

Date: 5-17-16
Submitted in PS Committee
Council File No: 15-1465
Item No.: 6
Deputy: CD 4

PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

There have been numerous complaints from residential neighborhoods about the noise emanating from sightseeing tour buses, especially those that are open air. The rise in the noise complaints has been attributed to public announcement systems from some of the tour bus companies. This concern has been expressed by many residents in the Hollywood area, as well as other neighborhoods in Los Angeles. As a specific example, the City has received reports that tour buses using megaphones stop in front of residential homes up to 100 times a day.

To ensure that residents are not disturbed, reasonable regulations should be drafted to mitigate noise and traffic impacts caused by such bus tours in residential areas.

The City Attorney has advised that San Francisco has adopted an ordinance that is consistent with state law and requires unenclosed tour bus operators to receive certification of the sound levels for any amplification system used by an unenclosed tour bus. The San Francisco ordinance provides an exemption from the certification process for any unenclosed tour bus that uses a headset/headphone amplification system for its passengers. The City of Los Angeles may adopt an ordinance similar to the San Francisco model without running afoul of state law, whereas outright requiring headsets / headphones or banning public announcement systems would be preempted by state law. The Police Department is well positioned to be the enforcing agency for such an ordinance, and the Police Commission (Investigation Division) has indicated its suitability to serve as the permitting authority.

Under State law, no driver of a vehicle shall operate, or permit the operation of, any sound amplification system which can be heard outside the vehicle from 50 or more feet when the vehicle is being operated upon a highway. [California Vehicle Code Section 27007]. The restrictions in Section 27007 on sound are applicable to sightseeing tour buses, including unenclosed tour buses.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an ordinance, similar to the San Francisco ordinance described in the text of this Motion, which would regulate the use of amplified sound on unenclosed tour buses to require unenclosed tour bus operators to obtain a permit to operate in the City that verifies their sound systems cannot be heard more than 50 feet away, consistent with State Vehicle Code requirements, with an exemption for unenclosed tour buses using individual listening devices, such as headsets / headphones.

PRESENTED BY: [Signature]
DAVID RYU
Councilman, 4th District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

ORIGINAL

DEC - 9 2015

[Signature]



6801 Hollywood Blvd. Suite 221, Hollywood CA 90028

Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Date: April 4th 2016

Re: Support of 15-1465 (Ryu – Bonin) Tour Buses / Regulation of Amplified Sound

Committee Members:

StarLine Tours of Hollywood, has been established for over 80 years and provided great sightseeing tours throughout the City of Los Angeles for both domestic and foreign visitors to our great city. StarLine in particular provides services, to its customers, from our terminals in Hollywood, Anaheim and Santa Monica. The majority of the tours are performed in Greater Los Angeles.

In addition to providing great tours, StarLine has been a leader in following the rules and regulations of the City of Los Angeles and making above-and-beyond efforts to reduce the quality of life impacts of tours on local residents. This includes voluntarily using headphones in all of our open-air tour busses in the City.

Councilmember Ryu's motion (CF 15-1465) works to encourage tour operators to use headphones or be tested to verify they are in compliance with California Vehicle Code Section 27007, which restricts vehicle noise to be audible at no distance greater than 50 feet. StarLine Tours fully supports this effort to regulate noise on open air tour buses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vahid Sapir", is written over a horizontal line.

Vahid Sapir (President)
StarLine Tours of Hollywood,
6801 Hollywood Blvd.
Suite 207
Los Angeles,
CA 90028




Bel-Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
 City of Los Angeles Municipal Building
 1645 Corinth Avenue, Room 103-4
 Los Angeles, California 90025
 Office 310-479-6247
council@babenc.org / www.babenc.org


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BABCNC Board Resolution for Community Impact Statement Supporting CM Ryu's Motion on Tour Buses & Regulation of Amplified Sound, Council File # 15-1465

Dear Honorable Councilmembers Herb Wesson, David Ryu, Mike Bonin, Paul Koretz, and Members of City Council:

We, Travis Longcore, Ph.D., and Nickie Miner, declare that we are the President and Vice President respectively of the Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, and that on February 24, 2016, a Brown Act noticed public meeting was held by the Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, and, with a quorum of 15 board members met, the Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council unanimously approved Councilmember Ryu's motion, seconded by Mike Bonin and approved on December 9, 2015, supporting the Regulation of Amplified Sound in Tour Buses, Council File # 15-1465, which is currently pending in the Public Safety Committee.


 March 12, 2016
 Travis Longcore, Ph.D. Date
 President tlongcore@babenc.org


 March 12, 2016
 Nickie Miner, Date
 Vice President nminer@babenc.org

cc: noah.muhlstein@lacity.org

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 Travis Longcore, Ph.D.
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 Bel Air Ridge Association
 Benedict Canyon Association
 Casiano Estates Association
 Laurel Canyon Association
 Holmby Hills Homeowners Association
 Residents of Beverly Glen
 Roscomare Valley Association
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS
 Bel Air District

Bel Air Glen District
 Beverly Park Estates District
 Franklin-Coldwater District
 North of Sunset District
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HILLS WEST
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**



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7095 Hollywood Blvd.
Suite 1004
Hollywood, California 90028

April 18, 2016

Council File 15-1465

Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council requests that the following
Community Impact Statement be attached/added to Council File 15-1465
regarding regulating noise on open air tour buses.

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council supports regulating noise on open air tour buses.

As described in the motion, there has been a consistent issue in residential neighborhoods regarding the noise emanating from open air sightseeing tour buses. To ensure that residents are not disturbed, reasonable regulations should be drafted to mitigate noise and traffic impacts caused by such bus tours in residential areas. Unfortunately, most regulatory authority for tour buses resides only with the State and the California Vehicle Code.

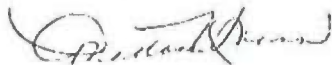
However, one way the City can improve quality of life within the confines of state law is by enforcing the California Vehicle Code Section 27007 that restricts vehicle noise to be audible at no greater than 50 feet.

Councilmember Ryu's motion would require all open bus operators to get inspected each year to verify their public announcement systems fall within this limit. It would also encourage buses to use headsets (which is the best solution), by allowing buses that use headsets to bypass the inspection as there would be no audible noise to inspect.

This Community Impact Statement is based on the action taken at the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting on March 16th, 2016, when the Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council adopted the following motion by a vote of 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining and directed that a Community Impact Statement be filed reflecting its position.

Motion: "The Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council urges the City Council to adopt the proposal and/or consider the following general comments."

Sincerely,



Anastasia Mann

President, Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council