

Communication from Public

Name: Robin Greenberg

Date Submitted: 08/28/2019 02:16 PM

Council File No: 19-0050

Comments for Public Posting: The Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council (BABCNC) has previously supported a motion by CD5 Councilmember Paul Koretz, dated December 13, 2017, following the Skirball Fire, related to the issues discussed in #19-0050, being heard at Public Safety Committee today, August 28, 2019. We wish to bring this item to the attention of the Public Safety Committee, and ask that you take that motion and the BABCNC Community Impact Statement supporting said motion into consideration as part of your discussion on clearing homeless encampments in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones on high fire risk days.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

JOHN FERRARO COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 340, CITY HALL - 3:00 PM

200 NORTH SPRING STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

MEMBERS: COUNCILMEMBER MONICA RODRIGUEZ, CHAIR
COUNCILMEMBER MITCH O'FARRELL
COUNCILMEMBER JOE BUSCAINO
COUNCILMEMBER DAVID E. RYU
COUNCILMEMBER GREIG SMITH

(Adam Lid - Legislative Assistant - (213) 978-1076 or email adam.lid@lacity.org)

Submit written comment at LACouncilComment.com

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Note: For information regarding the Committee and its operations, please contact the Committee Legislative Assistant at the phone number and/or email address listed above. The Legislative Assistant may answer questions and provide materials and notice of matters scheduled before the City Council. Sign Language Interpreters, Communication Access Real-Time Transcription (CART), Assistive Listening Devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting/event you wish to attend. Due to difficulties in securing Sign Language Interpreters, five or more business days notice is strongly recommended. For additional information, please contact the Legislative Assistant listed above.

MULTIPLE AGENDA ITEM COMMENT**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

ITEM NO. (1)

13-1652

Communication from the Mayor relative to the reappointment of Ms. Lara Yeretsian to the Police Permit Review Panel for the term ending June 30, 2024.

Financial Disclosure Statement: Pending

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

TIME LIMIT FILE - SEPTEMBER 27, 2019**(LAST DAY FOR COUNCIL ACTION - SEPTEMBER 27, 2019)**

(LAST DAY FOR COUNCIL ACTION - OCTOBER 19, 2019)

ITEM NO. (6)

14-0649

CAO report relative to proposed Fourth Amendment to Contract No. C-124017 with ASSI Security, Inc. for the design and implementation of security management systems at police facilities.

Fiscal Impact Statement Submitted: Yes

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

TIME LIMIT FILE - OCTOBER 21, 2019

(LAST DAY FOR COUNCIL ACTION - OCTOBER 15, 2019)

ITEM NO. (7)

19-0050

CONTINUED FROM MARCH 27, 2019

Communication from the Mayor, City Attorney report, and Ordinance in response to Motion (Blumenfield - Rodriguez) relative to existing measures to address and mitigate the risk of wildfires in the Very High Hazard Severity Zone (VHHSZ) as well as trespassing and other dangerous activities in the Zone; and amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code to allow for personal notice to individuals who are within a portion of the VHHSZ).

Fiscal Impact Statement Submitted: No

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For:
Sylmar Neighborhood Council

If you challenge this Committee's action(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk at or prior to, the public hearing. Any written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk before the City Council's final action on a matter will become a part of the administrative record.

Materials relative to items on this agenda can be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk's Council File Management System, at lacouncilfile.com by entering the Council File number listed immediately following the item number (e.g., 00-0000).

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council

Name: Robin Greenberg

Phone Number: (310) 968-0605

Email: rgreenberg@babnc.org

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(22) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 12/20/2017

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 01/03/2018

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 17-1386-S1

Agenda Date: 12/20/2017

Item Number: 22

Summary:

Council File: 17-1386-S1

Title
Special 1 Motion / Skirball Fire / Homeless Encampment / Illegal Fires and Campsites

Date Received / Introduced
12/13/2017

Last Changed Date
02/28/2019

Expiration Date
12/13/2019

Council District
5

Mover
PAUL KORETZ

Second
MIKE BONIN
DAVID E. RYU

File Activities

Date	Activity
02/28/2019	Community Impact Statement submitted by Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council.
01/29/2019	Community Impact Statement submitted by Sylmar Neighborhood Council.
01/03/2018	Community Impact Statement submitted by Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council.
12/15/2017	Council action final.
12/13/2017	Council adopted item forthwith.
12/13/2017	Motion Introduced in Council.



