cash Request Form is required.

Treasurer's Signature:	_____	Signer's Signature:	_____
Print/Type name:	_____	Print/Type name:	_____
Date (mm/dd/yy):	_____	Date (mm/dd/yy):	_____
Department Use Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Contract <input type="checkbox"/> CIP <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Payment <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> >\$2,500 <input type="checkbox"/> NPG <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsored Event <input type="checkbox"/> Denied	Staff Initials: _____ 1st Level: _____ 2nd Level: _____	Authorization Code: _____

	Favor	Opposed	General
Kathleen Salvaty			X
Josh Margolies			X
Wendy Weitz		x	
Carols Brooks		X	
Natasha Darnall		X	
Irena Calinescu			X
John Caragozian		X	
Livinio Stuyck		X	
Aaron Paley		X	
Alexandra Weiss		X	
Mary Rodriguez		X	
Harley Haas		X	
Kenneth P. Erlich		X	
Gary and Sandy Silk		X	
Carmen Wolf		x	
Chris Runge		X	
Irena Calinescu (2)		X	
John Caragozian		X	
LFIA		X	
Laura Kalman		X	
Tal O Vigderson		X	
Bryan Blumberg		X	
Richard Onofrio		X	
Carole Nese	X		
Claudia Larson	X		
Sandra Macarelli-Silk		X	
Andrew Farrington			X
Bryan Blumberg		X	
DeeAnn Bowater	X		
Cindy Villarreal		X	
Rick LaRocca	X		
Tom Henneberry		X	
Maria Mastroiannis/ David Zaft	X		
Heather Moro	X		
Arun Baheto		X	
Michelle Finocchi		X	
Josh Margolies		X	
Colleen Henneberry		X	
Ric Villarreal		X	

The above list catalogs written comments submitted to the Neighborhood Council. It does not include the public comments made in favor or against the project at the March Public Hearing at the Neighborhood Council meeting.

Public Comment offered at the March Los Feliz Neighborhood Council Meeting:

7:54 PM –

Neighborhood Council opened the public hearing on the additional sign and community boundary file submitted by the Franklin Hills Residents Association.

- Chris Boutelle, President of the Franklin Hills Residents Association spoke in support of the proposed expanded FH boundary
- Carole Nese, resident of affected area - in support of the proposed expanded FH boundary
- Elizabeth Richardson, resident - in support of the proposed expanded FH boundary
- David Brooks, resident in affected area - in support of the proposed expanded FH boundary
- Richard Spicer, resident in affected area - in support of the proposed expanded FH boundary
- Andrew Farrington, resident in the affected area - in support of the proposed expanded FH boundary
- Pat Smith, resident in the affected area - in support of the proposed expanded FH boundary
- Shirley Mims, resident - in support of the proposed expanded FH boundary
- Irena Calinescu, resident in the affected area – neutral stance on the proposed expanded FH boundary
- Colleen Henneberry, resident – in opposition of the proposed expanded FH boundary noting that residents weren't consulted and that 20% did not seem to be sufficient outreach
- Tom Henneberry, resident - in opposition of the proposed expanded FH boundary
- Cindy Villarreal, resident in the affected area – in opposition of the proposed expanded FH boundary
- 17 emails were received by the NC Of these 14 were opposed to the boundary sign and neighborhood designation change and 3 noted that they had not received significant information to be able to make a decision.

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

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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

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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

President

Chris Laib

First Vice-President

Demian Wyma

Second Vice-President

Marta Alcumbrac

Coordinating Secretary

Donna Kolb

Recording Secretary

Debbie Simons

Treasurer

Donald Seligman*

Directors

Nyla Arslanian

Laura Balverde Sanchez

Marilyn Bush*

Mica Campbell

Dennis Chew

Jean Daley

Marian Dodge*

Barbara Ferris

Monique Frese

Faith Ford

Philip Gasteier

Rafik Ghazarian

Lynne T. Jewell

Michael Locke

Robb Menz

Randy Myer

Deanne Paul

David Roberti

Joel Rochlin

Patricia Ruben

Paul Schiada

Mary Beth Sorensen

Angela Stewart

Mark Stong

June Teal

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

My name is Laura Kalman, and with my husband, I own 4230 Holly Knoll Dr. I have lived on Holly Knoll on and off since my parents, from whom we inherited the house, moved there 60 years ago when I was six weeks old. Holly Knoll has always been part of Los Feliz, and I object strongly to its possible re designation. Thank you.

