

## Communication from Public

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**Comments for Public Posting:** I am Robert Shore, President of the Park La Brea Residents Association ("PLBRA"). I am writing on behalf of PLBRA with the Board's unanimous approval. Park La Brea is a huge development — the largest in the United States west of the Mississippi. The Residents Association represents more than 12,000 residents living in more than 4,000 units, and every single one of us is a renter. We are a very multi-cultural community. The second most commonly spoken language within Park La Brea is Korean. The third most commonly spoken language within the development is Hindi. We believe it is essential to unify Park La Brea with other multi-cultural tenant-rich communities. In particular, we wish to remain united with Los Feliz within District 4. The statewide and local housing shortage makes clear that many of the most impactful decisions City Council will make over the next decade and more will require it to balance the interests of homeowners, landlords, and tenants. Historically, the interests of tenants have been underrepresented on City Council. We therefore support maps (such as the Commission's Draft Map L) that unify the tenant-rich multi-cultural communities of Park La Brea and Los Feliz, thereby making it more likely that tenant interests will have a voice on the Council. We wish to make one further comment regarding communities of interest. Staff explained at the September 27 meeting that one of the proposed districts in an earlier plan was created to consolidate the entertainment industry within a single district. In our opinion, in light of political realities this emphasis is misguided. Historically, the interests of the entertainment industry have never been underrepresented on City Council. To the contrary, the Industry's economic power and ready access to means of mass communication have ensured in the past, and will ensure in the future, that its voice has been and will continue to be heard. The interests of tenants, in contrast, have been historically underrepresented. In addition to these considerations, it is important to Park La Brea's residents that we be unified in a single district with nearby properties that have an immediate and direct impact on our quality of life. Park La Brea is located immediately between Museum Row, to our south, and The Grove and the Original Farmer's Market, to our north. All of these draws are within easy walking distance, and our residents routinely enjoy

them. Television City is slightly to our north and is a large employer. All four of these properties draw significant traffic past our gates. Notwithstanding this impact, for the last decade, we have been split from our neighbors to the north, to our detriment. Television City is undergoing significant changes with considerable potential impact, for good or ill, on our quality of life. The Grove and the Original Farmer's Market, of course, are world-famous tourist destinations. Yet under the map that has been in force for the last decade, any changes these properties wish to make that requires City approval would be overseen, not by the Councilmember representing (and accountable to) Park La Brea, but by the Councilmember representing CD5, to our west. We therefore support maps that unite Park La Brea with Museum Row, The Grove, the Original Farmer's Market, and Television City within a single district. One final issue requires remark. We have seen commentary that the redistricting process should completely disregard incumbency. In the specific context of City Council elections, we disagree. It is a reality of life in Los Angeles that as a practical matter, City Councilmembers have enormous power over their districts. Whether that should or should not be the case is a discussion for another day -- that this is, in fact, the case is indisputable. Simply put, in many important ways, particularly with respect to land use, as a practical matter a City Councilmember is akin to the mayor (and a strong mayor) of the Member's District. Because of this power -- far more power than is enjoyed by members of other representative bodies -- it is important to respect the voters' will by honoring their choice of representatives. In particular, District 4 voters who selected representation that will prioritize tenants' interests should not be forced to live for two to four years without the representation they selected, and Valley voters who may have selected representation that will prioritize homeowners' interests should not be forced to live for two to four years without the representation they selected. That is more than enough time, in both cases, for projects to be stymied or approved in those districts contrary to the expressed will of the districts' voters. Thank you for your attention.