

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org).

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

#### Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(14) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 03/15/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For

#### Impact Information

Date: 03/29/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-0147

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: [SEE ATTACHED .PDF FOR FULL CIS] In December 2020 the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council voted unanimously in favor of a letter requesting investigation into the sale of Christmas Trees in a non-commercial zone, specifically in our neighborhood located in District 4. In April of 2021 the Council submitted a second letter further reiterating that "Residents suffer through weeks of loud noise over long hours, increased foot and car traffic, and loss of the limited available parking. Each year, construction of tenting and facilities, larger than the permit allows, starts in October, and sales begin before Thanksgiving though the permit stipulates no sales till Dec 1. Tree deliveries by 18 wheelers cause dangerous traffic jams and block off large areas of parking. Of particular concern is the inability of emergency vehicles to reach those in need from the traffic and from customers using neighboring driveways to load their trees." Since, there have been numerous notices of violations issued by DBS including for tents erected without permits, oversized tents, and operation outside of permitted hours and dates. .... In addition to these violations at least 80 separate stakeholder complaints have been filed. The issue remains a source of tension and distress. We believe R2 permits for this type of commercial business without monitoring and enforcement are a bad idea, we also request investigation into the history of violations as a measure of whether an operator should be entitled to a permit. Repeat violators of DBS permits have neither the best interest of the community nor respect for the law and should be under threat of immediate suspension if not denial of future permits as a rule. Additionally, our neighbors have noted several infractions that have gone uncited by DBS....The Orders to Comply are in large part ignored and the associated fines are minimal when compared to the enormous revenue and distress generated by the operators.



## -COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT-

CF 22-0147 "Christmas Tree Retail Sale Disallowance / Two-Family Dwelling and Multiple Dwelling Residential Zones / Los Angeles Municipal Code / Amendment"

Position: SUPPORT

In December 2020 the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council voted unanimously in favor of a letter requesting investigation into the sale of Christmas Trees in a non-commercial zone, specifically in our neighborhood located in District 4.

The letter expressed the opinion that "Christmas tree lots are commercial businesses and should only operate in commercial zones. The R2 land use and issuing of permits to both pumpkin and Christmas tree lot operators in residential zones is causing distress and safety issues particularly with regards to single lane streets, and close proximity neighbors in Los Feliz on Evans St."

In April of 2021 the Council submitted a second letter further reiterating that "Residents suffer through weeks of loud noise over long hours, increased foot and car traffic, and loss of the limited available parking. Each year, construction of tenting and facilities, larger than the permit allows, starts in October, and sales begin before Thanksgiving though the permit stipulates no sales till Dec 1. Tree deliveries by 18 wheelers cause dangerous traffic jams and block off large areas of parking. Of particular concern is the inability of emergency vehicles to reach those in need from the traffic and from customers using neighboring driveways to load their trees."

Two holiday seasons have passed since the initial letter was submitted. In that time there have been numerous notices of violations issued by DBS including for tents erected without permits, oversized tents, and operation outside of permitted hours and dates. These documents are on file and available to the public. In addition to these violations at least 80 separate stakeholder complaints have been filed. The issue remains a source of tension and distress.

We believe R2 permits for this type of commercial business without monitoring and enforcement are a bad idea, we also request investigation into the history of violations as a measure of whether an operator should be entitled to a permit. Clearly, repeat violators of

DBS permits have neither the best interest of the community nor respect for the law and should be under threat of immediate suspension if not denial of future permits as a rule. Additionally, our neighbors have noted several infractions that have gone uncited by DBS. In any event, the enforcement has not been sufficient to date in deterring violators. The Orders to Comply are in large part ignored and the associated fines are minimal when compared to the enormous revenue and distress generated by the operators.

Furthermore, to quote the LFNC letter in April of 2021, "Simply put, massive, loud, crowded and unregulated Christmas tree lots operating on quiet residential streets without adequate parking, defined hours, regular inspections nor the consideration for the character of the neighborhood, should be curtailed before the next season of permits is issued and it will take swift action by the City Council, PLUM and LASBS."

**-APPROVED-**

March 15, 2022

Yay: 14. Nay: 0