

Communication from Public

Name: Marisa O'Neil

Date Submitted: 02/18/2020 12:16 PM

Council File No: 17-1115

Comments for Public Posting: I have been a resident of Lake Hollywood Estates since December of 1996. Until the last seven or so years it was a quiet peaceful residential neighborhood of single family homes – a paradise. The increase of visitors – cars, buses, pedestrians – now make the area dangerous to locals and to these same visitors. The congestion caused by the multitude of cars, then aggravated by tour buses, coming to view the Hollywood sign, places not only the Estates in danger, but also Griffith Park and the landmark sign that the city uses to encourage visitors. The drivers of these same buses have a disregard for the law – stopping illegally in the middle of both Canyon Lake and Montlake, motioning for cars to pass them over the double yellow lines and smoking themselves - obviously not cautioning the passengers about the no smoking in the area. As there are only two ways out of the Estates - Montlake Drive or Beachwood Canyon which is narrow, steep and crowded, the results in case of a major emergency from fire or earthquake would be catastrophic. Only a strong law and steep fines for the owners of these buses, will help. I urge you to vote on the proposed ordinance – it is in the City's best interest. Marisa O'Neil, homeowner - 3003 Arrowhead Drive, LA 90068

Communication from Public

Name: Richard Klug
Date Submitted: 02/17/2020 09:33 AM
Council File No: 17-1115
Comments for Public Posting: We homeowners desperately need this ordinance so that there can be some control over these Tour Busses. They flagrantly disobey existing laws and cause a lot of problems in our neighborhoods. We need Relief Now!! Richard Klug, President Torreyson Flynn Association

Communication from Public

Name: Michael Rominske

Date Submitted: 02/17/2020 11:41 AM

Council File No: 17-1115

Comments for Public Posting: February 17, 2020 LA City Council, We are writing in support of Tour Bus Ordinance 17-1115 which adds section 80.36.11 to the Los Angeles Municipal Code, making it unlawful to operate a tour bus or vehicle on any street / area that LADOT has determined unsafe for tour bus operation. We live at Lake Hollywood Estates below the Hollywood sign which is already inundated with tourists who clog traffic creating unsafe conditions (parking in red zones, standing in the middle of streets taking selfies, smoking to name a few). It is extremely important that the Council do everything it can to mitigate these unsafe conditions and ensure the safety of the those who live here, which this Ordinance does. Thank you for your support. Michael Rominske & Wayne Leonard 3044 Arrowhead Drive Los Angeles, CA 90068

February 17, 2020

LA City Council,

We are writing in support of Tour Bus Ordinance 17-1115 which adds section 80.36.11 to the Los Angeles Municipal Code, making it unlawful to operate a tour bus or vehicle on any street / area that LADOT has determined unsafe for tour bus operation.

We live at Lake Hollywood Estates below the Hollywood sign which is already inundated with tourists who clog traffic creating unsafe conditions (parking in red zones, standing in the middle of streets taking selfies, smoking to name a few). It is extremely important that the Council do everything it can to mitigate these unsafe conditions and ensure the safety of the those who live here, which this Ordinance does.

Thank you for your support.

Michael Rominske & Wayne Leonard
3044 Arrowhead Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90068

Communication from Public

Name: Kristina

Date Submitted: 02/18/2020 10:20 AM

Council File No: 17-1115

Comments for Public Posting: City Attorney's office Office of the City Clerk Council & Public Services Division City of Los Angeles Re: Council File Number - 17-1115 COMMENTS FOR PUBLIC POSTING I Have been a homeowner in the Hollywood Estates for over twenty-four years. I have strongly expressed, over the years, the increasingly unlawful behavior and utter disrespect the tour companies have for the communities take their patrons to. Their tours of the Los Angeles hillsides and their general disrespect to Angelino's, is not the way the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board wants to promote LA as a destination city for business and leisure travel. The drivers are non-compliant to hillside laws and regulations on smoking, as drivers themselves stop for smoke breaks. They blatantly ignore hours of operation, including early morning and nighttime tours. Additionally, ignoring hillside and neighborhood noise ordinances by using their amplified communication system without providing headsets. They speed, illegally pass other vehicles over double yellow lines, ignore traffic signs, etc. They create gridlock traffic in the hills as they stop, at will, to point out celebrity homes, where no celebrities are living just to satisfy the tour promised in their advertising. They are operating overweight vehicles on narrow streets that were not built to sustain this type of abuse, etc. Therefore, I emphatically approve the City Attorney's and Los Angeles Department of Transportation's report and ordinance adding section 80.36.11 to the Los Angeles Municipal code making it unlawful to operate a tour bus on any street LADOT has determined unsafe for tour bus operation. Stop the madness and vote in favor of this ordinance. Implement strict consequences and heavy fines on these tour companies and drivers. Thank you Kristina O'Neil VP - Lake Hollywood Homeowners Association Homeowner / Stake Holder Lake Hollywood Estates 3003 Arrowhead Drive Los Angeles, CA 90068 oneilk283@yahoo.com

