



December 26, 2016

Councilmember David E. Ryu  
Sarah Dusseault, Chief of Staff to Councilmember David E. Ryu  
Catherine Landers, Senior Field Deputy, CD4

Dear Councilmember, Sarah and Catherine,

We appreciated the time and hospitality you extended on December 20, 2016 to review issues impacting Hollywoodland and to provide a forum for mutual understanding. In order that we may improve communication to our members, please review our notes pertaining to the meeting at CD4's Hollywood Field Office.

Present:

Councilmember David E. Ryu  
Sarah Dusseault  
Catherine Landers  
HHA Board Members: Laura Davis, James Mykytenko, Jeanne Clark  
Hollywoodland Residents: Simone Bent, Doug Wood, Leland Hayward

The Councilmember stressed his commitment to safety throughout CD4 and Hollywoodland. He further stated that during his eighteen months in office, he has focused on bringing positive change by supporting initiatives pertaining to emergency response plan updates for all areas, the Griffith Park Mobility Plan, tighter regulations and defined consequences for party houses, and new ordinances regulating short-term housing rentals in R1 areas. Councilmember Ryu related that in discussions about L.A.'s bid for the 2024 Olympics, he cautioned the City Council about substandard infrastructure and safety issues impacting tourist attractions in CD4.

Regarding Hollywoodland's many challenges, Councilmember Ryu advised that resolution is complicated and that long-term solutions will take time. Below are summaries of topics discussed:

Issues related to Tourism Traffic in Hollywoodland – Short Term

**Holiday traffic enforcement** – CD4 is working to obtain hired staff and DOT support to manage traffic at the key areas of impact: Top of Beachwood, "dirt Mulholland," Vista Point (intersection of Mulholland and Canyon Drive.) Some split coverage will be necessary to manage traffic at the Deronda Drive gate. Support will be similar to the Thanksgiving 2016 coverage. In addition, CD4 has requested that Uber and Lyft inform their drivers that they may not pick up or drop off passengers at these four "magnet" areas.

CD4 cannot legally accommodate HHA's request for a pro-actively planned neighborhood closure; CD4 advised that only LAPD can determine if closure to non-residents is required based on volume of traffic and threat to neighborhood safety. CD4 will be in constant contact over the holidays to advise and support LAPD and the residents of Hollywoodland.

A plan for long-term traffic management is in development and CD4 Planning Deputy Julia Duncan will be in touch with us with a status report.

### **Lower Beachwood-Hollywoodland Preferred Parking District 239**

The Councilmember and Ms. Dusseault reiterated CD4's full support of PPD 239 and stated that they have no intention of revoking any of Hollywoodland's Preferred Parking Districts. HHA board members and residents present agreed that the PPDs provide necessary relief but also noted that traffic has been increasing and often extends beyond the days and time periods regulated by the PPDs, and that safety issues continue to mount.

#### Issues related to Tourism Traffic in Hollywoodland – Long Term

Councilmember Ryu and Ms. Dusseault acknowledged that the tourist magnets (Vista Point, Hollyridge Trailhead) established by the previous Councilmember were created without due process or authorization. They stated that they would like to address these spots that were illegally developed but must do so by following proper procedure.

#### **Vista Point**

Plans (commissioned by Tomas O'Grady) for replanting the Hollywood Sign Vista area denuded by previous Council Staff were shared with the current Council Office. While there were questions regarding the layout and feasibility of the plan, Council office is not opposed to such a plan. Similar discussions with residents from Lake Hollywood Estates (Khaled, et al) have also been reviewed. However, it was stated that a CEQA review must be conducted to obtain approval for any changes to the Vista. When asked for a timeline, CD4 advised that plans to initiate this review are in the cue pending availability of resources currently focused on the Griffith Park Mobility Plan. In addition, Council Office related the work they have been doing to launch the Ford Theater Project, which will include a trail loop that can be used to view the Hollywood Sign. While this trail does not meet up with the Hollywood Sign Trail, it is thought that easy access and availability of facilities will draw tourism traffic out of Hollywoodland. The Project has gone through CEQA and EIR processes, parking and restrooms are in place, and CD4 believes that Measure A will provide the necessary funding for completion. Once the Ford Trail is launched, CD4 believes that CEQA hurdles for addressing the Vista Point will be reduced.

