



Friends of Griffith Park
P.O. Box 27573
Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573
friendsofgriffithpark.org

Councilmember David Ryu
City Hall, Room 425
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

April 22, 2019

Re: **CF #19-0046 Developer Contribution Restrictions**

Honorable Councilmember Ryu:

Friends of Griffith Park – supporting Griffith Park through advocacy, support, education, and service – discussed CF #19-0046 at its April board meeting. We voted unanimously to support your Developer Contribution Restrictions motion. Development in the city should be based on zoning described in carefully thought out Community Plans and Specific Plans, not on the wishes of developers who think they can buy approvals for their projects with a few well-placed donations.

Griffith Park might have been a victim of developer contributions had it not been for the diligence of a group of people who love the park. When a proposed Griffith Park Master Plan was released in 2005, it contained a plethora of commercial development in the park: division of the park into themed “lands”; a destination restaurant, an eco-hotel, a culinary arts school, a sports complex in the interior of the park; a pleasure pier along the LA River; two aerial tramways; street widening throughout the park; and several multi-story parking lots. The public was outraged, and rightfully so. Someone was going to profit handsomely from all the proposed development, but it wasn’t the public. Fortunately public outcry forced the creation of the Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group who rejected all commercialization efforts and focused on protecting the urban wilderness identity of Griffith Park.

The Developer Contribution Restrictions motion is long overdue in the City. The City should not have had to endure front page headlines of FBI raids on City offices. The Department of City Planning works diligently to craft well thought out Community Plans and ordinances only to be undone by politicians whose allegiance is to their wallets, not to their constituents.

Friends of Griffith Park urges City Council to adopt CF #19-0046 to preserve the integrity of the City.

Sincerely,

President

cc: City Council