Laura Kalman

Sent from my iPhone

+++++

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed expansion of the Franklin Hills borders. I live in the effected area on Myra Avenue, north of Franklin.

I have been a Los Feliz resident since 1987 and homeowner at my present address since 1997. I consider Los Feliz to be not only my place of residence but my community and the place I call home. I don't see any need or benefit in changing the identity of this section of the community.

I have heard the arguments on both sides of the issue and have come to the conclusion that a revision in the boundaries of Franklin Hills is neither warranted nor desirous.

Please include my comments in the discussion.

thanks in advance for your kind consideration

Tal

Tal O. Vigderson
Attorney at Law
ph: (323) 668-2677
fax: (323) 668-2399

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Dear Los Feliz Neighborhood Council,

I was born in 1958 and grew up in Los Feliz. I attended Los Feliz Elementary School from 1963 to 1969.

I purchased a home on Holly Knoll Drive in 1988 and have lived in this home for the past 27 years.

I am opposed to the "Franklin Hills Expansion". I would like to remain in Los Feliz.

I do not believe that this entire matter only pertains to the addition of a single sign. Please do not change the identity of the neighborhood where I live.

Sincerely,

Bryan J Blumberg

=====

BRYAN J. BLUMBERG
4246 Holly Knoll Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027-3243 USA
phone: 323-660-1888
email: bjtwuk@yahoo.com

To: LOS FELIZ N @

RE: FRANKLIN HILLS EXPANSION

WE ARE LONG TIME RESIDENTS
AND WE ARE OPPOSED TO
THIS EXPANSION OF FRANKLIN HILLS
INTO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Richard D'Onofrio
RICHARD D'ONOFRIO
4185 HOLY ANNE DR

I fully support the placement of a Franklin Hills Community sign to be placed on the corner of Tracy and Talmadge. Thank you for your attention and acknowledgement to the positive requests of residents who live in the proposed expansion area.- Carole Nese

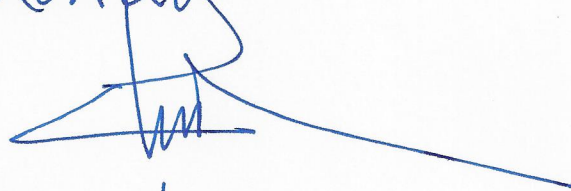
2517 Lyric Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 9027

April 17, 2015

TO: LOS FELIZ Neighborhood Council

I AM in Support of the FRANKLIN Hills
SIGN @ Tracy and Talmadge.

Sincerely


Claudia Larson
2512 Lyric Ave.
LACA. 90027

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Sandra Macarelli-Silk. I live at 4164 Wanda Drive in the area being considered for a name change to the Franklin Hills. After more than 35 years of living in Los Feliz, I am opposed to the name change because I see no benefit in it. Los Feliz is an established recognized designation in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,
Sandra Macarelli-Silk
4/21/15

+++++

To whom it may concern,

I am not one of the people who signed the petition to have the FHRA sign put up but then again I'm not scared by it either. I will still be part of Los Feliz and my property values are not going anywhere. The FHRA has done nothing but help and protect this community. I have enclosed some of the final communication with them in regards to 1915 Myra. Those of us involved in our area and community, as well as the LAPD and several other city agencies have put in a lot of time trying to clean up and protect our neighborhood by getting this abandoned property sold.

I'm happy to say we finally got 1915 Myra foreclosed a few weeks ago after nearly two years of fighting squatters and countless others doing harm in our community. This is one of the last steps taken by the FHRA, which I believe finally got the bank to move on this.

