

INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

June 2, 2022

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM: MICHAEL A. SHULL, General Manager



SUBJECT: VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications addressed to the Board have been received by the Board Office, and the action taken thereon is presented.

<u>From</u>		<u>Action Taken</u>
1) Comments regarding Griffith Park Pony Ride	#9054bma-9054bpz	Referred to General Manager
2) Scott Opheim comments regarding Balboa Park watering Soccer fields	#9125	Referred to General Manager
3) Jon Deutsch comments as President on behalf of Los Feliz Nationhood Council regarding Wings of Mexico	#9126	Referred to General Manager
4) Mauro Garcia comments regarding graffiti at Sycamore Park	#9127	Referred to General Manager
5) Enrique Alcala comments regarding use of City Basketball gym	#9128	Referred to General Manager
6) Marcy Valley comments in reference to 5/19 RAP meeting regarding Rancho Park Golf Course	#9129	Referred to General Manager
7) Lisa Gaines comments in reference to 5/19 RAP meeting regarding Westchester Park safe Parking	#9130	Referred to General Manager
8) Dr. Jeff Creely comments regarding Pershing Square	#9131	Referred to General Manager
9) Jeff Jacobberger forwarded letters regarding Warner Park Designate/Renaming to Nora Ross Bandshell	#9132	Referred to General Manager

10) Comments on behalf of the residents of Highland Park's Arroyo Seco Neighborhood	#9133	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Carolyn Shannon-Joyner, RAP Commission Office



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Please cancel contract for Griffith Park Pony, and ban pony rides!

1 message

Heather Atkins

>

Tue, May 10, 2022 at 1:55 PM

To: michael.a.shull@lacity.org, matthew.rudnick@lacity.org, rachel.ramos@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindoleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers, Commissioners, and Michael Shull,

Yesterday this brown elderly pony collapsed and had to be taken back to the barn seen here: <https://youtube.com/shorts/OzByzCIIF34?feature=share>

Moments later an elderly pony jumped over the track, and started to run, seen here: <https://youtu.be/STHYZFGCy4A>

Standards and policies don't need to be applied to those who care because they exceed them. Stephen Weeks doesn't fall into this category, and no amount of improvement to this facility can make it right.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We are kind. We are compassionate. We are the mecca of animal welfare policies that the rest of the nation follow.

Please shut down this park, replace the park with a non-animal model, send the animals to a sanctuary, and please ban pony rides.

Thank you.

Heather C.J. Atkins



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Elisa Faleni

>

Tue, May 10, 2022 at 2:09 PM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

For five years, your agency has passed inspection reports for the concession, while the owner Stephen Weeks has been breaking California Health and Safety Code 25998. Elderly ponies and horses at Griffith Park Pony Rides have documented depression. Spot the pony has lameness, yet is forced to carry people on his back.

Recently an overweight sheep was in distress with no worker attending to her needs, and many horses and ponies were itching due to their halters, which appear to be on all the time. Elderly ponies and horses were also seen being hit and chased for almost eight and half hours on the weekend.

No amount of improvement will ensure that these animals are not suffering from depression. Independent equine expert Rachael Sacher DVM, CVA reported elderly ponies working with saddle sores, elderly ponies with no dental treatment, no identification methods for any of the animals, and an elderly pony with a fever undetected by this concession while your department and Stephen Weeks make millions off the backs of these elderly ponies. Griffith Park Pony Rides pays Recreation and Parks a revenue-sharing fee of 25 percent of their gross income, and as a Los Angeles constituent, I oppose city funds generated from animal abuse.

Pony rides exploit animals for amusement and profit. This practice teaches children the wrong lessons about animals as objects for amusement instead of appreciating our animal neighbors as sentient beings.

This concession also poses a risk to children. Last year, a child was reportedly dragged by a pony after her saddle slipped, and the pony continued dragging her body because the pony was spooked.

I respectfully request that the pony ride contract be canceled rather than renewed. Please undertake a study to consider alternative proposals that are generated from a non-animal model for the site that would engage children and families. Lastly, I urge you to send all of the animals to a sanctuary, which advocates have already arranged and confirmed.

Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Miss Elisa Faleni



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Jeremy Webb

>

Tue, May 10, 2022 at 4:54 PM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

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Sincerely,
Jeremy Webb



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Please cancel contract for Griffith Park Pony, and ban pony rides!

1 message

Emily Black

Tue, May 10, 2022 at 5:32 PM

To: michael.a.shull@lacity.org, matthew.rudnick@lacity.org, rachel.ramos@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindoleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Lisa Essig

Tue, May 10, 2022 at 6:08 PM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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Sincerely,
Lisa Essig



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Barbara Smolinski

Tue, May 10, 2022 at 7:45 PM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Barbara Smolinski



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Please cancel contract for Griffith Park Pony, and ban pony rides!

1 message

Arame Mirzakhanian

Tue, May 10, 2022 at 8:34 PM

To: michael.a.shull@lacity.org, matthew.rudnick@lacity.org, rachel.ramos@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindoleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

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Sent from my iPhone



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Jean Stidham

Tue, May 10, 2022 at 9:35 PM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Ms Jean Stidham



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

carlos otero

Tue, May 10, 2022 at 10:17 PM

Reply-To: c

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Mr. carlos otero



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Please cancel contract for Griffith Park Pony, and ban pony rides!

1 message

anne oliver

Tue, May 10, 2022 at 11:55 PM

To: michael.a.shull@lacity.org, matthew.rudnick@lacity.org, rachel.ramos@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindoleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers, Commissioners, and Michael Shull,

Yesterday this brown elderly pony collapsed and had to be taken back to the barn seen here: <https://youtube.com/shorts/OzByzCIIF34?feature>

Please stop this horror that's been going on for a long time.
It's disgrace to Los Angelenos, who voted against animal acts in circuses.

We must protect these poor elderly ponies and "petting animals" against the greed and callus disregard of the owner of this concession.
Thank you for retiring these animals to a sanctuary where they belong.

Very truly yours,

Roseanne Oliver



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Dwayne Robbie

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 2:25 AM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Mr. Dwayne Robbie



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Please cancel contract for Griffith Park Pony, and ban pony rides!

1 message

dennis berger

Tue, May 10, 2022 at 8:39 PM

To: michael.a.shull@lacity.org, matthew.rudnick@lacity.org, rachel.ramos@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindoleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Robin Imburgia

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 5:32 AM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

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Sincerely,
Miss Robin Imburgia



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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1 message

Susan Erlich

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 6:19 AM

To: michael.a.shull@lacity.org, matthew.rudnick@lacity.org, rachel.ramos@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindoleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

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1 message

Peg Coogan

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 6:24 AM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

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No amount of improvement will ensure that these animals are not suffering from depression. Independent equine expert Rachael Sacher DVM, CVA reported elderly ponies working with saddle sores, elderly ponies with no dental treatment, no identification methods for any of the animals, and an elderly pony with a fever undetected by this concession while your department and Stephen Weeks make millions off the backs of these elderly ponies. Griffith Park Pony Rides pays Recreation and Parks a revenue-sharing fee of 25 percent of their gross income, and as a Los Angeles constituent, I oppose city funds generated from animal abuse.

Pony rides exploit animals for amusement and profit. This practice teaches children the wrong lessons about animals as objects for amusement instead of appreciating our animal neighbors as sentient beings.

This concession also poses a risk to children. Last year, a child was reportedly dragged by a pony after her saddle slipped, and the pony continued dragging her body because the pony was spooked.

I respectfully request that the pony ride contract be canceled rather than renewed. Please undertake a study to consider alternative proposals that are generated from a non-animal model for the site that would engage children and families. Lastly, I urge you to send all of the animals to a sanctuary, which advocates have already arranged and confirmed.

Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Ms. Peg Coogan



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Please cancel contract for Griffith Park Pony, and ban pony rides!

