

Office of the City Engineer

Los Angeles, California

To the Public Works Committee

Of the Honorable Council

JUL 16 2014

Of the City of Los Angeles

Honorable Members:

C. D. No. 15

SUBJECT:

Temporary Closure of 121<sup>st</sup> Street between Figueroa Street and Hoover Street.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. That the street as shown on the attached sketch, subject to the conditions contained herein, be temporarily closed pursuant to State Vehicle Code Section 21101.4 for a period of eighteen (18) months upon Council approval.
- B. That the City Council find that this is categorically exempt under Article III, Class 5, of the Los Angeles City Guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970.
- C. That the City Council adopt the accompanying Resolution signed by the City Attorney.
- D. That the City Council adopt the following findings:
  - 1. There is substantial evidence of serious and continual criminal activities in the street recommended for temporary closure.
  - 2. The temporary closure of the street will reduce the criminal activity in the area.
  - 3. The street does provide necessary vehicular or pedestrian access to adjacent properties but affected property owners have agreed to the temporary closure.

4. The closure will not substantially adversely affect traffic flow, safety on adjacent streets or in the surrounding neighborhoods, the operation of emergency vehicles, the performance of municipal or public utility services, or the delivery of freight by commercial vehicles in the street proposed to be temporarily closed.
  5. Vehicular and pedestrian traffic on the street contributes to the criminal activities.
  6. The street has not been designated as a though highway or arterial street.
- E. That notification of the time and place on the Public Works committee meeting to consider this request be sent to:
1. Jonathan Lewis  
660 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
  2. Norman and Shirley Gueno  
652 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
  3. Percy Jr. and Regina Carter  
2465 E. Orangethorpe Avenue  
Fullerton, CA 92831
  4. Lincoln and Mary Moore  
638 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
  5. Gregory and Tracie Thomas  
630 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
  6. Oliver Williams Jr.  
622 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
  7. Benjamin and Ruby Williams  
614 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044

8. Linda Greer  
608 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
9. Deborah Allain  
602 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
10. Otis and Mary Broome  
552 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
11. Booker and Hannah Woods  
538 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
12. Lawrence Hambrick Jr.  
532 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
13. Janice Simpson  
528 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
14. Watts Healthcare Corporation  
10300 Compton Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90002
15. Bahman Ezzati  
P. O. Box 55401  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413
16. Irey Hilsman  
510 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
17. 12111 S. Figueroa LLC  
131 Outrigger Mall  
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292
18. Tammie Oleary  
663 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044

19. Gail Thomas  
655 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
20. Robert Hunt  
647 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
21. Edith Gonzalez  
639 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
22. Elizabeth Manriquez  
633 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
23. Alma McGreggor Wattles  
213 E. 140<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90061
24. Milton and Alice Carter  
617 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
25. Midgate Inc.  
24051 Neece Avenue, Suite B  
Torrance, CA 90505
26. Edgar Trejo  
603 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
27. Jodette Spann  
553 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
28. Juan and Maria Trejo  
543 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
29. Louis and Shawn Richard  
525 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90044

30. Hubert Watson  
618 W. Athens Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90044
31. Council District No. 15  
Attn.: Dennis Gleason  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 410  
Los Angeles, CA 90012
32. Athens on the Hill Community Association  
Attn: Al LaBostrie, President  
P. O. Box 611243  
Los Angeles, CA 90061

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The Bureau of Engineering is absorbing the cost of processing the request in the approximate amount of \$5,000.00. Maintenance of the public easement by City forces will be eliminated.

TRANSMITTALS:

1. Sketch indicating the area to be temporarily closed.
2. Petition.
3. Letter from Councilman Buscaino of Council District No. 15, dated February 5, 2013.
4. Letter from the Police Department, dated July 22, 2013.
5. Draft of Resolution for Temporary Street closure.

CONDITIONS:

1. That any gates to be installed to effectuate a physical closure of the street area together with the gate locations be approved by the Fire Department, and the Department of Water and Power and the Department of Transportation and the Bureau of Sanitation's Wastewater Collection Systems Division and be done under "B Permit" issued by the City Engineer and be installed at no cost to the City. Actual location of the gates will be specified at the time of "B-Permit" issuance.

2. The keys to any gates to be installed be provided to all affected City Departments and Public Utility Companies.
3. The routine clean-up of the closed area be provided by the adjoining property owners/residents.
4. That the closed area be physically closed within 6 months of Council approval of the temporary closure or the approval be rescinded.
5. That the petitioners agree to remove the gates/fences upon termination of the allowed closure period at no cost to the City.

DISCUSSION:

On February 5, 2013, a letter from Councilman Buscaino of Council District No. 15 was received directing the City Engineer to initiate proceedings to close 121<sup>st</sup> Street between Figueroa Street and Hoover Street. Councilman Buscaino's letter stated that, "The residents of this community have long endured criminal activity – including vandalism, litter, prostitution, and the sale of narcotics – which diminishes property values and negatively affects their quality of life."

Commanding Officer, Commander William Scott of Los Angeles Police Department in a letter dated July 22, 2013 stated "Sergeant Robin Petillo from Southwest Area, consulted with Senior Lead Officer Valdez, Serial No. 31265. The Los Angeles Police Department believes that the temporary closure would benefit public safety. The street has long been a location for prostitution and narcotic activity that has been a detriment to the area. Closure of 121<sup>st</sup> Street on Figueroa side would require residents to access the neighborhood from Hoover Street, but the benefit of crime deterrence would outweigh the inconvenience."