My understanding is that they followed all the procedures and paperwork necessary so I'm not sure why this is even up for debate.

Andrew Farrington
4159 Franklin Ave
Holly Knoll, Franklin Hills and Los Feliz resident
4/20

+++++

Dear Mr. Villanueva, FHRA & LFNC,

I do not support the Franklin Hills Sign on the corner of Talmadge and Tracy Street.

I think that the Franklin Hills Residents Association is being underhanded and sneaky. They are asking residents like me to send you emails in support of the sign. However, they are basically lying about what their end game is all about. It's not merely a sign that they want. They want to move the border of Franklin Hills and annex my home into the Franklin Hills and thereby remove it from Los Feliz.

I have lived in Los Feliz my entire life since I was born in 1958. I went to Los Feliz Elementary school in the 1960's and in 1988 I purchased my own home in Los Feliz.

I am not interested having my home transferred to the Franklin Hills. I am concerned about unknown side effects of this change such as crime statistics and its possible effects on my

homeowner's insurance rates. I am concerned that the perception that my home is no longer in Los Feliz will affect my property value. Of course, all of these concerns are nothing more than hypotheticals, but I also realize that if my home remains in Los Feliz, then nothing will change.

I request that you leave my home in Los Feliz.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bryan J Blumberg

=====
BRYAN J. BLUMBERG
4246 Holly Knoll Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027-3243 USA
phone: 323-660-1888
email: bjtwuk@sbcglobal.net

4/20

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I support the Franklin Hills sign at the corner of Tracy and Talmadge. i reside in the expansion area.

DeeAnn Bowater, homeowner of 4243 Holly Knoll Dr. , since 1975.

+++++

Dear LFNC board members,

It is my understanding that the issue of the proposed FHRA boundary expansion may be discussed in the scheduled April 21st, meeting. I spoke in opposition to the expansion at your last meeting, as I had only become aware of the issue via a concerned neighbor two days earlier.

My first concern is property value and possible insurance increases, and I think this is still a big unknown. While I appreciate the FHRA touting that there are no real differences in property values or crime in "Franklin Hills" and Los Feliz "Proper", The property sale values on the whole are lower in Franklin Hills as far as I can tell when typing "Franklin Hills, Los Angeles, CA" into realtor.com and clicking on the map view, vs. doing the same for "Los Feliz, Los Angeles CA". As most realtors do not want to go on record to alienate any neighborhood, and understandably so, I think that their anecdotal opinion on this may not be 100% relied upon. Also the recent Los Feliz Ledger article had more official complete information regarding crime, which states that Franklin Hills crime rate is four times higher, and we do not know how that could effect our insurance rates. I doubt that the FHRA

would offer us more than a "Sorry, we didn't know" if our rates ended up increasing.

Secondly, after receiving the flyer late last week that the FHRA recently passed out to reach out to the community, I was disappointed to see that their explanation of the issue still put emphasis on the addition of yet another sign, and did not mention the motion would actually officially change boundaries with the city. They made it seem as though this was just a formality, that the area had been already part of their territory since 2012, and the sign was in recognition of their work. I understand that they may view it as a formality, and want more recognition, but the fact is, it is a formal city neighborhood boundary change.

In conclusion there really is no way of assuring the neighborhood in the proposed area expansion that we would not be negatively impacted with this new Boundary designation. Therefore while I respect the FHRA, and hope they continue to do good, **I am still opposed to the boundary expansion.**

Best,
Cindy Villarreal
4/20

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To whom it may concern,

We support inclusion in the Franklin Hills expanded area. The FHRA has been active on our street (Monon St.) through their maintenance and cleanup efforts of the public garden below the Shakespeare Bridge. They have also led the effort to update the garden with a new retaining wall, drought tolerant plants and an updated more efficient irrigation system.

They also helped stage a celebration of the Shakespeare Bridge renovation anniversary with talks by a city historian and a visit from Councilperson LaBonge. Their email updates help keep our neighbors informed about recent crime in the area as well as events near by.