1 message

Shawn

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 6:36 AM

To: michael.a.shull@lacity.org, matthew.rudnick@lacity.org, rachel.ramos@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindoleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers, Commissioners, and Michael Shull,

Yesterday this brown elderly pony collapsed and had to be taken back to the barn seen here: <https://youtube.com/shorts/OzByzCIIF34?feature=share>

Moments later an elderly pony jumped over the track, and started to run, seen here: <https://youtu.be/STHYZFGCy4A>

Standards and policies don't need to be applied to those who care because they exceed them. Stephen Weeks doesn't fall into this category, and no amount of improvement to this facility can make it right.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We are kind. We are compassionate. We are the mecca of animal welfare policies that the rest of the nation follow.

Please shut down this park, replace the park with a non-animal model, send the animals to a sanctuary, and please ban pony rides. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Virginie ivol

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 7:21 AM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

For five years, your agency has passed inspection reports for the concession, while the owner Stephen Weeks has been breaking California Health and Safety Code 25998. Elderly ponies and horses at Griffith Park Pony Rides have documented depression. Spot the pony has lameness, yet is forced to carry people on his back.

Recently an overweight sheep was in distress with no worker attending to her needs, and many horses and ponies were itching due to their halters, which appear to be on all the time. Elderly ponies and horses were also seen being hit and chased for almost eight and half hours on the weekend.

No amount of improvement will ensure that these animals are not suffering from depression. Independent equine expert Rachael Sacher DVM, CVA reported elderly ponies working with saddle sores, elderly ponies with no dental treatment, no identification methods for any of the animals, and an elderly pony with a fever undetected by this concession while your department and Stephen Weeks make millions off the backs of these elderly ponies. Griffith Park Pony Rides pays Recreation and Parks a revenue-sharing fee of 25 percent of their gross income, and as a Los Angeles constituent, I oppose city funds generated from animal abuse.

Pony rides exploit animals for amusement and profit. This practice teaches children the wrong lessons about animals as objects for amusement instead of appreciating our animal neighbors as sentient beings.

This concession also poses a risk to children. Last year, a child was reportedly dragged by a pony after her saddle slipped, and the pony continued dragging her body because the pony was spooked.

I respectfully request that the pony ride contract be canceled rather than renewed. Please undertake a study to consider alternative proposals that are generated from a non-animal model for the site that would engage children and families. Lastly, I urge you to send all of the animals to a sanctuary, which advocates have already arranged and confirmed.

Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Virginie ivol



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Please cancel contract for Griffith Park Pony, and ban pony rides!

1 message

Kathleen Cullen

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 10:54 AM

To: michael.a.shull@lacity.org, matthew.rudnick@lacity.org, rachel.ramos@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindoleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers, Commissioners, and Michael Shull,

Yesterday this brown elderly pony collapsed and had to be taken back to the barn seen here: <https://youtube.com/shorts/OzByzCIIF34?feature=share>

Moments later an elderly pony jumped over the track, and started to run, seen here: <https://youtu.be/STHYZFGCy4A>

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I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We are kind. We are compassionate. We are the mecca of animal welfare policies that the rest of the nation follow.

Please shut down this park, replace the park with a non-animal model, send the animals to a sanctuary, and please ban pony rides. This is absolutely unacceptable!

Thank you,
Kathy Cullen

Sent from my iPhone



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Michelle Neeson

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 12:23 PM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

For five years, your agency has passed inspection reports for the concession, while the owner Stephen Weeks has been breaking California Health and Safety Code 25998. Elderly ponies and horses at Griffith Park Pony Rides have documented depression. Spot the pony has lameness, yet is forced to carry people on his back.

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Michelle Neeson



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Susan Pernot

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 12:45 PM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thank you for your response.



On Tue, May 10, 2022 at 11:09 AM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sun, May 8, 2022 at 5:17 PM Susan Pernot <

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Ms. Susan Pernot



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Kareyl Vatilestad

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 1:22 PM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Ms. Kareyl Vatilestad



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Kareyl Vatilestad

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 1:23 PM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Ms. Kareyl Vatilestad



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Ann Dixon

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 2:10 PM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As someone who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

For five years, your agency has passed inspection reports for the concession, while the owner Stephen Weeks has been breaking California Health and Safety Code 25998. Elderly ponies and horses at Griffith Park Pony Rides have documented depression. Spot the pony has lameness, yet is forced to carry people on his back.

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Ann Dixon



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

John Rello

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 3:18 PM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Mr. John Rello



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

naomi cohen

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:35 PM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,

Mrs. naomi cohen



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Jacqueline Hollis

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 6:34 PM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Miss Jacqueline Hollis



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Elizabeth Javinsky

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 7:22 PM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Elizabeth Javinsky



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Please cancel contract for Griffith Park Pony, and ban pony rides!

1 message

leslie davies

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 8:02 PM

To: michael.a.shull@lacity.org, matthew.rudnick@lacity.org, rachel.ramos@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindoleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers, Commissioners, and Michael Shull,

Yesterday this brown elderly pony collapsed and had to be taken back to the barn seen here: <https://youtube.com/shorts/OzByzCIIF34?feature=share>

Moments later an elderly pony jumped over the track, and started to run, seen here: <https://youtu.be/STHYZFGCy4A>

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Please shut down this park, replace the park with a non-animal model, send the animals to a sanctuary, and please ban pony rides. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Evelyne Barthélemy

Wed, May 11, 2022 at 10:33 PM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

Ponies are not piece of entertainment,they are exhausted by the temperatures, exhausted turning around and around without any care. This is not the world we have to teach to our children.

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

For five years, your agency has passed inspection reports for the concession, while the owner Stephen Weeks has been breaking California Health and Safety Code 25998. Elderly ponies and horses at Griffith Park Pony Rides have documented depression. Spot the pony has lameness, yet is forced to carry people on his back.

Recently an overweight sheep was in distress with no worker attending to her needs, and many horses and ponies were itching due to their halters, which appear to be on all the time. Elderly ponies and horses were also seen being hit and chased for almost eight and half hours on the weekend.

No amount of improvement will ensure that these animals are not suffering from depression. Independent equine expert Rachael Sacher DVM, CVA reported elderly ponies working with saddle sores, elderly ponies with no dental treatment, no identification methods for any of the animals, and an elderly pony with a fever undetected by this concession while your department and Stephen Weeks make millions off the backs of these elderly ponies. Griffith Park Pony Rides pays Recreation and Parks a revenue-sharing fee of 25 percent of their gross income, and as a Los Angeles constituent, I oppose city funds generated from animal abuse.

Pony rides exploit animals for amusement and profit. This practice teaches children the wrong lessons about animals as objects for amusement instead of appreciating our animal neighbors as sentient beings.

This concession also poses a risk to children. Last year, a child was reportedly dragged by a pony after her saddle slipped, and the pony continued dragging her body because the pony was spooked.

I respectfully request that the pony ride contract be canceled rather than renewed. Please undertake a study to consider alternative proposals that are generated from a non-animal model for the site that would engage children and families. Lastly, I urge you to send all of the animals to a sanctuary, which advocates have already arranged and confirmed.

Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Evelyne Barthélemy



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Jas kundi

Thu, May 12, 2022 at 1:01 AM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Mrs. Jas kundi



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Amanda Pitcher

Thu, May 12, 2022 at 1:15 AM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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Sincerely,
Miss Amanda Pitcher



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Chahat Kumar

Thu, May 12, 2022 at 5:32 AM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Mr. Chahat Kumar



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rupert Veitch

Thu, May 12, 2022 at 6:02 AM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Mr. Rupert Veitch



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Pauline Seymour

Thu, May 12, 2022 at 7:17 AM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Pauline Seymour



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please cancel contract for Griffith Park Pony, and ban pony rides!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:00 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 12, 2022 at 8:33 AM bfm1952 < > wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers, Commissioners, and Michael Shull,

Please cancel animal cruelty

Yesterday this brown elderly pony collapsed and had to be taken back to the barn seen here:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/0zByzCIIF34?feature=share>Moments later an elderly pony jumped over the track, and started to run, seen here: <https://youtu.be/STHYZFGCy4A>

Standards and policies don't need to be applied to those who care because they exceed them. Stephen Weeks doesn't fall into this category, and no amount of improvement to this facility can make it right.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We are kind. We are compassionate. We are the mecca of animal welfare policies that the rest of the nation follow.

