



August 22, 2017

Public Safety Committee

8/23/17 agenda

Item 4, 17-0676

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT:

Reference: Tourism Activity- Mt Lee

While the world has been in an unprecedented state of alert regarding the elevated threat of terrorism-increasing protections around landmarks, tourist centers and large crowd targets; the Hollywood Sign, (perhaps Los Angeles' most famous landmark and tourist magnet), sits with minimal protections, open to the world. In addition to this classic symbol of western culture, next to the sign on Mt. Lee is where the emergency communication center for first responders is housed along with the communications tower, a heliport and fuel storage. The area also directly abuts the residential neighborhoods of Hollywoodland, The Knolls, Lake Hollywood Estates.

ALL of this sits in a very high fire hazard severity zone. The oldest and most impacted neighborhood, Hollywoodland, has extremely limited infrastructure, substandard winding, narrow hillside streets and is routinely overrun/gridlocked by the visiting masses making a pilgrimage thru residential streets to attain the all important selfie.

Millions of visitors enter Hollywoodland's, maze of 1920's, serpentine, narrow width roads, both on foot and in vehicles, with little to no City supervision. With few sidewalks, pedestrians are forced to compete on these inadequate streets with vehicles often putting them in harms way especially on the many blind hillside curves. Minimal parking means red zones and no stopping areas are violated daily adding to the congestion.

These conditions are extreme and dangerous on their own, but in the event of a terrorist attack, the result would be catastrophic. Casualties would be exponentially increased due to the inability of visitors and residents to evacuate and the resulting difficulty of emergency response to gain access.

What should happen next:

Evacuations plans (as requested by homeowners of LAFD, Emergency Management and CD4) need to be developed and drills performed to include residents, tourist and first responders.

Hiking to behind the Sign on Mt Lee should be shut down until there are studies, hearings and a proper process to determine if this is in the interest of public safety. At the very least, full time personnel should be put in place to screen visitors. Backpacks and other similar items should not be allowed on Mt Lee (ref. Universal Studios Security at the Harry Potter ride)

Hikers should be directed to officially developed entrances with infrastructure that does not force visitors to walk long distances in public streets.

Vehicles should be directed to collection areas with designated parking and not forced to create safety hazards within poorly infrastructured communities.

For too long, public safety has taken a back seat. The City needs to get back to basics and make protecting the public a priority.

At present, current conditions place visitors and residents under a ticking time bomb at the City's most prominent monument. Attempted Sign breaches happen daily often supervised and reported only by the vigilant residents below. Such minimal security measures and crowd flow management would be unthinkable at the Eiffel Tower or the Statue of Liberty, why is it allowed to exist here?

The Hollywoodland Homeowners Assoc.