Sincerely,

Rick LaRocca
1908 Monon St.
LA, CA 90027

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My name is Tom Henneberry, I am a 55 year resident of 4214 Holly Knoll Drive, within the Franklin Hills proposed expansion area. I oppose the plan of FHRA to have the city change the boundaries and rename our neighborhood.

The FHRA has yet to give a valid reason for this, except for recognition for what they claim to have done in our neighborhood, actually what they have done is mainly within their own boundaries. Changing of a neighborhood should benefit those affected and FHRA has not demonstrated a benefit to us in the affected area, this change will only be self serving and benefit the FHRA.

I ask that you say no to FHRA request, and stop the motion to change our neighborhood boundaries and name.

Tom Henneberry
4214 Holly Knoll Drive
Los Angeles 90027

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Hello,

This is a message to say that we support the Franklin Hills sign at the corner of Tracy and Talmadge.

Thank you!

Best,

Maria Mastroyannis
David Zaft
2516 Lyric Ave
LA, CA 90027
4/20

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I am very much in favor of the Franklin Hills sign. I live in the proposed expansion area. I am delighted to be part of FHRA.

Heather Moro-Homeowner
4221 Hazel Kirk Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90027

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From: Shirley Mims [mailto:shirleymims@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2015 5:23 PM
To: info@losheliznc.org
Cc: Chris Boutelle
Subject: New Motion for Franklin Hills Sign

Dear LFNC Governing Board,

We learned yesterday of your agenda item for the April 21st governing board meeting to reconsider your position on the Franklin Hills sign. We understand that the new motion is to take a position that opposes the sign.

Please know that the FHRA went forward with your recommendation from the March 17th hearing to do more outreach and sent a letter to every home in the extended area as well as to every property owner in the area. That letter was mailed Monday April 13th and is attached for your reference.

Also attached is a letter we sent to the Los Feliz Ledger to correct several errors, misquotes and omissions in their article on the sign in their April 2015 issue.

Lastly, following your request in the community impact statement to the City Clerk that the Department of Educations and Neighborhoods postpone hearing the matter until further outreach is completed, we asked Councilmember Tom LaBonge who recently decided to push this matter off to his successor, to make sure that the matter is indeed postponed until such time that more outreach is completed.

We believed this to be our correct course of action based on LFNC's request to gather more community input on the matter. We expressed to Linda Demmers that we are in fact cooperating with your recommendation. We ask that you withdraw this motion and give more time for outreach.

Sincerely,

Shirley Mims

Vice President

Franklin Hills Residents Association

email: shirleymims@gmail.com

home: 323-666-2520



FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

April 10, 2015

Dear Franklin Hills Neighbor,

We are sending this letter as the result of suggestions to do more outreach concerning the placement of a community identity sign at the corner of Talmadge and Tracy (similar to ones at Tracy and St. George and at Franklin and Talmadge.) **It is our hope to maintain a cohesive community that continues to work together.**

In 2012 at the request of the Marshall Area Neighborhood Watch (MANW), which had disbanded, the Franklin Hills Residents Association members voted to include the area from north of Franklin and St. George to the corner of Tracy and Talmadge into the Franklin Hills Residents Association (FHRA). While we had provided many services to this area over the last twenty years (see other side), we did not act to formally include the area within our residents association until requested to do so by your neighbors in MANW.

The sign request will next be heard by the City Council's Education and Neighborhoods Committee. The City process for getting approval of a neighborhood identity sign is detailed and extensive. The City required that residents of 20% of the affected households sign a petition to request the sign, making the required number 71. Area resident volunteers greatly exceeded that by collecting 96 signatures from the following streets: Holly Knoll, Tracy, Myra, Franklin, Hazel Kirk, Lyric, Monon, Newdale, St. George, Talmadge and Wanda.