Please shut down this park, replace the park with a non-animal model, send the animals to a sanctuary, and please ban pony rides. Thank you.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please cancel contract for Griffith Park Pony, and ban pony rides!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "Marie A. Baker"

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:01 PM

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 12, 2022 at 9:18 AM Marie A. Baker < > wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers, Commissioners, and Michael Shull,

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<https://youtube.com/shorts/0zByzCIIF34?feature=share>

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Please shut down this park, replace the park with a non-animal model, send the animals to a sanctuary, and please ban pony rides. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

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Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Mail Stop: 625/15
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:01 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 12, 2022 at 10:34 AM Shadoe Drury

> wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

For five years, your agency has passed inspection reports for the concession, while the owner Stephen Weeks has been breaking California Health and Safety Code 25998. Elderly ponies and horses at Griffith Park Pony Rides have documented depression. Spot the pony has lameness, yet is forced to carry people on his back.

Recently an overweight sheep was in distress with no worker attending to her needs, and many horses and ponies were itching due to their halters, which appear to be on all the time. Elderly ponies and horses were also seen being hit and chased for almost eight and half hours on the weekend.

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Mr. Shadoe Drury

--
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Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:01 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 12, 2022 at 10:37 AM Ari De <

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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Sincerely,
Miss Ari De

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:02 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 12, 2022 at 10:51 AM Monique Balaban <

> wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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Sincerely,
Ms. Monique Balaban

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City of Los Angeles
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221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:02 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 12, 2022 at 11:17 AM Pernilla Evringer <

wrote:

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Sincerely,
Mrs. Pernilla Evringer

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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please cancel contract for Griffith Park Pony, and ban pony rides!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:02 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 12, 2022 at 11:18 AM Amanda Iler < > wrote:

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<https://youtube.com/shorts/0zByzCIIF34?feature=share>

Moments later an elderly pony jumped over the track, and started to run, seen here: <https://youtu.be/STHYZFGCy4A>

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Amanda Norton

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:02 PM

To:

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On Thu, May 12, 2022 at 11:55 AM Jeannie Hall <

> wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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For five years, your agency has passed inspection reports for the concession, while the owner Stephen Weeks has been breaking California Health and Safety Code 25998. Elderly ponies and horses at Griffith Park Pony Rides have documented depression. Spot the pony has lameness, yet is forced to carry people on his back.

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Ms. Jeannie Hall

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:03 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 12, 2022 at 1:39 PM María Luz Castro <

> wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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María Luz Castro

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:03 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 12, 2022 at 2:02 PM Sandra Leeb <

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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Sincerely,
Miss Sandra Leeb

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:03 PM

To:

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Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 12, 2022 at 2:31 PM Orville McKinney <

wrote:

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Sincerely,
Mr. Orville McKinney

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:03 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

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On Thu, May 12, 2022 at 5:41 PM Frank Hale

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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Mr. Frank Hale

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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:03 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 12, 2022 at 6:07 PM Stefanie Johnson <

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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Stefanie Johnson

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Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:04 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 12, 2022 at 6:10 PM rocio afanador <

wrote:

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Sincerely,
Dr. rocio afanador

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:04 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 12, 2022 at 10:34 PM Len Nunez <

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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Sincerely,
Ms. Len Nunez

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Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:05 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 10:04 AM Stacey Scriven

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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Sincerely,
Miss Stacey Scriven

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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:06 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 11:50 AM Jane Moorhead

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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Sincerely,
Dr. Jane Moorhead

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City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:06 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

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On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 12:10 PM Anita Yott

wrote:

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:06 PM

To:

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On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 12:14 PM paula thompson <

wrote:

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I respectfully request that the pony ride contract be canceled rather than renewed. Please undertake a study to consider alternative proposals that are generated from a non-animal model for the site that would engage children and families. Lastly, I urge you to send all of the animals to a sanctuary, which advocates have already arranged and confirmed.

Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
paula thompson

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 16, 2022 at 12:06 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 1:08 PM Ulrich Spauschus

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Mr. Ulrich Spauschus

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:52 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 4:02 PM Vanessa Rodrigues <

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Miss Vanessa Rodrigues

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:52 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 4:06 PM Edward Rengers

wrote:

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Sincerely,
Edward Rengers

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:52 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 4:08 PM PATRICIA PICKERING <

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Ms. PATRICIA PICKERING

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re:

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:52 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 4:22 PM Christina Downing

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners,

I am contacting you again in regards to The Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo. The animals are suffering and the horses and ponies are forced to work in extreme heat. It's 2022 and using animals for entertainment is archaic and has no place in a progressive city like Los Angeles. Please consider cancelling the contract and replacing the pony rides and petting zoo with non animal related entertainment. Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Sincerely,

Christina Downing

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:52 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 4:51 PM Annie Newman

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Annie Newman

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Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:53 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 5:10 PM Monnie Levin <

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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Sincerely,
Ms. Monnie Levin

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: elderly ponies working in excessive heat in Griffith Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:53 AM

To:

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On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 5:16 PM Carrie Coppernoll

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

How about a lovely carousel, with a dedication that LA does not want to promote any activity which could harm living beings?

I think that would be beautiful. Take a look at the sad ponies, and please consider an alternative.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carrie Coppernoll

Sent from my iPhone

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Shameful

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:53 AM

To: ginny

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 5:47 PM ginny <

wrote:

To Whom It May Concern,

There has been a strong effort from animal activists to urge you to take action for the neglected and abused ponies who are enslaved and overworked at the pony ride in Griffith Park. Now we've got temperatures over 90° - it's certainly only going to get hotter - and among them are elderly ponies, worked too many hours, with not enough breaks or time in the shade with water. I am literally begging you to shut this down. If the city doesn't step in to stop this, it's the equivalent of condoning animal cruelty. I look forward to your response.

Your constituent,
Ginny Rankin

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:53 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 7:31 PM Christine Hood <

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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Sincerely,
Ms. Christine Hood

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City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:54 AM

To:

Good Morning,

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On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 8:31 PM Susan Armistead

wrote:

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Sincerely,
Dr. Susan Armistead

--
City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To:

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:54 AM

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On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 8:48 PM Pamela Rogers

wrote:

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Ms. Pamela Rogers

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To:

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:54 AM

Good Morning,

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On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 9:13 PM K. Youmans

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles visitor who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

For five years, your agency has passed inspection reports for the concession, while the owner Stephen Weeks has been breaking California Health and Safety Code 25998. Elderly ponies and horses at Griffith Park Pony Rides have documented depression. Spot the pony has lameness, yet is forced to carry people on his back.

Recently an overweight sheep was in distress with no worker attending to her needs, and many horses and ponies were itching due to their halters, which appear to be on all the time. Elderly ponies and horses were also seen being hit and chased for almost eight and half hours on the weekend.

No amount of improvement will ensure that these animals are not suffering from depression. Independent equine expert Rachael Sacher DVM, CVA reported elderly ponies working with saddle sores, elderly ponies with no dental treatment, no identification methods for any of the animals, and an elderly pony with a fever undetected by this concession while your department and Stephen Weeks make millions off the backs of these elderly ponies. Griffith Park Pony Rides pays Recreation and Parks a revenue-sharing fee of 25 percent of their gross income, and I oppose city funds generated from animal abuse.

Pony rides exploit animals for amusement and profit. This practice teaches children the wrong lessons about animals as objects for amusement instead of appreciating our animal neighbors as sentient beings.

This concession also poses a risk to children. Last year, a child was reportedly dragged by a pony after her saddle slipped, and the pony continued dragging her body because the pony was spooked.

I respectfully request that the pony ride contract be canceled rather than renewed. Please undertake a study to consider alternative proposals that are generated from a non-animal model for the site that would engage children and families. Lastly, I urge you to send all of the animals to a sanctuary, which advocates have already arranged and confirmed.

Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Ms. K. Youmans

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please cancel contract for Griffith Park Pony, and ban pony rides!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:54 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sat, May 14, 2022 at 4:36 AM Sunshine Pandolfelli

wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers, Commissioners, and Michael Shull,

Last weekend a sheep was seen dealing with heat stress, seen here: <https://youtu.be/N6pdEKL3NAI>

and a few weeks before elderly ponies were providing rides in 98 F, seen here: <https://youtu.be/qqT0nS9Tjmg>

The elderly ponies at this park need to be retired, not forced to work in their senior years: <https://youtu.be/mhUjZttu6jk>

Standards and polices don't need to be applied to those who care because they exceed them. Stephen Weeks doesn't fall into this category, and no amount of improvement to this facility can make it right.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We are kind. We are compassionate. We are the mecca of animal welfare polices that the rest of the nation follow.

Please shut down this park, replace the park with a non-animal model, send the animals to a sanctuary, and ban pony rides. Thank you.

--

City of Los Angeles
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Telephone: (213) 202-2640
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Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:55 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sat, May 14, 2022 at 2:15 PM Sarah Burke

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

For five years, your agency has passed inspection reports for the concession, while the owner Stephen Weeks has been breaking California Health and Safety Code 25998. Elderly ponies and horses at Griffith Park Pony Rides have documented depression. Spot the pony has lameness, yet is forced to carry people on his back.

Recently an overweight sheep was in distress with no worker attending to her needs, and many horses and ponies were itching due to their halters, which appear to be on all the time. Elderly ponies and horses were also seen being hit and chased for almost eight and half hours on the weekend.

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Sarah Burke

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:55 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sat, May 14, 2022 at 6:50 PM Deanna LaBella

wrote:

Greetings,

I am reaching out to inquire about the pony rides at the above venue. The animals are older, and abused in the way that they are denied shade and water and working in 91 degree weather. This is unacceptable. The days of animal exploitation for entertainment are quickly dwindling. Please be part of the progress not part of the antiquated problem. Having children ride animals that are subjected to these conditions, and in the shape they are in, puts the kids in jeopardy. There is plenty of documentation of animals fighting back and kids flying.

Thank you,

Deanna LaBella

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please cancel contract for Griffith Park Pony, and ban pony rides!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:55 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sun, May 15, 2022 at 12:30 AM Anitra <

> wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers, Commissioners, and Michael Shull,

On May 8th this brown elderly pony collapsed and had to be taken back to the barn seen here: <https://youtube.com/shorts/0zByzCIIF34?feature=share>

Moments later an elderly pony jumped over the track, and started to run, seen here: <https://youtu.be/STHYZFGCy4A>

Standards and policies don't need to be applied to those who care because they exceed them. Stephen Weeks doesn't fall into this category, and no amount of improvement to this facility can make it right.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We are kind. We are compassionate. We are the mecca of animal welfare policies that the rest of the nation follow.

Please shut down this park, replace the park with a non-animal model, send the animals to a sanctuary, and please ban pony rides. Thank you.

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:55 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sun, May 15, 2022 at 3:57 AM Christina Wenig <

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

For five years, your agency has passed inspection reports for the concession, while the owner Stephen Weeks has been breaking California Health and Safety Code 25998. Elderly ponies and horses at Griffith Park Pony Rides have documented depression. Spot the pony has lameness, yet is forced to carry people on his back.

Recently an overweight sheep was in distress with no worker attending to her needs, and many horses and ponies were itching due to their halters, which appear to be on all the time. Elderly ponies and horses were also seen being hit and chased for almost eight and half hours on the weekend.

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Sincerely,
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park and Pony Ride

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:55 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sun, May 15, 2022 at 7:29 AM karen elger wrote:

Dear Los Angeles Commissioners,

Please cancel Griffith Park and Pony Rides contract.

A business that exploits and abuses animals and puts children at risk should not be allowed to continue.

Thankyou.

Sent from my iPhone

--

City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:56 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sun, May 15, 2022 at 7:38 AM Monnie Levin <

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Ms. Monnie Levin

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:56 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sun, May 15, 2022 at 10:06 AM Liz Heselton

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Ms. Liz Heselton

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:56 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sun, May 15, 2022 at 1:51 PM Anne Bekkers

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Anne Bekkers

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:56 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sun, May 15, 2022 at 5:16 PM Lianna Philip <

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Miss Lianna Philip

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:57 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sun, May 15, 2022 at 8:16 PM Stephanie Murphy <

wrote:

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Sincerely,
Mrs. Stephanie Murphy

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

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Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:57 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Mon, May 16, 2022 at 2:51 AM Christina Wenig

wrote:

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Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:57 AM

To: I

Good Morning,

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On Mon, May 16, 2022 at 1:30 PM Cheryl Brown

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

For five years, your agency has passed inspection reports for the concession, while the owner Stephen Weeks has been breaking California Health and Safety Code 25998. Elderly ponies and horses at Griffith Park Pony Rides have documented depression. Spot the pony has lameness, yet is forced to carry people on his back.

Recently an overweight sheep was in distress with no worker attending to her needs, and many horses and ponies were itching due to their halters, which appear to be on all the time. Elderly ponies and horses were also seen being hit and chased for almost eight and half hours on the weekend.

No amount of improvement will ensure that these animals are not suffering from depression. Independent equine expert Rachael Sacher DVM, CVA reported elderly ponies working with saddle sores, elderly ponies with no dental treatment, no identification methods for any of the animals, and an elderly pony with a fever undetected by this concession while your department and Stephen Weeks make millions off the backs of these elderly ponies. Griffith Park Pony Rides pays Recreation and Parks a revenue-sharing fee of 25 percent of their gross income, and as a Los Angeles constituent, I oppose city funds generated from animal abuse.

Pony rides exploit animals for amusement and profit. This practice teaches children the wrong lessons about animals as objects for amusement instead of appreciating our animal neighbors as sentient beings.

This concession also poses a risk to children. Last year, a child was reportedly dragged by a pony after her saddle slipped, and the pony continued dragging her body because the pony was spooked.

I respectfully request that the pony ride contract be canceled rather than renewed. Please undertake a study to consider alternative proposals that are generated from a non-animal model for the site that would engage children and families. Lastly, I urge you to send all of the animals to a sanctuary, which advocates have already arranged and confirmed.

Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Cheryl Brown

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:57 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Mon, May 16, 2022 at 2:05 PM PANY KONSTANTINIDOU

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
PANY KONSTANTINIDOU

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 17, 2022 at 9:00 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Tue, May 17, 2022 at 1:52 AM Suzanne Rogers

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Suzanne Rogers

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Protecting Griffith Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 6:16 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Tue, May 17, 2022 at 4:54 PM Tim Christian <

wrote:

Dear City Officials and Aerial Tram Consultants:

I am writing to you to strongly oppose all aspects of the proposed aerial tram in Griffith Park.

Griffith Park is one of the largest urban parks in North America, and arguably one of the wildest.

While some development exists around the outskirts of the park, the center is relatively untouched, and remains a haven for both hikers and wildlife alike, including the famous mountain lion P-22.

An aerial tram cutting across two miles through the middle of the park, with a viewing platform on Mount Lee near the Hollywood Sign would permanently scar this unique, urban wilderness. Wildlife patterns would be altered and native habitat destroyed forever.

The construction of such a colossal structure would mean long term closures of many hiking trails and areas within the Park and will be a disruption for the Angelenos who use the park daily.

In 1896, Colonel Griffith donated the Park to all citizens of Los Angeles as "a place of recreation and rest for the masses." An amusement park ride speeding above the heads of hikers and equestrians would certainly dishonor Griffith's noble intentions. Furthermore, by creating a ticketed-only attraction, this aerial tram would create an injustice to this space intended for use by all Angelenos, not just those who can afford it. In January, 2009, Griffith Park was designated Historic-Cultural Monument #942, creating the "largest urban wilderness park in the United States." The designation stipulated that "large portions of this landscape appear to retain integrity dating back to the period of the Gabrielino Indians."

Will you allow an aerial tram to defile this hard-won monument status?

The [Vision for Griffith Park](#) signed by Mayor Garcetti in 2014, clearly calls for preservation of wildlife, wildlife corridors, native species and park biodiversity. And on page 70, it unequivocally states, "At this time, there is no clearly identified need for new recreational rides, such as railroads, aerial tramways or funiculars." That seems crystal clear.

