

Westwood South of Santa Monica Blvd
Homeowner's Association
Incorporated November 8, 1971
P. O. Box 64213
Los Angeles, CA 90064-0213

June 30, 2014

Hon. Joe Buscaino
Councilmember, Council District 15
Chair, Public Works & Gang Reduction Committee
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90272 Via email: Councilmember.Buscaino@lacity.org

Re: CF 09-2645 – City Attorney Report and Revised Above Ground Facilities Ordinance; SUPPORT the Revised Ordinance and Request Immediate Forwarding to City Council; Request For Filing in CF 09-2645 by Legislative Assistant Michael Espinosa

Dear Councilmember Buscaino:

We have long awaited the transmission of the revised AGF Ordinance from the City Attorney's office for Council consideration. This measure is extremely important to our community of 3,800 households on the Westside of Los Angeles where telecommunications facilities have been installed without notice directly adjacent to homes, condominium and apartment buildings without any notice or opportunity to provide input and suggestions for locations that would minimize negative impacts on the neighbors and neighborhood. The City has the opportunity to provide a process to govern these installations. The LA Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Working Group (WTF Working Group) has dedicated significant time and effort to assist the City with research as to the regulatory framework adopted by cities across the state. Their work on behalf of all the citizens of Los Angeles and all communities was embraced by the City Attorney's office and has been in process for years as new installations go in without the City exercising its right and authority to regulate these installations in the public right-of-way.

We urge that the revised AGF Ordinance be sent to the full Council as soon as possible which was the path defined last fall when PLUM and the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committees met in joint session. At that time, the City Attorney was directed to make final revisions for consideration by the full Council.

Six years is too long to wait for a much-needed policy that will improve the quality of life on our streets. Poles and equipment boxes that block sidewalks and make it difficult for pedestrians to traverse their streets are contrary to the goal of "complete streets" that the City now pursues. Large, ugly equipment-laden poles dropped directly in front of someone's residence or business—can result in a reduction in property value and loss of neighborhood character -- all at the unannounced discretion of a cell carrier.

No doubt there will be opportunities in the future to fine tune the ordinance should relevant changes in technology develop. However, we needed this ordinance back in 2008 when the Working Group first got to work and we need it even more today as the use of wireless devices grows at ever faster rates. Our Westwood South of SM Blvd. HOA supports the revised AGF Ordinance as does the Westside Neighborhood Council which represents our area.

We are concerned that industry lobbyists may be attempting to weaken the ordinance and delay the Council's consideration of the current revised product. There have been many opportunities to speak in public hearings and in private on this ordinance and efforts to make last minute changes are counterproductive and could undermine years of dedicated effort. If any meetings to consider additional changes to the ordinance are held, we respectfully request that members of the AGF Working Group be invited to participate and that the meeting be held very soon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



President

cc via email:

Michael Espinosa, Legislative Assistant, Public Works & Gang Reduction Committee

Michael Feuer, City Attorney

Ted Jordan, Deputy City Attorney

Councilmember Paul Koretz, CD 5

Shawn Bayliss, Planning Deputy, CD 5

Daniel Tamm, Westside Deputy, Mayor Eric Garcetti

Dennis Gleason, Policy Deputy, CD

John Larson, Legislative Deputy, CD

Jesus Orozco, District Deputy, CD 5

The Oaks Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 29155
Los Angeles, California 90029-0155



Mike Feuer
Los Angeles City Attorney
City Hall East
200 N. Main Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

April 9, 2014

Dear Mr. Feuer,

Back in September 2012, the City Council instructed the City Attorney to rewrite the twelve year-old Above-Ground-Facilities Ordinance, with the intention to protect residents from a rampant proliferation of cellphone sites in their neighborhoods as well as granting them more rights in the approval process of such installations.

Unfortunately, nineteen months later, the revision of the Ordinance has still not been completed.

Meanwhile, Verizon Wireless intends to install more celltowers in our neighborhood. Their plan is met with much opposition from nearby residents but the current AGF Ordinance does not lend these residents a voice in the approval process.

A race for time between lawmakers and Verizon is playing out on our turf. As our former representative in the State Assembly, we are sure you understand how important it is for us to have the new Ordinance finalized soon, so it can be presented to the City Council for approval and can become law. Time is of the essence in this matter.

Thank you very much for your help.

Sincerely yours,

Caroline Schweich
President
THE OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT Susan Swan
VICE-PRESIDENT Erik Sanjurjo
TREASURER Tom Meredith
SECRETARY Susan Polifronio



HOLLYWOOD UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Certified Council #52
P.O. Box 3272 Los Angeles, CA 90078
www.HollywoodUnitedNC.org

BOARD MEMBERS:

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Mike Feuer
Los Angeles City Attorney
City Hall East
200 N. Main Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

April 21, 2014

At our April 21st meeting our Board voted to support local community requests for the swift implementation of the ordinance for Above-Ground Facilities.

From the moment that cell phone companies first started to intrude into our residential neighborhoods with their unsightly equipment, we have made an effort to enter into a dialogue with them about how to improve cell phone service without compromising the look of a neighborhood.

Unfortunately, none of the phone companies have shown any interest in listening to the voices of nearby residents or offered to, at the very least, notify them in advance about proposed installations. In fact, most cell phone towers along residential streets in our area of the City have been erected without Public Works permits and without prior notification of anyone outside of the Southern California Joint Pole Committee.

Over the past few years, in response to increased demand for better cell phone service, our residential neighborhoods have been flooded with even more transmitters and related equipment, turning some streets, such as Canyon Drive, into "Cell site Alleys." We believe there ought to be a better balance between the need for more equipment and efforts to maintain the beauty of a residential neighborhood.

In response to mounting complaints from affected residents, the L.A. City Council requested that the City Attorney update and revise the current Above Ground Facilities Ordinance and to establish some rules and regulations for the placement of cell phone sites in residential neighborhoods.

That was back in September of 2012. Since then, the uncontrolled proliferation of unsightly cell sites along our residential streets has continued, but the new AGF Ordinance has still not been finalized and presented to the City Council for approval.

As our former Assembly member, you are extremely familiar with our Neighborhood Council area. On behalf of the residents here, we urge you to make this issue a priority for your office and to make sure a new Ordinance is ready for City Council approval as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Susan Swan*
President

Erik Sanjurjo*
Vice President

*signed via email

**HOLMBY WESTWOOD PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
914 WESTWOOD BOULEVARD, SUITE 573
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024
(310) 470-1785**

July 2, 2014

Hon. Joe Buscaino, Council District 15
Chair, Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: CF 09-2645 – City Attorney Report and Revised Above Ground Facilities Ordinance:
SUPPORT the Revised Ordinance and Request Immediate Forwarding to City Council.
Request for Filing in CF 09-2645 by Legislative Assistant Michael Espinosa.

Dear Councilmember Buscaino:

On behalf of Holmby Westwood Property Owners Association, 1100 single family homes in Westwood, I urge you to facilitate the immediate forwarding of the revised AGF Ordinance directly to the full City Council.

Our association has been briefed on numerous occasions by Christina Spitz and Barbara Kohn over a period of several years on necessary revisions to the Above Ground Facilities Ordinance (AGF). We strongly support the revisions as completed and urge that the Ordinance be immediately forwarded to the full City Council.

Should any delay be necessary, we urge you to meet with the WTF Working Group, knowledgeable community leaders, and concerned members of the public.

Thank you for the work you have done and the accomplishments you have made on the revisions of the AGF Ordinance.

Sincerely,

SANDY BROWN
Pres., Holmby Westwood Property Owners Association