FHRA worked with the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council (LFNC) to get the word out about a public hearing that LFNC held on March 17th. Emails were sent from both FHRA and LFNC, posted on Facebook and our websites, Councilmember Tom LaBonge put the hearing notice in his weekly newsletter, and articles about the sign and hearing were published in the March 2014 and March 2015 issues of the Los Feliz Ledger. LFNC then heard the matter and voted 10-2 to send it on to the City Council, suggesting that we do some extra outreach to further inform the community.

In addition to strong support from residents of the area, the neighborhood council also heard from those worried that the sign might impact crime and property values. Statistics, provided by the Los Angeles Police Department, do not show that the Franklin Hills area has, percentage-wise, any more or any less crime than in the area to be identified by the placement of the sign. **FHRA is pro-active about reducing criminal activity.** We have over 600 individuals on our FHRAalert email system which alerts neighbors to crimes, suspicious activity and community events. The extended area has been part of the FHRAalert system for several years. We have also provided graffiti removal kits to many sign area residents.

Another concern mentioned by sign opponents was fear of confusion over whether their homes were in Franklin Hills or Los Feliz. **The answer is both.** Franklin Hills has long been considered part of Los Feliz. Since the Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA) extended their boundaries a few years ago, all of FHRA is within the LFIA boundaries. The leaders of both associations cooperate and support each other on many issues that affect our neighborhoods. Realtors decide to list houses for sale as within the Franklin Hills area or as located in Los Feliz or often as both. The FHRA has collected notices of listings that show no discernable difference in property values. Several mailers showcase houses in the extended area as being in "prime Franklin Hills", or "highly desirable Franklin Hills", or "in the Franklin Hills area of Los Feliz".

Because of the concerns expressed about the sign, Councilmember Tom LaBonge has decided to let his successor, the winner of the May 19, 2015 election (either Carolyn Ramsay or David Ryu) have the chance to handle the matter. This effectively puts any further city action on hold until after the new councilmember takes office on July 1, 2015. Please check the FHRA website at **www.FranklinHills.org** for further updates.

Consider signing up for FHRAlerts by contacting us at FHRA@FranklinHills.org. Your contact information is never shared and is used only for the purpose of sending you information about crime and community activities in the neighborhood. We will also send an FHRAlert e-mail when we know more, such as a City Council hearing date. You may also contact us at the mailing, phone and email addresses below.

The FHRA welcomes your comments and is happy to discuss this issue or other concerns that you might have. We have a longstanding record of solving problems in our neighborhood and strive to bring neighbors together to work cooperatively to make Franklin Hills one of the best places to live in Los Angeles.

Sample Franklin Hills community identity sign:



Some FHRA projects within the extended area over the last two decades:

Shakespeare Bridge Garden under the bridge at the end of Monon (2003 to present) – creation, maintenance, restoration; regular work parties are scheduled throughout the year.

Neighborhood watch and police relations to deal with crime (ongoing) - FHRA involved LAPD, Building & Safety, City Council and Neighborhood Prosecutor offices to evict squatters, secure, and maintain the abandoned property at 1915 Myra Ave.; addressed late night partying and loitering on Tracy Street in front of Marshall High; FHRA encourages residents to report even the smallest of crimes so that any hotspots can be noticed and dealt with, and routinely sends out FHRAlerts to keep residents informed of crime activity and local events.

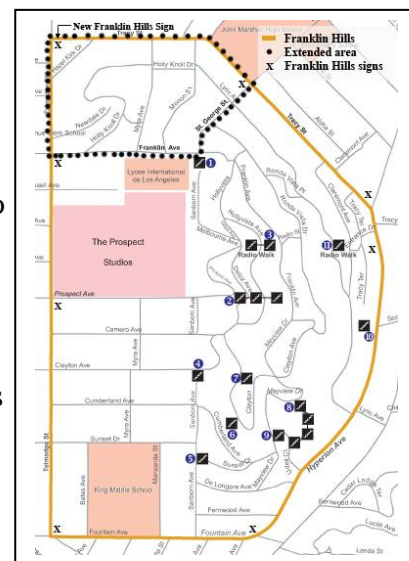
Traffic calming (ongoing) – FHRA worked with City council to downgrade Franklin Avenue from a secondary highway to a local collector street which preserves the Shakespeare Bridge; working with LADOT to do a traffic study, lines were painted to help direct traffic over the hilly areas, largest impact benefits the north side of Franklin; FHRA continues to work with LAPD to ticket speeders and Stop sign runners.