It is for these reasons that I oppose an aerial tram in Griffith Park and urge you to stop its development now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Tim Christian



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 6:18 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Wed, May 18, 2022 at 5:47 AM Bernadette Dra

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Miss Bernadette Dra

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 6:22 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Wed, May 18, 2022 at 10:39 AM Bryan Obi-Wan <

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Mr. Bryan Obi-Wan

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 6:24 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Wed, May 18, 2022 at 1:25 PM Janet Bennett

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Mrs. Janet Bennett

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 6:26 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Wed, May 18, 2022 at 3:02 PM Annie Newman

wrote:

Thank you for notifying me.

Annie Newman

On Tue, May 17, 2022 at 8:53 AM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 4:51 PM Annie Newman <

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,

Annie Newman

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

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Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 7:23 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Wed, May 18, 2022 at 9:05 PM K. Youmans

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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Sincerely,
Ms. K. Youmans

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 7:24 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 19, 2022 at 7:14 AM Sarah Burke

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Sarah Burke

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 7:24 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 19, 2022 at 8:33 AM Rosaleen CRYER

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Rosaleen CRYER

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 7:47 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 19, 2022 at 12:42 PM Missy Kendrick

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

For five years, your agency has passed inspection reports for the concession, while the owner Stephen Weeks has been breaking California Health and Safety Code 25998. Elderly ponies and horses at Griffith Park Pony Rides have documented depression. Spot the pony has lameness, yet is forced to carry people on his back.

Recently an overweight sheep was in distress with no worker attending to her needs, and many horses and ponies were itching due to their halters, which appear to be on all the time. Elderly ponies and horses were also seen being hit and chased for almost eight and half hours on the weekend.

No amount of improvement will ensure that these animals are not suffering from depression. Independent equine expert Rachael Sacher DVM, CVA reported elderly ponies working with saddle sores, elderly ponies with no dental treatment, no identification methods for any of the animals, and an elderly pony with a fever undetected by this concession while your department and Stephen Weeks make millions off the backs of these elderly ponies. Griffith Park Pony Rides pays Recreation and Parks a revenue-sharing fee of 25 percent of their gross income, and as a Los Angeles constituent, I oppose city funds generated from animal abuse.

Pony rides exploit animals for amusement and profit. This practice teaches children the wrong lessons about animals as objects for amusement instead of appreciating our animal neighbors as sentient beings.

This concession also poses a risk to children. Last year, a child was reportedly dragged by a pony after her saddle slipped, and the pony continued dragging her body because the pony was spooked.

I respectfully request that the pony ride contract be canceled rather than renewed. Please undertake a study to consider alternative proposals that are generated from a non-animal model for the site that would engage children and families. Lastly, I urge you to send all of the animals to a sanctuary, which advocates have already arranged and confirmed.

Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Ms. Missy Kendrick

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 7:47 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 19, 2022 at 1:26 PM Ingrid Carp <

> wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Ms. Ingrid Carp

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 8:32 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 19, 2022 at 7:08 PM Jill Suttle

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Ms. Jill Suttle

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 8:32 AM

To:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 20, 2022 at 1:02 AM Bronwyn Evans

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Bronwyn Evans

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:19 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 20, 2022 at 12:26 PM Marina Ris

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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Sincerely,
Mrs. Marina Ris

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:20 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 20, 2022 at 1:38 PM Fran gallante

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Ms. Fran gallante

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:20 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 20, 2022 at 1:39 PM Bev Warren

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,
Bev Warren

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffin Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:20 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 20, 2022 at 2:14 PM Felice Howard

wrote:

Hello,

This outfit is working older ponies in hot weather (91 degrees) and that's just cruel. How are they allowed to stay open??

Felice Howard

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:31 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 20, 2022 at 2:58 PM hazel Fiore

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary. This is not a happy site Does Pony Park ride and petting zoo this is a torture chamber the public demands to Stop this immediately No more petting zoos and pony torture rides

For five years, your agency has passed inspection reports for the concession, while the owner Stephen Weeks has been breaking California Health and Safety Code 25998. Elderly ponies and horses at Griffith Park Pony Rides have documented depression. Spot the pony has lameness, yet is forced to carry people on his back.

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Sincerely,
Mrs. hazel Fiore

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:32 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 20, 2022 at 5:41 PM Pearl Braganza

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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Sincerely,
Mrs. Pearl Braganza

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:33 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 20, 2022 at 7:56 PM Jelica Roland

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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Sincerely,
Ms. Jelica Roland

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:33 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

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On Sat, May 21, 2022 at 11:58 AM Paula Beck

wrote:

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Sincerely,
Mrs. Paula Beck
110 Tusslewood Drive Calgary, AB T3L 2V2

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

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Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:33 PM

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On Sun, May 22, 2022 at 10:14 AM Maurice Grefe <

> wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

For five years, your agency has passed inspection reports for the concession, while the owner Stephen Weeks has been breaking California Health and Safety Code 25998. Elderly ponies and horses at Griffith Park Pony Rides have documented depression. Spot the pony has lameness, yet is forced to carry people on his back.

Recently an overweight sheep was in distress with no worker attending to her needs, and many horses and ponies were itching due to their halters, which appear to be on all the time. Elderly ponies and horses were also seen being hit and chased for almost eight and half hours on the weekend.

No amount of improvement will ensure that these animals are not suffering from depression. Independent equine expert Rachael Sacher DVM, CVA reported elderly ponies working with saddle sores, elderly ponies with no dental treatment, no identification methods for any of the animals, and an elderly pony with a fever undetected by this concession while your department and Stephen Weeks make millions off the backs of these elderly ponies. Griffith Park Pony Rides pays Recreation and Parks a revenue-sharing fee of 25 percent of their gross income, and as a Los Angeles constituent, I oppose city funds generated from animal abuse.

Pony rides exploit animals for amusement and profit. This practice teaches children the wrong lessons about animals as objects for amusement instead of appreciating our animal neighbors as sentient beings.

This concession also poses a risk to children. Last year, a child was reportedly dragged by a pony after her saddle slipped, and the pony continued dragging her body because the pony was spooked.

I respectfully request that the pony ride contract be canceled rather than renewed. Please undertake a study to consider alternative proposals that are generated from a non-animal model for the site that would engage children and families. Lastly, I urge you to send all of the animals to a sanctuary, which advocates have already arranged and confirmed.

Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Mr Maurice Grefe

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:33 PM

To:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sun, May 22, 2022 at 2:16 PM Mary Murray <

> wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
ms Mary Murray

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Cancel the Contract: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To:

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:34 PM

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sun, May 22, 2022 at 2:49 PM Zoe Hansen <

> wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident who cares about the wellbeing of animals and an In Defense of Animals supporter, I urge you to stop animal suffering in your district by eliminating the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo's contract, replacing Griffith Park with a non-animal model and sending all of the animals to a sanctuary.

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Thank you for considering the well-being of animals in our community. Please make compassionate choices to improve the quality of life for our animal neighbors.

Sincerely,
Zoe Hansen

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park/Request for cleanup of parking lots and enforcement in parking lots

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston <

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 6:23 AM

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Wed, May 18, 2022 at 11:25 AM Debra Huston <

> wrote:

Dear Council Member Bonin, NCWP President Paula Gerez, Mr. Shull, Mr. Royster, Mr. Kim, and Ms. Austin,

Members of our community have reached out to me with complaints about the state of the parking lot that serves the Senior Center in Westchester Park. Concerns include the amount of trash and other items in the parking lot, people sleeping in the parking lot (not in vehicles), and the increasing number of vehicles used as dwellings in the lot, which likely results from enforcement in other areas.

I drove through the lot this morning and was shocked at what I saw. I was at the parking lot on Sunday and today, just three days later, it was much worse. The white van that was using several handicapped parking spots in front of the Senior Center is now using five handicapped parking spaces. There was a man sleeping on the asphalt in blankets. And the number of vehicles used as dwellings in the parking lot has increased in just the last few days.

