



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Motion 16-1053 Comment

1 message

Cynthia High <cynthiahigh0804@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 28, 2016 at 10:18 AM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org, Daniel.Halden@lacity.org, Angelo.Yenko@lacity.org

Dear Adam Lid, Daniel Halden, Angelo Yenke and Los Angeles City Council:

We would like to make a comment in regards to Motion 16-1053.

We are the owner/operators of a small sightseeing tour company, California Tour Lines, that has been providing tours for 25 years to the Hollywood area.

We are concerned that the motion in question refers to enforcement of existing laws and ordinances as a burden on the city and law enforcement.

A burden.

The motion states ..."a burden to local government offices and enforcement agencies."

Yet it is because the tourist industry is so vital to Los Angeles that the regulation is also vital. Enforcement should be seen as a necessary and welcome component of making Los Angeles a world class city. It should not be seen as a burden.

There is plenty the city could be doing right now to enforce existing regulations, but this is not happening. Before Los Angeles asks to regulate even more aspects of the tour industry, wouldn't it be wise to put concerted effort into enforcing the laws they can right now? Many of the "good" companies, as our colleague from Dearly Departed Tours commented, would welcome enforcement of existing regulations. Robust enforcement can begin even if the city pursues additional oversight through this motion and other avenues. Tour operators would have more faith in the city's ability to take on the additional responsibility of greater enforcement if we see rigorous enforcement begin now.

We share the community and city's concern about the illegal, unethical and just plain shady practices of some tour operators based on or near Hollywood Blvd. We suggest that the city dedicate a couple of officers to the area. The officers could get to know all the tour operators and put an end to the aggressive sales and harassment of tourists. If a new, unlicensed operator pops up, they could spot it and take care of it right away. They could check that all vehicles are safe, insured, with proper drivers, perhaps with assistance or authorization from the CHP. They could address the serious parking issues, finding space for the big buses so they don't take the spaces for the smaller vehicles.

In summary, I would like to see the city's robust and sustained enforcement of existing regulations before trying to take on even more regulations.

Let's Giuliani-up Hollywood Blvd. Yes, I used "Giuliani" as a verb.

Thank you,

Cynthia High and Zahir Safi / California Tour Lines