Franklin Avenue Median (1992 to present) – Drought tolerant greening of what was once paved in graffiti splattered asphalt. FHRA provided the idea, funding, design, coordination with various City agencies, and construction of the irrigation system and planting. Plus ongoing maintenance (gardener, irrigation); regular volunteer community work parties.

Franklin Hills Overview, www.FranklinHills.org website and FHRAlerts (ongoing) provided free of charge to all Franklin Hills residents; keep the community informed of neighborhood activities, helping people to work together to solve neighborhood problems.

Shakespeare Bridge earthquake retrofitting construction (1996-8) – traffic mitigation and minimizing community impacts during construction; sharing information with residents; and the **Reopening Bridge Party** with more than 3,000 people who came to celebrate!

Annual summer picnic – FHRA continues to host and support this fun event that started with the Marshall Area Neighborhood Watch and brings neighbors together for an afternoon of music, games and delicious food from residents and local businesses.



Subject: Corrections to April Article, "LFNC 'Punts' on Possible Franklin Hills Annexation"

To: Allison Cohen, Editor, Los Feliz Ledger

Dear Ms. Cohen,

The Los Feliz Ledger published an article in your April 2015 issue about an application for a Franklin Hills community identity sign to be placed at the corner of Tracy and Talmadge. There were several misquotes, errors and omissions that we feel are important to address. Much of the correct information was provided in an email at the request of your Editorial Assistant Bridgette Webb, and for some reason was not used.

1) **Boundaries:** The article does not report a key fact: how the sign and extension came about. In 2012 at the request of the Marshall Area Neighborhood Watch (MANW), which had disbanded, the Franklin Hills Residents Association members voted to include the area from north of Franklin and St. George to the corner of Tracy and Talmadge into the Franklin Hills Residents Association (FHRA). While we had provided many services to this area over the last twenty years, we did not act to formally include the area within our residents association until requested to do so by our neighbors in MANW.

The reason you reported for the sign request is inaccurate and you misquoted me: "FHRA only wants to expand its boundaries...because one homeowner...did not receive help...regarding an abandoned house on Myra..." I said that several homeowners had sought our help and we helped them get in touch with the Senior Lead Officer, Building and Safety and eventually, the Neighborhood Prosecutor. This is only one of many projects we support in the extended area.

2) **Opposition:** You are not correct in reporting that the LFNC received "18 letters against the possible annexation..." At the LFNC hearing on March 17th which you attended, 8 people spoke in favor of the sign and 3 spoke against it. The LFNC also received 14 emails and one hand written note. Three of the emails requested more information before taking a position. Two were from outside the affected area. That leaves nine emails and one note that expressed opposition to the sign from people who live in the area and did not appear at the hearing. According to LFNC president Linda Demmers, two more emails were received after the hearing, one in opposition and one requesting more information. This brings the total emails plus one note received by LFNC to 17, from folks who did not attend the hearing. In contrast, the sign request had 96 petition signatures in support of the sign from every street within the area.

3) **Outreach:** It is not true that "no other outreach on the issue was done by the FHRA and no information has been included in any of its email blasts or posted on its website". FHRA worked with the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council (LFNC) to get the word out about a public hearing that LFNC was holding on March 17th. FHRA sent two email blasts and posted information about the hearing on the "Upcoming Community Events" page of the FHRA website. Email blasts were sent from both FHRA and LFNC, posted on Facebook and our websites, Tom LaBonge put the hearing notice in his weekly newsletter, and articles about the sign and hearing were published in the March 2014 and March 2015 issues of the Los Feliz Ledger itself!! You misquoted me when I said that I was not sure what outreach had been done besides this.