Another option for redirecting Hollywood Sign tourists was suggested by Simone Bent. It involves inviting well-known area artists to recreate the sign in smaller versions in tourist-friendly areas where visitors can get up-close photos next to the smaller signs with the real Hollywood Sign in the background. CD4 agreed that it is a good idea, and advised that they have also approached developers about including visitor centers in the new Hollywood developments, which might be good locations for the sign miniatures. To date, however, there has been no active interest from the development community. CD4 has also approached the L.A. Tourism Board to think beyond traditional convention related needs. Efforts are being made to reinvigorate the Board and broaden its approach to welcoming visitors.

#### **Hollyridge Trailhead (top of Beachwood Drive)**

The lack of infrastructure, the volume of tourism/hiker traffic and the resulting safety issues on Beachwood related to the unauthorized access trail were raised by HHA board members and residents.

Suggestions were made about diffusing the volume of traffic in Hollywoodland by using alternate, legal park access points, including a proposal for a new shuttle into the park through the legal Canyon Drive entrance, which is equipped with restroom facilities and has a significant number of parking spaces. Hollywood Sign trail access can be gained from this entrance point as well as access to the “Bat Caves”.

Pictures taken in August 2016 over the course of two successive peak weekend traffic periods were presented to show availability of parking there. CD4 asked where the shuttle would run and HHA and residents suggested a stop at the Hollywood Metro Station and/or at parking structures popular with tourists such as Hollywood and Highland. CD4 pledged to investigate the possibilities.

The eroding conditions of the Hollywoodland Gifted Parkland trails were discussed. Council Office agreed and related that many of L.A.’s park trails are suffering from increased usage. Councilmember Ryu stated that attempts to address erosion on some trails are met with resistance from some residents who are against altering the natural landscape.

In addition, CD4 advised they are working with the City on updating Wayfaring apps to re-direct traffic to the appropriate locations for tourism activities.

Questions related to the creation of the unauthorized access point and gate at the top of Beachwood were tabled due to CD4’s moratorium on discussing the area while it is the subject of litigation. Any long-term solution regarding the Beachwood park access will have to go through a CEQA review. Given that one of the lawsuits is CEQA-based, initiation of a proper CEQA review cannot move forward until that lawsuit is settled as it would reopen the timeline potentially impacting the current litigation.

### **Party Houses**

Chronic violators of the current noise ordinance were discussed. There are several Hollywoodland homes that are commonly referred to as “party houses” as they routinely hold after-hours events with loud music, crowds and traffic that disturb the peace. Requests to LAPD to intervene and enforce existing ordinances have been frustrating as getting through on the City’s non-emergency line is difficult and response time lengthy, if at all. Even when officers respond, there doesn’t seem to be proper reporting of the incidents by LAPD. HHA members have reached out to City Attorney, Steve Houchin whose efforts are hampered due to lack of documentation by LAPD.

CD4 relayed that a new ordinance giving LAPD greater enforcement powers will go into effect in 2017. In the meantime, CD4 advised us to continue working with LAPD and to report violators on the 311 line or email at [311@lacity.org](mailto:311@lacity.org).

We appreciate the efforts Councilmember Ryu’s office has made to bring sanity to Hollywoodland. While we understand that public streets and park access are to be available to all, we strongly encourage CD4 to embrace the guidelines listed in the Los Angeles General Plan. One of the goals set out in the framework element of the General Plan is preservation of single family neighborhoods such as R1 Hollywoodland. Numerous references to protecting these neighborhoods from traffic intrusion are made under plans and policies (P1, P3, P24). The unauthorized development of both the tourist attractions (Vista, Hollywood Sign Trail) and the Griffith Park public entrance at the top of Beachwood that require the public to traverse thru the substandard 1920’s streets and insufficient infrastructure (sidewalks, parkways, parking, restrooms) of this single family neighborhood, appears in direct opposition. Clearly there are better options for park access and Hollywood Sign tourism, ones that meet the goal of safely handling traffic with minimal neighborhood intrusion, provide facilities and support for

visitors and that can benefit the City of LA. We trust that CD4 under Councilmember Ryu will work toward that end.

The Hollywoodland Homeowners Association and its members wish our CD4 representatives a happy and safe Holiday, and look forward to working with you in 2017 toward those same objectives for our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

HHA Board Members:

Jeanne Clark

Laura Davis

James Mykytenko