Online Documents (Doc)

Title	Doc Date
Community Impact Statement submitted by Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council	02/28/2019
Community Impact Statement submitted by Sylmar Neighborhood Council	01/29/2019

Council Vote Information (2 Votes)

Meeting Date:	12/13/2017
Meeting Type:	Regular
Vote Action:	Adopted
Vote Given:	(11 - 0 - 4)
Member Name	CD Vote
BOB BLUMENFIELD	3 YES
MIKE BONIN	11 YES
JOE BUSCAINO	15 ABSENT
GILBERT A. CEDILLO	1 YES
MITCHELL ENGLANDER	12 ABSENT
MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON	8 YES
JOSE HUIZAR	14 ABSENT
PAUL KORETZ	5 YES
PAUL KREKORIAN	2 YES
NURY MARTINEZ	6 YES
MITCH O'FARRELL	13 YES
CURREN D. PRICE	9 YES
MONICA RODRIGUEZ	7 ABSENT
DAVID RYU	4 YES
HERB WESSON	10 YES

MOTION

3 4 1 1

On December 6, 2017 a dangerous, fast-moving wildfire broke out in the hills near Bel-Air, destroying six homes and damaging several others before being contained by the Fire Department and its partner agencies. Recent news articles state that the Fire Department has found that this fire was ignited by a cooking fire at a homeless encampment in a nearby ravine, which was obscured from view from the street. This fire spread quickly, fueled by incredibly dry brush and strong Santa Ana winds.

These camps pose a significant risk to hillside communities and the City at large. The Fire Department should report on this incident, and what steps can be taken to ensure nothing like this happens again. Encampments are illegal in the hillsides, and camp fires are prohibited in these areas. The City needs the ability to aggressively enforce these laws on land owned by the City of Los Angeles, and to work quickly and collaboratively with all other owned government jurisdictions and land owners in these areas to address issues caused by trespass.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council determine, as provided in Section 54954.2(b)(2) of the Government Code, and pursuant to Rule 23 of the Rules of the City Council, that there is a need to take immediate action on this matter AND that the need for action came to the attention of the City Council subsequent to the posting of the agenda for today's Council meeting.

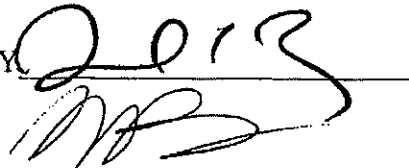
I FURTHER MOVE that the Fire Department, with the assistance of other impacted departments, the Police Department, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Caltrans, report on the homeless encampment where the Skirball Fire was started, including if the homeless individuals in this camp were trespassing on land not open to the public. This report should include information related to identifying homeless encampments in Very High Fire Severity Zones and what actions are appropriate to prevent trespass in these areas. The report should also address what kind of signage is needed to warn individuals they are trespassing in a Very High Fire Severity Zone, and how the City, Caltrans, the County and other land owners can more effectively enforce against trespass on land not open to the public. Finally, this report should include recommendations for a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and other jurisdictions to enable regular, efficient brush clearance in these areas and the enhanced enforcement of laws related to trespass, illegal fires and campsites in the hillsides prior to days of elevated fire danger.

PRESENTED BY



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY






LA Considers Clearing Homeless Encampments On High-Risk Fire Days

August 28, 2019 at 8:57 am Filed Under: Fire Risk, Homeless, Homeless Camps, Homelessness, Los Angeles News, Skirball Fire

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LOS ANGELES (CBSLA) – The Los Angeles City Council is considering an ordinance that would allow the city to clear out homeless people from brush-filled areas during high-risk fire days.

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A brush fire burns in the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area in Encino, Calif., on July 30, 2019. (CBS2)

The L.A. City Council's Public Safety Committee is taking up the ordinance Wednesday,

which would allow authorities to remove homeless encampments from certain restricted areas that are not considered public roadways, established trails or recognized campsites.

ADVERTISING

"The presence of individuals camping or dwelling in brush areas within the City's Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (Zone) remains a serious public safety concern," reads the motion, which was first proposed by Councilman Bob Blumenfield back in January. "The risk of wildfire caused by activities of unauthorized individuals within the Zone must be addressed and mitigated."

Violators could be charged with a misdemeanor.

"Once the ordinance is adopted...law enforcement will be able to give direct notice to individuals living in fire danger zones that they must move," L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti said at a news conference last week in Van Nuys. "That means that on these hot, red-flag days that come up during the summertime and increasingly year-round, we can now take a major step toward reducing the likelihood of encampment fires like we saw in 2017 with the Skirball Fire and last month in the Sepulveda Basin."

The 422-acre Skirball Fire, which broke out in December 2017 near the Sepulveda Pass, destroyed six homes, damaged 12 others, and prompted the evacuation of about 700 homes. It also shut down the 405 Freeway. The fire was deemed to have been sparked by a cooking fire at a homeless encampment near the 405 Freeway.

Last month, a brush fire tore through about 10 acres of thick brush in the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area of Encino and displaced dozens of homeless people.

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