

Comments on: Temporary closure of cul-de-sac walkway at Woodbine Street, northeasterly of Manning Avenue.

Keith Stolzenbach <stolzenb@ucla.edu> Tue, Aug 6, 2019 at 6:47 PM

To: michael.espinosa@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org

Cc: Lora Silverman <ls@rossandsilverman.com>

To: Los Angeles City Council's Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee

Re: August 7, 2019 public hearing on the temporary closure of cul-de-sac walkway at Woodbine Street, northeasterly of Manning Avenue

I am writing on behalf of myself and my wife as residents of the neighborhood affected by this change. I live within several blocks of Woodbine Street and regularly use the Woodbine cul-de-sac walkway to Manning Avenue to get to the Palms Expo Line station. I suspect that many other residents do the same thing as the alternative is to walk a longer distance involving going down a hill and then up again.

I am also writing to express my concern that this action is being taken with no justification in terms of public safety:

1. The letter from LAPD Chief Michael Moore dated 2/4/19 states that "The Los Angeles Police Department, West Los Angeles Community Police Station, has received numerous complaints regarding burglary, theft, vandalism, destruction of property, and a decline in the quality of life due to an increase in the homeless population and activities related to homelessness." but offers no independent data in terms of police reports to substantiate this claim.
2. The letter from Chief Moore dated 11/19/18 states "As per the request, a crime analysis was conducted which revealed a slight increase in overall crime." The City Council online file contains two police investigation reports: one for a case in which a sign was taped to a wall and resulted in paint being removed, and another for a car burglary resulting in the loss of \$100 worth of property. If these are the only records of crimes in the affected area it would seem the evidence for an increase in crime is weak.
3. The 5/23/18 minutes of the California Country Club Homes Association (CCCHA), the HOA for our neighborhood, reports that Christopher Baker, Senior Lead Officer, LAPD Community Relationship Division told the CCCHA that there were "39 burglaries last year in Cheviot overall through May, same this year, but just 11 in the CCCHA in the same period." This is not evidence of an increase in crime.
4. Allyson Saunders, President of the CCCHA, states in a 8/6/19 email to CCCHA members that "homeless, truants and others are now coming from Manning Ave. through the Woodbine Street Cul de Sac walkway." This inflammatory statement is not backed up by any data.
5. The single communication from the public in the record states that "this closure would endanger the areas outside the gate, cause older folks to have to walk up and down steep hills over 12% grade to get to the safer part of our neighborhoods." There is a map showing that many residents on the Manning Avenue side of the gate oppose this action.

We request that this action receive more scrutiny with regard to the public safety justification before going forward. I am fully sympathetic to the concerns of the homeowners whose property are next to or very near the walkway, but the neighborhood has a right to know more about why this action is being taken.

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