It is important to recognize that we did all we were required to do by the City and a whole lot more. We also wish to cooperate with suggestions to do even more outreach. FHRA has since sent a letter to affected residents providing information about the sign and inviting them to provide more feedback. FHRA is also reaching out to individuals who expressed concern over the sign.

Please also know that due to concerns about the sign, Councilmember Tom LaBonge decided to push this issue off to the next councilmember to handle. Accordingly, we asked Mr. LaBonge to ask the Education and Neighborhoods committee to hold off on hearing the matter until such time as FHRA has completed additional neighborhood outreach. It is important to us to maintain a cohesive community that continues to work together. We continue to work toward this end.

4) **Involvement:** The FHRA has done a lot of work in the impacted area, like clean ups of the Shakespeare Bridge Garden. You wrote “Shakespeare Bridge.” We maintain the Shakespeare Bridge, too, and enjoy the holiday lights we put up each year. What I was referring to is the garden beneath the bridge at the end of Monon Street which is another project that we created 11 years ago, continually maintain and are currently in process of working with the City and neighbors to have restored. The FHRA also not only maintains the Franklin Avenue median, we designed it, fought for city approval, and continue to irrigate it and pay for a gardener to keep it in good repair.

We provided your assistant with a long list of these and other projects that FHRA has done and continues to maintain in the extended area over the last 20 years (Shakespeare Bridge Garden, neighborhood watch and police relations to deal with crime, FHRA Alerts, traffic calming, summer picnic, Franklin Avenue median, Shakespeare Bridge earthquake retrofit project, Franklin Hills Overview.)

5) **Concerns:** Your article uses an *apples-to-grapes* comparison by comparing crime rates and property values for all of Los Feliz with Franklin Hills, instead of the small neighborhood in question. The Franklin Hills has long been considered part of Los Feliz. Crime statistics provided by the Los Angeles Police Department show that the Franklin Hills area has, percentage-wise, no more or less crime than in the area to be included or in other adjacent areas below Los Feliz Blvd. and east of Commonwealth. The FHRA has collected notices of real estate listings that show no discernable difference in property values. Several mailers showcase houses in the extended area as being in “prime Franklin Hills”, or “highly desirable Franklin Hills”, or “in the Franklin Hills area of Los Feliz”.

6) **Secession???:** The FHRA has never considered seceding from the neighborhood council to create its own! You asked about this two years ago when the neighborhood council wanted to change its name. We told you at the time that a **neighborhood council (NC) representative wrote the following** to an FHRA board member about the then proposed NC name change.

“...I understand, however, that this leaves certain neighborhoods, especially Franklin Hills feeling left out. I was wondering if you had considered creating your own Neighborhood Council which covered Franklin Hills and, (crucially for size purposes) the area the GGPNC is currently ceding to Silverlake NC.”

(emphasis added)

Perhaps this is the genesis of the rumor “hinted” at in your Ledger article.

7) **One more correction:** It is true that I am not the one who does the FHRA website. Our communications chair takes care of that along with all our FHRA alerts. Quoting me as one who doesn't "control what goes on our website," however, was used out of context.

In the future, we would be happy to help with more vigorous fact checking, perhaps we could see a review copy of the article before it goes to press? The Franklin Hills Residents Association has a longstanding record of solving problems in our neighborhood and strives to bring neighbors together to work cooperatively to make Franklin Hills one of the best places to live in Los Angeles.

We appreciate your care and consideration.

Chris Boutelle, President
Franklin Hills Residents Association

April 22, 2015

I recently heard about the annexation of my area by Franklin Hills.

I also looked and apparently the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council has (in your words) "punted" this issue to the new councilperson and city council committee.

As someone who purposefully purchased a home in Los Feliz, I want to register my opposition to the change. I did not buy in Franklin Hills, do not identify with Franklin Hills, and, frankly, think that lesser known designation is a detriment to my property value.

I also remain perplexed by the issue existing at all. Who benefits from this? Why is this such a pressing public policy issue given all the other things going on in our area?