Conclusion:

The temporary closure of 121<sup>st</sup> Street between Figueroa Street and Hoover Street is feasible subject to the conditions of this report.

Report prepared by:  
Land Development Group

Phillip Martinez  
Civil Engineering Associate II  
Phone (213) 202-3487

Respectfully submitted,



Edmond Yew, Manager  
Land Development Group  
Bureau of Engineering

EY/ /pm  
LDG

CITY HALL  
200 N. Spring Street  
Room 425  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 473-7015  
Fax (213) 626-5431



Councilmember  
Joe Buscaino  
Fifteenth District

DISTRICT OFFICES:

SAN PEDRO OFFICE  
638 S. Beacon Street  
Suite 552  
San Pedro, CA 90731  
310-732-4515  
Fax 310-732-4500

WATTS OFFICE  
10221 Compton Ave.  
Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90002  
213-473-5128  
Fax 213-473-5132

February 5, 2013

Gary Lee Moore, P.E.  
City Engineer  
1149 S. Broadway, Suite 700  
Los Angeles, CA 90015-2213

**RE: Temporary Street Closure**

Dear Mr. Moore:

I would like to request your office investigate the feasibility of temporarily closing a street in the Athens on the Hill community in Harbor Gateway, pursuant to California Vehicle Code 21101.4 The specific location is:

- 121st Street at the intersection with the westerly side of Figueroa Street

The residents of this community have long endured criminal activity - including vandalism, litter, prostitution, and the sale of narcotics - which diminishes property values and negatively affects their quality of life.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact my Field Deputy, Daisy Ybarra at 213-473-5128, or Daisy.Ybarra@LACity.org.

Sincerely,

JOE BUSCAINO  
Councilmember, 15th District

JB/dg

CC: Edmond Yew, Land Development Group - Bureau of Engineering



# LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT



**CHARLIE BECK**  
Chief of Police

**ERIC GARCETTI**  
Mayor

P. O. Box 30158  
Los Angeles, California 90030  
Telephone: (213) 485-4251  
TDD (877) 275-5273  
Ref #: 1.5  
OSB PROJECT No. 13-443

July 22, 2013

Department of Public Works  
Bureau of Engineering – Land Development Group  
c/o Edmond Yew, Manager  
1149 South Broadway, Suite 700  
Los Angeles, California 90015-2213

Dear Mr. Yew:


The Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering requested the opinion of the Police Department regarding the temporary closure of 121<sup>st</sup> Street between Figueroa Street and Hoover Street, on the westerly side, to prevent through traffic.

Sergeant Robin Petillo from Southwest Area, consulted with Senior Lead Officer Valdez, Serial No. 31265. The Los Angeles Police Department believes that the temporary closure would benefit public safety. The street has long been a location for prostitution and narcotic activity that has been a detriment to the area. Closure of 121<sup>st</sup> Street on the Figueroa side would require residents to access the neighborhood from Hoover Street, but the benefit of crime deterrence would outweigh the inconvenience.

It is the goal of the Los Angeles Police Department to provide the highest level of quality service to every member of the community. Any questions regarding this matter may be referred to, Lieutenant Timothy T. Nordquist, Serial No. 35492, Operations-South Bureau, (213) 485-4251.

Very truly yours,

**CHARLIE BECK**  
Chief of Police

  
**WILLIAM SCOTT**, Commander  
Assistant Commanding Officer  
Operations-South Bureau

# ATHENS ON THE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION {AOH}

## PETITION REQUESTING TEMPORARY STREET CLOSURE OF THE 500 AND 600 BLOCK OF WEST 121<sup>ST</sup> STREET-----WEST OF THE ALLEY

We, the undersigned property owners/residents of the 500 and 600 block of West 121<sup>st</sup> Street between Figueroa Street and Hoover Street (Los Angeles, 90044), consent to the temporary closure of West 121<sup>st</sup> Street at the above location for the following reasons:

(a) residents/tenants/guests of the SB 1818 - Density Bonus Apartment building located at 12015 South Figueroa Street park their vehicles in front of homes on West 121<sup>st</sup> St. and **walk** to the South Figueroa Street apartment building; (b) prostitutes from the Figueroa Street Corridor (FSC) use West 121<sup>st</sup> as an easy access and entryway **{on foot}** and/or are transported in vehicles by "johns"} to commit lewd and indecent acts throughout AOH; (c) criminals use that entrance from the FSC to **walk** into and/or drive into the community to burglarize homes and to commit other criminal acts in AOH; and, (d) the closure of West 121<sup>st</sup> Street at that location is a safety measure and is in the best interest of the quality of life and well being for the entire community of Athens on the Hill.

Date	Signature	Name (Print)	Address
9/15/13	<i>[Signature]</i>	Louis Richard	525 W. 121 <sup>ST</sup> ST
9/15/13	<i>[Signature]</i>	Jodette Spann	553 W. 121 <sup>ST</sup> ST
9/15/13	<i>[Signature]</i>	Yolanda Mirnila	603 W 121 <sup>ST</sup>
9/15/13	<i>[Signature]</i>	Alice Carter	617 W 121 <sup>ST</sup>
9/15/13	<i>[Signature]</i>	BRIAN MONTENEGRO	633 W 121 ST
9/15/13	<i>[Signature]</i>	Edith Gonzalez	639 W 121ST
9/15/13	<i>[Signature]</i>	BRIGITTE MATTHEWS	647 W. 121 ST
9/15/13	<i>[Signature]</i>	Jamie O'Leary	663 W 121 <sup>ST</sup>
9/15/13	<i>[Signature]</i>	Jessica Duran	660 W. 121 <sup>ST</sup> ST.