Communication from Public

Name: Patricia Procetto, TOURific Escapes

Date Submitted: 02/18/2020 10:24 AM

Council File No: 17-1115

Comments for Public Posting: Comments for Ordinance 17-1115 Hello, I am a proud ambassador for the city of Los Angeles in the capacity of Tour Operator and Tour Guide. My husband and I opened our own tour company in 2010, when we both lost jobs in the economic downturn. When we looked at the statistics of just how many visitors want to see Hollywood, we knew we had to launch our business there. Now that we are in business almost 10 years, we have had the pleasure of meeting and hosting visitors from around the world. And the three main areas they want to visit, if time permits are the beaches, Disneyland and Hollywood. Hollywood is more than a neighborhood, it's a dream and an inspiration. I take great pride in sharing Hollywood's history with my guests. My vehicle, a 7-passenger Toyota Sienna, is registered with the PUC and I am legally authorized to transport passengers for a living. I do so safely and respectfully. It is distressing to know that some of the Hollywood streets might be taken from our use if Tour Bus Ordinance 17-1115 passes. The very reason people visit our city will be taken from them. With the increase in all the hotel development, more and more people will have a reason to come to Los Angeles, but won't be able to visit ALL of Hollywood. Although I don't personally offer Movie Star Homes tours, these tours have been around since the days of Lucille Ball and even before when Sid Grauman's chauffeur got the idea to start a business taking people to where the famous people live. I do take guests for a close-up view of the Hollywood Sign and you should see the stars in their eyes. It's just magic to be able to show them this historic landmark, and their photos cement a memorable visit to Hollywood. Let's work together to make this agreeable for all: the Hollywood Hills neighbors, the visitors and the tourism community. I am also a member of the Los Angeles Tour Guide Association, and we would like the opportunity to continue the conversations about the proposed ideas before the final decision is made. Thank you for your time and consideration. Patricia Procetto, TOURific Escapes

Communication from Public

Name: JM Keats

Date Submitted: 02/18/2020 10:29 AM

Council File No: 17-1115

Comments for Public Posting: We have lived on Pacific View Dr. for decades. In the past few years, and increasingly so, the tour buses are creating dangerous situations for us at the intersection of Pacific View Dr. and Mulholland Drive when they pull over to show their guests the city view totally blocking our ability to see oncoming traffic westbound or eastbound on Mulholland. Even though they are in a no stopping zone they refuse to move and often harass residents when they're asked to move along or clear the lane. There have even been times they have motioned the way is clear when it is not. These buses drive along Mulholland Dr. at a snail's pace completely disregarding those of us who use this thoroughfare in our daily lives and businesses; they will stop in the middle of Mulholland with total disregard of anyone behind them. There have been times when tour a bus driver will hold up a fist in defiance, even get out of the bus and yell at residents when their tourists have been illegally (and unknowingly) allowed to exit on the side of busy Mulholland having no idea how dangerous a situation they are in. Fire hydrants have been knocked out, buses have broken down in the middle of the road leaving tourists stranded and residents delayed. All this aside, again, our biggest threat is them pulling alongside Mulholland at Pacific View Dr. blocking our entrance onto the road.

Communication from Public

Name: Starline Tours of Hollywood, Inc.

Date Submitted: 02/18/2020 11:16 AM

Council File No: 17-1115

Comments for Public Posting: February 18, 2020 The Honorable Joe Buscaino, Chair Trade, Travel, and Tourism Committee Los Angeles City Council 200 N. Spring Street, Room 410 Los Angeles, CA 90012 RE: TOUR BUS ROUTE RESTRICTIONS (COUNCIL FILE 17-1115) & LAMC § 80.36.1 et seq. Dear Council President Pro Tempore Buscaino; Thank you for the opportunity to address the Trade, Travel, and Tourism Committee with respect to proposed amendments to Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) § 80.36.1, et seq. Please allow this letter to serve as a request: 1. to temporarily delay passage of the proposed amendments pending consideration of critical revisions requested by various parties (including the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce); 2. for an opportunity for representatives of Starline Tours of Hollywood, Inc. (Starline) to briefly meet with individual committee members to discuss the relevant amendments; 3. for Starline to voice its agreement with the points raised in the public comments made by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. Starline has provided sightseeing tours in Los Angeles for over 85 years, longer than any other tour company in California. Starline employs hundreds of Los Angeles residents and strives hard to provide excellent service to domestic and international tourists. Further, Starline is committed to obeying all federal, state and local laws / rules / ordinances and is in favor of increased tour bus industry regulation, as increased regulation will not only clarify Starline's duties under the law, but will also provide much needed restrictions on rogue, law-breaking tour bus operators who cause a myriad of problems for local residents and for many law-abiding businesses, including Starline. Starline joins the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) in supporting the proposed amendments to the LAMC. However, Starline has many of the same or similar concerns that the Chamber expressed in its correspondence with this Committee. So as to not belabor the points articulated by the Chamber, Starline's concerns that directly align with the Chamber's concerns are as follows: 1. the lack of clarity with respect to whether individual persons or business entities would be criminally liable for fourth and subsequent violations of the amended ordinance; 2. Starline opposes "priorable" violations of the statute when they are accumulated based on a cumulative number of violations from an