These matters are of great concern to our community because we were told by Hannah Levien of Mr. Bonin's office in November, during the Encampments to Home program, that vehicles used as dwellings could not be removed but that trash and other items around vehicles could be removed. At that time, Mr. Bonin's office scheduled a cleanup of the parking lot. Now the parking lot looks worse than it did back in November, and trash surrounds several vehicles in the parking lot. In addition, we were told back in November that vehicles used as dwellings could not be moved from the park, but campers could. Now we have people sleeping on the asphalt of the parking lot and using their vehicles as storage space. (See photos below.)

We were also told by Ms. Levien in November that the reason the vehicles could not be towed was because of a moratorium. That moratorium has now been lifted. (CF 21-0956.)

We request the following:

- That Mr. Bonin's office notice and conduct a cleanup of the parking lot that serves the Senior Center on at least a weekly basis.

- Mr. Bonin's office authorize LADOT immediately to begin enforcement and tow vehicles in the parking lots of the park that meet one of the five criteria specified in the LADOT report of February 23, 2022, which was adopted by the City Council. (https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2021/21-0956_rpt_DOT_02-23-22.pdf) Those criteria, as set forth in this report, include:

1. Vehicles that present a traffic safety hazard. Traffic safety hazard violations include blocked traffic lanes, walkways, fire hydrants, driveways, anti-gridlock/peak hour zones, and stolen vehicles. These vehicles commonly fall within the Community Caretaking Exception as defined in California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 22650, and shall be removed immediately.

2. Vehicles that pose an environmental or public health hazard. Vehicles that create an environmental or public health hazard through the repeated excess accumulation of trash, debris or discharge of biohazard waste as documented by three (3) or more service call responses from the Department of Sanitation to mitigate this hazard may be towed. Similarly, vehicles that have been extensively destroyed, burned, or present a threat to environmentally sensitive habitats may be towed. LADOT will provide sufficient notice of pending enforcement action in those instances when the vehicle's owner is present, and LADOT will initiate and document engagement with homeless services providers prior to removal.

3. Vehicles that interfere with public works projects or special events. LADOT posts Temporary No Parking Tow Away signs to alert motorists of future construction activity, street resurfacing projects, or major public events such as parades, street fairs, marathon, etc., in which vehicles interfere with the ability to complete or safely conduct this activity. LADOT will cite and impound vehicles that remain on the street in violation of posted temporary signs.

4. Inoperable vehicles. Vehicles that cannot be safely or reasonably operated, such as vehicles that are clearly disabled, missing engine, windshield, tires, or other components critical to operating a vehicle will be removed after an officer provides sufficient notice to the owner/occupant.

5. Unregistered vehicles. Vehicles that are not registered may not lawfully operate on City streets and may be subject to tow following sufficient notice to the owner/occupant.

Many vehicles in the parking lot that serves the Senior Center meet one or more of the above criteria. We ask that enforcement begin immediately.

- As for vehicles that do not meet one of the above criteria, we request that outreach begin immediately so enforcement may follow.

Mr. Bonin, we believe you have the staff and authority to find parking lots in the City that do not include parks where people living in vehicles may park. A park is not an appropriate place for this use.

We formally request a meeting with you or your staff, Mr. Bonin, if there is any reason you believe you cannot do what we have asked.

Debra Huston

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Balboa Park Watering the. Soccer fields during the day

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, May 25, 2022 at 9:38 AM

To: Scott Opheim < >

Good morning,

Your email was forwarded to staff. Please see response.

We will readjust the timer.

Thank you for bringing it to our attention

On Wed, May 25, 2022 at 7:41 AM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Mon, May 16, 2022 at 4:40 PM Scott Opheim < > wrote:

Hi,

I just drove the the soccer fields next to balboa avenue and the sprinklers were on at 4:00 pm. Watering during the day os wasteful because midday is when water evaporates the quickest. Please adjust the sprinklers to only water in the early morning or at night

Thanks,

Scott Opheim

C:

--
City of Los Angeles
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--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: SUPPORT - Wings of Mexico/ Los Feliz NC

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Tue, May 24, 2022 at 2:21 PM
 To: Jon Deutsch <>
 Cc: Anthony-Paul Diaz <ap.diaz@lacity.org>, Dan McNamara <>, Misty LeGrande <>
 <>, Amanda Blide <>

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email

On Thu, May 19, 2022 at 5:35 PM Jon Deutsch <> wrote:

Dear Hon. Commissioners,

Attached please find a letter of support for the 'Wings of Mexico' installation at the Griffith Observatory from the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council.

All the Best,

Jon Deutsch

--

Jon Deutsch | President | District B Representative | Los Feliz Neighborhood Council (LFNC) p.o. box 27003 | los angeles | california | | 310.564.6285

--
 City of Los Angeles
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CITY OF LOS ANGELES



TREASURER
Erica Vilardi-Espinosa

VICE PRESIDENT
Misty LeGrande - Communications

PRESIDENT
Jon Deutsch

VICE PRESIDENT
Dan McNamara - Administration

SECRETARY
Amanda Blide

May 17, 2022

Los Angeles Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners
City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
221 N Figueroa Street
Suite 350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Wings of Mexico

Dear Commissioners,

Griffith Observatory is a source of pride for all of Los Angeles, and specifically for stakeholders in the Los Feliz neighborhood. Since 1933, the Observatory has stood as a glittering monument to public science education.

RAP's proposal to install the Wings of Mexico statue in Griffith Park near Griffith Observatory comes 6 years after the work was first accepted by Mayor Eric Garcetti. Despite the statue's lack of site specificity, we trust that RAP executives have carefully considered all possible locations for the Wings of Mexico statue, and that they have determined Griffith Park is the best viable option.

Our board supports the placement of this work in Griffith Park, and hopes this installation will inspire future public art in Los Feliz and around our city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Deutsch". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Jon Deutsch, President
Los Feliz Neighborhood Council

By:
Brian Morrison
Co-Chair
LFNC Cultural Affairs Committee

cc: Diaz, AP (RAP)



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GRAFFITI CD1 LA 90065

1 message

Garcia Incareal <incareal@juno.com>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 11:22 AM

To:

yovonte.robinson@lacity.org

MAY 23

Council member Gill Cedillo

The Sycamore Grove Park has graffiti

Attach picture

Mauro Garcia



PARK GRAFFITI 5-23-22.JPG

3055K



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GRAFFITI CD1 LA 90065

1 message

Bill Cody <bill.cody@lacity.org>
To: Garcia IncaREAL <

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 12:23 PM

ovonte.robinson@lacity.org

Has been reported.

On Mon, May 23, 2022 at 11:23 AM Garcia IncaREAL <

> wrote:

MAY 23

Council member Gill Cedillo

The Sycamore Grove Park has graffiti

Attach picture

Mauro Garcia

--

Bill Cody

Senior Field Deputy Office of Gil Cedillo - CD1

Highland Park, Mt. Washington, Montecito Heights, Glassell Park

bill.cody@lacity.org

323-550-1538 (o)



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Use of City Basketball Gym by Regular Citizens

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Enrique Alcala <

Wed, May 25, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and appropriate staff. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Tue, May 24, 2022 at 4:20 PM Enrique Alcala <

> wrote:

To Whom It May Concern:

I recently submitted paperwork for a Permit to resume our use of a City Basketball Gym after stopping during Covid. Prior to Covid, we had been playing basketball on Sundays for 20 years plus. We are a group of regular citizens who pitch in and pay the City fee for use of the gym. We are not a league or a Professional organization of any sort. We just prefer to play indoors versus using the outdoor courts because we are older in age and can't compete with the young kids who play in the outdoor courts.

However, despite the permit being approved, I was contacted that we need insurance for the following reasons:

"...the City cannot take on liability caused by independent actions by the permittee including any equipment brought onsite by the permittee, actions by the permittee including instructions and/or methods how the basketball court is used, or the actions of any subcontractors (as applicable). This is the reason for the insurance requirement."

I am perplexed as to the insurance requirement. We are just regular citizens using a City basketball gym for basketball purposes. We don't bring in outside equipment to play nor do we use the gym for any other purpose other than to play basketball. We use the floor, backboard, rim, and net that the gym already has so no outside equipment is required.

Lastly, there are no subcontractors. It's just regular citizens of the City of LA paying to use the gym and we all pitch in for the fee that the City charges for use of the gym and for having an employee present. I'm just the person who filled out the paperwork to simplify the process and to provide one person as the main point of contact as we have been doing for the last 20 years or so.

