

To The Arts Committee regarding File Number 18-0057/Meeting on the Dixon Study with regard to Beachwood Drive:

1 message

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Tue, Sep 25, 2018 at 10:10 AM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org, mike.n.feuer@lacity.org, controller.galperin@lacity.org, planning@lacity.org, ladbs.webmaster@lacity.org, adria.ybarra@lacity.org, ken.bernstein@lacity.org, lambert.giessinger@lacity.org, ethics.commission@lacity.org, LAFDrequest@lacity.org, fernando.campos@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org, ladot@lacity.org, cory.palka@lapd.lacity.org, 40988@lapd.online, joe.salaices@lacity.org, michael.a.shull@lacity.org, aram.sahakian@lacity.org, steve.houchin@lacity.org, steven.cole@ladwp.com, michael.mcMenamin@ladwp.com, david.wright@ladwp.com, armando.hogan@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org, john.white@lacity.org, clerk.artsccommittee@lacity.org, ap.diaz@lacity.org, brian.walters@lacity.org, eric.villanueva@lacity.org, richard.williams@lacity.org, zina.cheng@lacity.org, lactd@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org

To The Arts Committee regarding File Number 18-0057/Meeting on the Dixon Study with regard to Beachwood Drive:

I am a a resident of Beachwood Canyon living at 3030 N. Beachwood Drive. My husband and I have owned our home for 12 years and are raising our 10 and 5 year old daughters in this wonderful community. We were drawn to it because of its beauty and welcoming neighbors.

I tend to not get too involved in politics but it has come to my attention that you are considering the Dixon study and are looking into possibly implementing some of its recommendations on my street, right in front of my home. It's hard to not want to get involved in something that will affect me so directly. I wanted to come to the meeting in person but it was scheduled at a time when I have to pick up my children from school so I am unable to attend but I hope you will read this letter and add it to the chorus of voices in the meeting opposing the findings of the Dixon study.

I am concerned about the implications of the suggestions for this sweet neighborhood. Specifically, I am concerned about a recommendation to run trams up our street to the trailhead at Sunset Ranch. It feels like our residential neighborhood could be turned into a commercial space overnight if this plan is put into action. I am sure you can imagine what a horrifying prospect that would be if it happened on your street.

I understand the Hollywood Sign has been and always will be a draw for tourists. I enjoy living in a place people want to visit; I have met hundreds of kind and interesting people from all over the world who walk our streets desperate for a great shot in front of the sign. It's one of the perks of living here. I believe the streets are open to all and I think tourists have a right to visit. I do not, however, believe that they have a right to expect to park up here, or demand that buses accommodate them to take them through this quiet, residential community to get where they are going. We already have a DASH bus that stops in the middle of the village allowing people to take a picture of the sign from a few steps below or wander north through our neighborhood on foot. I ride the DASH often and it is never crowded; it's often empty. I do not think we need another large noisy bus running up and down our street when the one we have isn't being fully utilized.

The DASH bus stops around 2700 N. Beachwood but tram service you are considering will go further north and will run right past my windows. These are thin window panes original to our home which was built in 1948. Our bedroom window faces the street. The same single pane windows are in my dining room where I work during the day, also facing the street. Buses running up and down the hill all day would cause increased traffic, noise, and likely an ugliness to a community that is quite the opposite. Tourists strolling the street on foot looking

for exercise or a photo are lovely. Loud buses full of them on a regular schedule are anything but. I don't think these trams are necessary and I think they will ruin a community that is one of the last few spaces in LA offering residents some peace and quiet in this big city. I believe there are many alternatives to moving people around this city to get a good view of the sign. I don't think their right to a photo trumps our right to a peaceful existence in our homes.

I want to reiterate that I do not have my head in the sand about the appeal of the Hollywood sign. I understand that people will want to come here no matter what but I don't think that making us an official tourist destination by running buses through this neighborhood is the answer. I think it will only make the problem exponentially worse. When I go to other parts of the world to visit historic landmarks and sights, I do not expect to do so by whizzing by quiet neighborhoods. I hope the committee will consider alternatives that involve roads and areas that were built to be public spaces, like the trailheads that begin in Griffith Park which take advantage of wider streets, room for parking, and don't single handedly upend the bucolic nature of a residential neighborhood that has been known for its natural beauty for decades.