operator's entire fleet of vehicles and are not accumulated based on a cumulative number of violations by that operator's individual drivers. As communicated by the Chamber, this provision places companies with many vehicles and drivers in a negatively disparate position when compared to companies with one or very few vehicles and drivers; 3. the lack of any provision within the proposed amendments requiring notice to be given to tour bus operators of newly restricted streets; (FN1) [FN1: Starline and other local tour bus operators met with Los Angeles Department of Transportation (DOT) officials on January 28, 2020 and discussed proposed technical revisions, such as providing sufficient notice to operators of newly restricted streets. While Starline agrees technical revisions are critically necessary, it believes the process must be accessible to all interested parties. In a February 13, 2020 letter to this Committee, Transportation Committee Legislative Assistant John White suggested that DOT be permitted to make such revisions internally. Starline strongly favors a formal revision process that is subject to some form of legislative approval. Starline opposes any entity having unilateral authority to internally make revisions without any oversight and outside public view]. 4. the lack of a provision for oversight, a hearing, a vote, public comment, or appellate procedure concerning the decision to restrict a given street or streets. In conclusion, Starline urges a short delay in the passage of the proposed amendments to the LAMC so that committee members can meet with stakeholders and consider the suggested changes in order to better serve residents, law-abiding businesses and their employees residing in Los Angeles, and visitors to Los Angeles. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration with respect to the points raised in this letter. Sincerely, Noonosh Sapir, Chief Operating Officer Starline Tours of Hollywood, Inc. Please allow this correspondence to be posted to Council File 17-1115



February 18, 2020

The Honorable Joe Buscaino, Chair
Trade, Travel, and Tourism Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street, Room 410
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: TOUR BUS ROUTE RESTRICTIONS (COUNCIL FILE 17-1115) & LAMC § 80.36.1 et seq.

Dear Council President Pro Tempore Buscaino;

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Trade, Travel, and Tourism Committee with respect to proposed amendments to Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) § 80.36.1, et seq.

Please allow this letter to serve as a request:

- 1. to temporarily delay passage of the proposed amendments pending consideration of critical revisions requested by various parties (including the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce);***
- 2. for an opportunity for representatives of Starline Tours of Hollywood, Inc. (Starline) to briefly meet with individual committee members to discuss the relevant amendments;***
- 3. for Starline to voice its agreement with the points raised in the public comments made by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.***

Starline has provided sightseeing tours in Los Angeles for over 85 years, longer than any other tour company in California. Starline employs hundreds of Los Angeles residents and strives hard to provide excellent service to domestic and international tourists.

Further, Starline is committed to obeying all federal, state and local laws / rules / ordinances and is in favor of increased tour bus industry regulation, as increased regulation will not only clarify Starline's duties under the law, but will also provide much needed restrictions on rogue, law-breaking tour bus operators who cause a myriad of problems for local residents and for many law-abiding businesses, including Starline.

Starline joins the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) in supporting the proposed amendments to the LAMC. However, Starline has many of the same or similar concerns that the Chamber expressed in its correspondence with this Committee.

So as to not belabor the points articulated by the Chamber, Starline's concerns that directly align with the Chamber's concerns are as follows:

1. the lack of clarity with respect to whether individual persons or business entities would be criminally liable for fourth and subsequent violations of the amended ordinance;
2. Starline opposes "priorable" violations of the statute when they are accumulated based on a cumulative number of violations from an operator's entire fleet of vehicles and are not accumulated based on a cumulative number of violations by that operator's **individual** drivers. As communicated by the Chamber, this provision places companies with many vehicles and drivers in a negatively disparate position when compared to companies with one or very few vehicles and drivers;
3. the lack of any provision within the proposed amendments requiring notice to be given to tour bus operators of newly restricted streets;¹
4. the lack of a provision for oversight, a hearing, a vote, public comment, or appellate procedure concerning the decision to restrict a given street or streets.


In conclusion, Starline urges a short delay in the passage of the proposed amendments to the LAMC so that committee members can meet with stakeholders and consider the suggested

¹ *Starline and other local tour bus operators met with Los Angeles Department of Transportation (DOT) officials on January 28, 2020 and discussed proposed technical revisions, such as providing sufficient notice to operators of newly restricted streets. While Starline agrees technical revisions are critically necessary, it believes the process must be accessible to all interested parties. In a February 13, 2020 letter to this Committee, Transportation Committee Legislative Assistant John White suggested that DOT be permitted to make such revisions internally. Starline strongly favors a formal revision process that is subject to some form of legislative approval. Starline opposes any entity having unilateral authority to internally make revisions without any oversight and outside public view.*

changes in order to better serve residents, law-abiding businesses and their employees residing in Los Angeles, and visitors to Los Angeles.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration with respect to the points raised in this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noonoosh Sapir". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Noonoosh Sapir,
Chief Operating Officer
Starline Tours of Hollywood, Inc.

Please allow this correspondence to be posted to Council File 17-1115