Question: Are parents required to provide insurance before letting children play on the City jungle gym at the park? Children run, jump, crawl, climb, rough play, etc...It seems that in general, the City takes on that general liability by merely building things at a park for citizens to use and usually governmental entities are self insured for said purposes. I know this because I am a retired government worker and have worked for both a City government and the State of CA.

Additionally, is insurance required by those using the outdoor courts where the surface is harder and exposed to the elements? I'm pretty sure no insurance is required and thus, playing indoors is much safer.

Usually insurance is required by a private organization who acts/runs more like a business and charges money to be part of a league or that organization and then they use the facility for that purpose. In our case, we are just regular citizens who pitch in so we can use the indoor basketball court versus the outdoor court because of our age.

As previously mentioned, we are not a league or a professional organization. We are just regular citizens who pitch in to use the gym. Why did the City build a basketball gym if it wasn't meant to be used by regular citizens?

I strongly believe that we don't fall under an insurance requirement because we do not bring any outside equipment, we use the basketball court for only basketball purposes-nothing else, and there are no subcontractors, which are your reasons given to me by a City employee for insurance requirements. As stated above, we don't fall under any of the aforementioned categories.

Please consider all of the above and I hope that after your review, you will concur that any additional insurance is not required to use a City Basketball gym by regular citizens.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Enrique Alcala
56 year old Permittee Applicant

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Statement for 5/19 RAP Board Meeting

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 7:25 AM

To: Marcy Valley <

>

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 19, 2022 at 10:12 AM Marcy Valley <

> wrote:

I was not able to speak at today's meeting due to technical difficulties, so the statement I intended to make is below.

Please forward to all commissioners:

Hello. I'm Marcy Valley. I am the Rancho Park Golf Course Representative on LA's Golf Advisory Committee.

I spoke to you 2 weeks ago about Rancho golfers' concerns about the lack of progress on remodeling the Rancho Clubhouse.

At the end of that board meeting, Commissioner Chase requested a status report on the Rancho remodel at the next Commissions Task Force meeting. That should have been this morning. It was cancelled.

In the last 2 weeks, we've learned that on April 27, the concessionaire submitted a 30-day notice of intent to withdraw from the contract; but that they are still negotiating. Does that mean that we are just waiting for May 27 for the axe to fall?

We've been told that the issues are asbestos and lead. The need to redo the electrical system from the street in has also been mentioned. I'm not a lawyer, but I have read MANY pages of the contract, and it seems clear to me that asbestos removal and the electrical system external to the clubhouse are the responsibility of the city. The concessionaire signed a contract to remodel the clubhouse, not to restore it.

I would like to remind the board and members of the public, that the Golf Division makes a profit, and they give about 80% of it to RAP to use on other projects. It has been more than \$8 million per year. Rancho Park is the most profitable of the city courses. This does not include the money the concessionaires pay for the right to run the concessions.

It is time for the city to act in its best interest to protect its income from the Golf Division and concessionaires, and step up to their responsibilities in the preservation and remodel of the Rancho clubhouse, which is a historically significant building.

I urge the RAP board to do everything in its power to bring these negotiations to a successful conclusion so that progress on the remodel can resume within a few weeks.

By the way, the GAC supports the Golf Division's revised
Tournament Policy.

--

City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Public Comment (Technical Problems with Today's Meeting)

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 7:42 AM

To: Lisa GAINES <

>

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, May 19, 2022 at 11:32 AM Lisa GAINES <

> wrote:

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I am Lisa Gaines, a resident of Westchester and mother of three. I tried to call in but for some reason was not called upon.

Westchester Park now has 25 fenced off spaces for a Safe Parking program that is underused. It is the only Safe Parking program in a City Park in the entire city. The CAO determined a Safe Parking program is not feasible in Westchester Park because the park is heavily used and the parking is needed by park users: children, teens, seniors and families.

We ask that RAP deny any request for a permit to continue or expand the Safe Parking program in the park.

We also have approximately 20 vehicle dwellers in the park, some which are surrounded by their trash, many bulky, large other items and take up several parking spaces each. To be clear, they park wherever they please, blocking needed handicapped spaces. This prevents seniors and handicapped children from accessing the Senior Center and the Library. Many vehicle dwellers are aggressive. Let's be clear: there are campers living around the Senior Center.

This presents safety issues for park users, and many people are afraid to use the public park. The park should be a safe place for the entire community, and not for just a few.

Therefore, we also ask that RAP begin enforcement in the parking lots of the park now that the moratorium imposed by the City Council has been lifted.

We further ask that RAP, in conjunction with LAPD, step up enforcement to prohibit camping around the Senior Center, Library and in other areas of the park.

Thank you.

Lisa Gaines

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pershing Square Phase 1

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: "Dr. Jeff Creely" <

>

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Wed, May 18, 2022 at 5:23 PM Dr. Jeff Creely <

> wrote:

Hello,

I'm a clinical psychologist and business owner with a private practice in DTLA. I use Pershing Square every weekday. Pershing Square is a broken space and much of the park is unpleasant. I was excited in 2015 when the plans for Agence Ter were announced as the winner of the design competition for the park revamp. I've been eagerly awaiting for construction to begin.

However, I recently saw the plans for the Pershing Square Phase 1 design.

This is horrible. These plans are nothing like the design by Agence Ter. The park is still cut off on three sides by parking ramps, most of the space is hardscape, and the only significant change is that one wants this. Please don't do this.

People who live and work in DTLA just want a park with some grass, shade trees, and benches and something we don't have to climb over car ramps to access. We would rather you save the 25 million dollars on "improvements" that do nothing to address our concerns.

To whomever is in charge of the approval of the project phase 1, please reject it. This is nonsense. We don't want this. I am so extremely disappointed. As is everyone else who has become

<https://la.urbanize.city/post/first-phase-pershing-square-revamp-now-permit-ready>

I would willingly pay an increase in my business taxes to see this space delivered as advertised.

I'm sorry for the tone of this email but I'm genuinely shocked. This feels like an abuse of the trust your constituents put in the department of recreation and parks to deliver on their promises

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Creely

--

James E.C. Creely, Ph.D. (Jeff)

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of this original message. In addition, e-mails are not secure; third parties might intercept confidential information. Therefore, do not send any information via e-mail that you consider confidential or medical in nature.

--
City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Agenda Item 22-119: Nora Ross Bandshell

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, May 20, 2022 at 6:25 AM

To: Jeff Jacobberger <

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Wed, May 18, 2022 at 2:38 PM Jeff Jacobberger <

> wrote:

Attached please find three letters our office received in support of the renaming of the Nora Ross Bandshell.

Thanks!

Jeff

Jeff Jacobberger, Legislative Director

He/Him/His

Office of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield

Los Angeles City Council, Third District

200 N. Spring St., Room 465, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Serving the San Fernando Valley Communities of Canoga Park, Reseda, Tarzana, Winnetka, & Woodland Hills.

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City of Los Angeles

Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

Figueroa Plaza

221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640

Fax: (213) 202-2610

Mail Stop: 625/15

Website: www.laparks.org

May 13, 2022

SUBJECT LINE: Request to Designate "Nora Ross Bandshell" in Warner Ranch Park

Dear Commissioners:

As Nora Ross' niece, I have known her for my entire life and since day one, she always put others first. Growing up with my two cousins, Nora always made me feel like I was part of her immediate family and treated me as her youngest daughter. When my mom passed away when I was ten years old, Nora stepped in to make sure I always had what I needed – from my education to the right pair of shoes for important events. She was my biggest cheerleader!

Nora always made sure everyone felt welcomed wherever she went – especially the Concerts in the Park at Warner Ranch Park. The park was her home away from home; some would even say it was more of a home than her actual house. She created a space for the Community to come together, enjoy music & forget their worries, even just for a few hours. Nora loved bringing the arts for everyone to enjoy and even in the midst of the Pandemic, she created a virtual space for people to listen right from their couch.