Please put yourselves in our shoes. We have been peacefully coexisting with tourists for years. We are not asking you to prevent them from coming into our neighborhood but instead, to try to find a balance that preserves the quaintness of our spaces and gives tourists a proper viewing point for their coveted photos. Making Beachwood Drive an official viewing spot for the Hollywood sign would cause harm to everyone in this community and would not even be providing visitors with the best access or experience to see the sign. Trams running through the neighborhood will only cause more traffic and more chaos and confusion for people following them by car looking for a parking lot and official entrance to the park that doesn't exist. It will also make it more difficult to walk our streets. We don't have any sidewalks so neighbors walk their dogs and children in the street. Dodging cars is simple, dodging a tram is much more difficult and unpleasant. This neighborhood simply wasn't built for commercial tourism and it doesn't look like there is a way to retrofit it to make it work.

I urge you to try to manage the situation we have and not create one that will make the problem worse for everyone involved. Please don't ruin Beachwood Canyon for the hundreds of residents who call it home. Please find another way.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my position.

Sincerely,
Jamie Rubin

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Dixon Study and Hollywood Land // Meeting tomorrow

1 message

Alison M Starr <alison.starr@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 25, 2018 at 9:47 AM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org, mike.n.feuer@lacity.org, controller.galperin@lacity.org, planning@lacity.org, ladbs.webmaster@lacity.org, adria.ybarra@lacity.org, ken.bernstein@lacity.org, lambert.giessinger@lacity.org, ethics.commission@lacity.org, LAFDrequest@lacity.org, fernando.campos@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org, ladot@lacity.org, cory.palka@lapd.lacity.org, 40988@lapd.online, joe.salaices@lacity.org, michael.a.shull@lacity.org, aram.sahakian@lacity.org, steve.houchin@lacity.org, steven.cole@ladwp.com, michael.mcMenamin@ladwp.com, david.wright@ladwp.com, armando.hogan@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org, john.white@lacity.org, clerk.artsccommittee@lacity.org, ap.diaz@lacity.org, brian.walters@lacity.org, eric.villanueva@lacity.org, richard.williams@lacity.org, zina.cheng@lacity.org, lactd@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org

Hello,

Due to work travel, I am unable to attend the meeting tomorrow to discuss the Dixon Study and its associated matters. However, I feel passionately about the actions potentially being taken as a result of the Dixon Study and would like my concerns recorded.

Mayor Garcetti and Councilman Ryu, I voted for you both trusting that you would take the interest of your constituents into mind. At this point, Hollywoodland/Beachwood Canyon/Sign adjacent areas are maxed out. We cannot take more traffic (foot, tram or otherwise). In the event of an emergency on a weekend (in a high fire area), we would not be able to receive help.

I have seen public fornication, public defecation, public nudity, smoking in the brush, tourists thrusting their children onto Beachwood behind a blind curve for a photo, consistent speeding violations and blatant disregard for traffic/pedestrians/pets/wildlife on narrow streets and MORE. Furthermore, there is inadequate law enforcement for the issues we face. Tom LaBonge was horribly wrong to make one of his last acts overrunning a neighborhood of people who just want to lead a peaceful life.

Personally, I support the Warner Brothers proposal for a gondola if traffic to the sign is of the utmost importance. But I do think preserving the quality of life in the city should be on the agenda - across the board for all of Hollywood. Certainly, we have notable tourist destinations that should be honored and monetized, but a huge part of what makes us who we are is the people who choose to live here and preserve the communities. Right now, LA is turning into Vegas and the pace of change is far too rapid to not look to the current administration for both responsibility and remedy.

Outside of larger public interests, please do note that some of us have saved our entire adult lives to live in a home we now cannot enjoy and may lose money on if the community becomes a total zoo. If things get worse, you are simply robbing us of the fruits of a lifetime of hard work. Frankly, people will leave the area, property values will decline and that will impact property tax revenue in home resale and the quality of the neighboring schools where the parents have been an integral part of the enhancement of the education for all children in the area (specifically Chermoya).

Respectfully,

Alison Starr
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