As representatives of the neighborhood I moved to and bought in, I hope you, as my neighborhood council, will weigh in to protect the interests of our neighborhood's residents. Punting is less than I expect from people so actively engaged and so prominent in our neighborhood; you should care that a portion of the area is potentially going away.

Thank you.

Arun Baheto
4230 Hazel Kirk Drive

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To whom it may concern:

We are unable to be physically present at tonight's hearing of the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council. As such we are writing to voice our OPPOSITION to the Franklin Hills Expansion proposal.

We live within the affected expansion area.

Sincerely,

Michelle Finocchi and Gordon Kerr
4147 Holly Knoll Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027
+1 973 452 3283 cell

+++++

Hello,

I would like to comment on the issue of signage proposed by the Franklin Hills Residents Association (FHRA). I received mail from FHRA that described some background as to why they would like to post a Franklin Hills sign at Tracy and Talmadge and the letter also contained comments meant to allay

concerns about whether the affected area would still be considered part of Los Feliz. I appreciate FHRA sending me the letter and welcoming a response.

Respectfully, however, I remain opposed to the proposed signage. I feel such signs by their nature define divisions within a neighborhood and I would rather the FHRA look for ways to further improve their relationship and community outreach with the Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA) and vice-versa. Otherwise, I fear we engender a competition or schism between neighborhood groups who, ostensibly, are working toward the same goals.

The efforts of LFIA, FHRA, and others, starting within our own immediate neighborhoods, are for the betterment of our entire Los Feliz community. In my opinion, these neighborhood associations should be aligned more closely and working in concert with one another. With absolute respect for my neighbors who take the time to contribute to the community, regardless of what association they belong to, it is my hope that their sense of accomplishment would not depend on signs defining territorial boundaries but rather the effort and goals reached toward bettering the Los Feliz experience.

Thank you,
Josh Margolies
Holly Knoll Drive

+++++

Franklin Hills Expansion – Opposed

I live on Holly Knoll Drive, in the proposed “expansion” area of Franklin Hills. I am opposed to Franklin Hills expanding to include our neighborhood; I am asking for your support in helping our neighborhood retain its current identity in Los Feliz proper.

In speaking with neighbors, those that are in favor of the name change, tend to see this as an emotional issue, and want to see the leaders of Franklin Hills have the acknowledgement they are seeking. The leaders of Franklin Hills are generally mature and kind people, who deserve kindness in return. We all appreciate the efforts they have made in their neighborhood and the projects which boarder our neighborhood. To this end, we extend our sincere appreciation. However, they should not be seeking to rename our neighborhood as

acknowledgement for the work they've done on their own boarder. We should all be able to work together as neighbors, and still retain our own name.

The renaming of a neighborhood should be based only on logical reasons, not emotional. There are plenty of logical reasons for our neighborhood to retain its current identity, as the Los Feliz Ledger clearly outlined in their April, 2015 article on this topic. Please act logically to stop this proposed expansion.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Colleen Henneberry

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April 21

Dear LFNC members,

Regarding the proposed FHRA boundary expansion. The issue here is not about putting up a sign, it's about changing the designation of a neighborhood. I live on Myra, on several occasions we have been asked by visitors who drive past the Franklin Ave median sign, if we live in Franklin Hills or Los Feliz. The unintended consequence of having our neighborhood be permanently recognized with a neighborhood that has a factually different socio-economic standing is too high a risk. The facts, as stated in the Los Feliz Ledger are, property values are historically higher and crime rate is lower.

I'm not sure I really understand why the FHRA is working so hard to be "recognized" or "credited", (as stated by their representatives at the last LFNC meeting on this matter) at any potential risk to the home owners in the proposed absorption area. I say to FHRA, continue to do good. The fulfillment for doing good comes from doing the right thing, not from expected recognition or acquisition of more influence.

I would ask that LFNC not support or recommend the proposed boundary expansion.

Ric Villarreal
1956 Myra Ave