I strongly urge the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners to officially designate bandshell portion of the performing arts pavilion at the Warner Ranch Park in Woodland Hills as the "Nora Ross Bandshell" in honor of a visionary long-term leader of the Valley Cultural Foundation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Erica
Erica Chait

May 12, 2022

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Dear Commissioners:

I strongly urge the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners to officially designate bandshell portion of the performing arts pavilion at the Warner Ranch Park in Woodland Hills as the "Nora Ross Bandshell" in honor of a visionary long-term leader of the Valley Cultural Foundation.

Ms. Ross joined the Valley Cultural Foundation (VCF) in 2013, ultimately taking on the role of CEO. The VCF has provided free Sunday concerts in Warner Ranch Park since 1975. During her time at VCF, Nora not only continued those concerts, which provide an important community gathering place, but expanded VCF's reach in the park and beyond, across the entire San Fernando Valley. Many of her efforts focused on providing opportunities for local and emerging musical talent from the Valley.

Nora expanded the VCF's programming in Warner Ranch Park beyond the traditional Sunday evening concerts. At the Sunday concerts, she set aside time for local artists to perform before the headliners. VCF now hosts movie nights for families every Saturday night during the summer. Nora created "Rock the Valley" Battle of the Bands, to showcase emerging artists; in the fall, she brought artists and supporters together for a reception in the bandshell; and in the winter, she created a winter festival for families to enjoy the snow and other festivities.

Above all that, Nora went out of her way to help other community organizations by serving as a host for them to use Warner Ranch Park, the Lou Bredlow Pavilion, and VCF's resources for events to support their causes.

Under Nora's leadership, the VCF expanded beyond the park, establishing programs including Pop-up Park Art, which brings concerts to other parks throughout the San Fernando Valley; Bands, creating Emerging Artist Albums; holding a Music on the Move 5K Run to support VCF's Children's Programs; providing School Art program grants; and starting a Podcast series known as Arts on the Move. In 2017, VCF began presenting NoHo Summer Nights at the North Hollywood Recreation Center.

During the COVID pandemic, Nora stewarded VCF through financial straits while still finding a way to bring music and the arts to the community through virtual Concerts on the Couch, and hosting Drive-Up Movies.

Nora began serving the West San Fernando Valley community in 2006 when she became the Executive Director of the Canoga Park – West Hills Chamber of Commerce. While with the chamber, she led the effort to revitalize the small businesses in the community with the growth of a Memorial Day Parade, Dia de los Muertos, and St. Patrick's Day events.



In addition to her roles with the Valley Cultural Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce, Nora has been a caretaker, advisor, and advocate to and for many causes. She has sought out ways to bring organizations with similar missions together to create larger events. She has also continued to be a voice advocating on behalf of small businesses through the United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley.

Nora's dedication to the arts—especially in giving young artists space to emerge—has created a lasting legacy in the West Valley and at Warner Ranch Park. That legacy deserves to be memorialized through the formal designation of the “Nora Ross Bandshell” within the Lou Bredlow Pavilion.

[If you wish, add a personal story about Nora].

Nora dedicated her life to her community and trail blazed some of the most memorable events held at Warner Ranch Park and beyond. She sought out dedicated volunteers who then became employees, Board Members, and our VCF family. She navigated through some of life's toughest paths and always found the time and energy to give back. We are forever grateful for her determination and guidance.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

May 12, 2022

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Through my personal experience and interactions with VCF, it became clear to me that Nora's energy and dedication were the driving force behind building VCF into what it is today. She was our band's main point of contact throughout our selection as a performing act there, our preparation, and our eventual performance. It was thanks to her leadership that I became sufficiently interested in VCF to join the board and strive to contribute my time and energy and to attempt to carry on her work in my own small way. Our entire band whole-heartedly recommends renaming the band shell in her memory.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Enoch Davis

Proud VCF Board Member since 2021



Canoga Park • West Hills Chamber of Commerce



May 17th, 2022

Dear Commissioners:

I strongly urge the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners to officially designate the bandshell portion of the performing arts pavilion at the Warner Ranch Park in Woodland Hills as the "Nora Ross Bandshell" in honor of a visionary long-term leader of the Valley Cultural Foundation.

Ms. Ross joined the Valley Cultural Foundation (VCF) in 2013, ultimately taking on the role of CEO. The VCF has provided free Sunday concerts in Warner Ranch Park since 1975. During her time at VCF, Nora not only continued those concerts, which provide an important community gathering place but expanded VCF's reach in the park and beyond, across the entire San Fernando Valley. Many of her efforts focused on providing opportunities for local and emerging musical talent from the Valley.

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Chamber Offices

7248 Owensmouth Avenue, Canoga Park, CA. 91311 • (818) 884-4222

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Canoga Park • West Hills Chamber of Commerce



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I was fortunate enough to have volunteered/worked with Nora since 2008. It was because of her leadership and guidance that I am doing the job I love today. One event that Nora volunteered for was the Dia De Los Muertos festival in Canoga Park, she would start the day at 3:45 am, chalking the street for vendors, and end at 6:30 pm with the last truck leaving. This is one of many examples of her service to the community. I have about 15 different stories like this. Nora stood for Service and Unity in her community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Joellen Ammann
Canoga Park West Hills
Chamber of Commerce
Community Relations



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Safety Issues at Arroyo Seco Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Arroyo Seco <>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:32 PM

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 20, 2022 at 4:21 PM Arroyo Seco
Dear Commissioners,

> wrote:

On behalf of the residents of Highland Park's Arroyo Seco neighborhood, I write to address the deplorable conditions and danger at the Arroyo Seco Park (the "Park"). Since the opening of the Arroyo Seco Tiny Home Village, there has been an increase in drug distribution and sales, public drug consumption, and drug-related disorderly conduct at the Park which directly affects the surrounding neighborhood. Specifically, there has been a substantial increase of individuals purchasing and using drugs at the Park, a significant increase of unhoused persons illegally camping in the Park and the surrounding areas, and numerous illegally parked cars and RVs at and/or around the Park. This has made the Park unsafe and inaccessible to local residents. Additionally, due to unhoused individuals starting fires for warmth, cooking, and/or for other purposes, there is an increased fire danger to residents who live adjacent to the Park.

Unfortunately, The Hope of the Valley employees and/or volunteers who run the Arroyo Seco Tiny Village have not made any attempt to address or diminish the increased danger at the Park. There is no security in or around the Park, and the City of Los Angeles has not increased police patrol or intervention at the Park and the surrounding neighbors to curb the illegal activity and provide a sense of security to the neighborhood. Neighborhood residents have contacted Kevin De Leon and his office regarding these issues and they have not received adequate response or resolution.

We demand that you, the Commissioners, enforce the existing applicable ordinances and laws related to the Park, specifically as they relate to locking of the Park gate at night, impounding illegibly parked cars and RVs at and/or around the Park, and enforcing the ban on illegal camping in the Park.

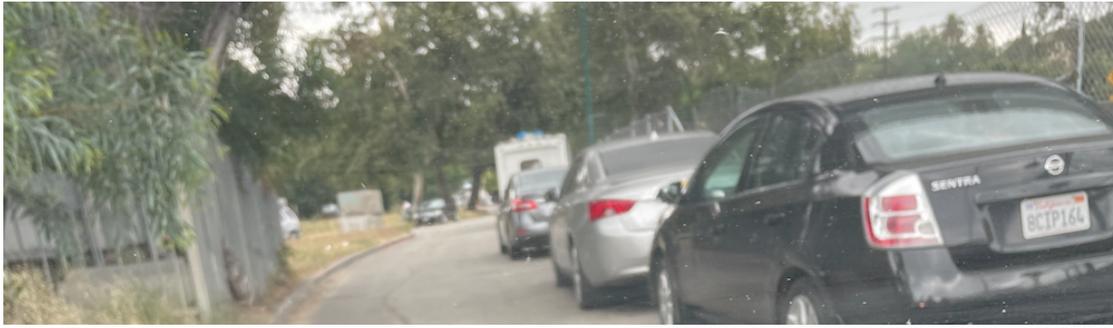
We appreciate your prompt response to the important issue.

Thank you,
Residents of Highland Park's Arroyo Seco neighborhoods

See below for current conditions.









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