

Submitted in Transportation
Committee 7/9/08
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Comments to the Transportation Committee – July 9, 2008

Submitted by Jay Slater, 2111 S. Beverly Glen PH2 , Los Angeles 90025

I am speaking as a community member, a member of the Los Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee appointed by Mayor Villaraigosa and a cyclist who frequently uses the Ballona Creek Bike Path

I am also including in my comments opinions expressed by Kent Strumpel who is a community member, a member of the BAC representing CD 11 and also a frequent user of Ballona Creek.

After the last Transportation Committee meeting at which this subject was on the agenda. Councilman Rosendahl asked Kent and me to meet with the residents to see if we could find solutions to the issue. We had that meeting at the Councilman's Westchester office but no solutions were reached.

In May, in an effort to find common ground, Kent Strumpel, Mark Redick (president of the Del Rey Community Council), Howard Hackett and I met with members of Councilman Rosendahl's staff along with members of LAPD WLA Division lead by Captain Hiltner.

During what we felt was a very open and productive meeting we suggested a list of ideas that might serve a concrete means of improving the safety issues in the Purdue Street neighborhood. Those ideas included instituting a Neighborhood Watch Program, improved street lighting, a fenced lead in to the open gate, a video camera system (offered by Councilman's staff) as well as stepped up patrol by both LAPD patrol units and officers from the Bike Squad.

It is very important to note that the Del Rey Community Council (of which this neighborhood is a member) voted against the concept of closing the gate.

Captain Hiltner indicated that these were all good ideas and should be pursued. Officer Madison was going to discuss some of these with the residents.

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In Captain Hiltner's letter he suggests a 90 day trial to close the gate and judge its effects on the neighborhood. We do not see the advantage of this approach. To our knowledge in the past two months we are unaware of any incidents in the neighborhood or on the bike path.

It is vital that we work to find meaningful solutions and not simply take the course of least resistance by closing the gate. An idea that the three officers in the meeting said, with great candor, they cannot be certain will have a mitigating effect.

We strongly urge the Transportation Committee to vote to further study the ideas listed above and to seek their implementation as soon as possible.

By taking this route we do not start down the slippery slope of closing off access to public recreation facilities.

I Am Happy TO AMPLIFY ON ANY OF THESE COMMENTS.