

INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

June 16, 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	#9054bqa- #9054buz	Referred to General Manager
2) Concerned citizens of Venice and the Board of the Friends of the Venice Library comments regarding Venice Library Fire	#9134	Referred to General Manager
3) Mauro Garcia comments regarding Sycamore Grove Park	#9135	Referred to General Manager
4) Debra Huston comments regarding Westchester Park security	#9136	Referred to General Manager
5) Lisa Gaines comments regarding Westchester Park security	#9136a	Referred to General Manager
6) Miriam Preissel comments as President of Friends of the Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park	#9137	Referred to General Manager
7) John Baginski comments regarding Centennial Park	#9138	Referred to General Manager
8) Katherine McNenny comments regarding renaming Gladys Park to General Jeff Park	#9139	Referred to General Manager
9) Nina Hirten comments regarding Emergency procedures	#9140	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Carolyn Shannon-Joyner, RAP Commission Office



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 1:34 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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:06 AM Maryline Sandra <

> 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,  
Miss Maryline Sandra

--  
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 ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:34 PM

To: David Tang <

>

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 10:19 AM David Tang <

> wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers, On May 22 nd elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and sheep were seen in distress and overheated. Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony. I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

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City of Los Angeles  
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Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:34 PM

To: mark owen &lt;

&gt;

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 10:33 AM mark owen &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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. Kind regards. Mr M. Owen

--

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:35 PM

To: PAMELA SLATER-PRICE &lt;

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 10:36 AM PAMELA SLATER-PRICE &lt; &gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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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.

*"Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."*  
~ Dr. Seuss

--  
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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:35 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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 10:43 AM SCOTT ABLES &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:35 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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 10:44 AM Shelley Watkins <> wrote:  
Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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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.

Do something! They have no voice!

Thank you,  
Shelley Watkins

Sent from my iPhone

--  
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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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Sent from my iPhone

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:35 PM

To: Susan Hirsch &lt;

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 10:44 AM Susan Hirsch &lt;

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Re: Please ban pony rides!

1 message

---

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:35 PM

To: Jessica Dacher

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 10:58 AM Jessica Dacher < > wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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Jessica Dacher

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

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## Re: Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:36 PM

To: alexandra mccardell &lt;

&gt;

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 10:59 AM alexandra mccardell &lt;

wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

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Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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Sent from my iPhone

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:36 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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 11:03 AM Carolyn Seeman &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers:

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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Carolyn Seeman

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:36 PM

To: Pam Harris

>

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 11:07 AM Pam Harris <

> wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:38 PM

To: emek echo &lt;

&gt;

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 11:11 AM emek echo &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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Emek Echo

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:38 PM

To: Sandra Bell &lt;

&gt;

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 11:12 AM Sandra Bell &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22, depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit and yelled at to go faster. A sheep in the petting zoo was, again, in distress, overheated and breathing very hard.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is unsupervised while riding or interacting with animals. Families are standing in line in the sun for two hours for a short ride, where the child is set on the back of a pony to ride, then taken down, having never even looked that animal in the face or encouraged to say "Thank you". What is that teaching our children? That animals are commodities with no feelings, and they can be used and abused for our short-term amusement, as if they are no different than a tissue we use and throw away. If we want to raise consciousness and compassion in our society, it is important for our leaders to continue to take a stand and lead forward in the right direction, as we have done in the past with banning the circus and rodeos.

I have ideas and suggestions regarding what can replace this concession, which are far more beneficial and enriching for children. while raising even more funds for the city. I will be writing a proposal to present to you soon.

We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to the highest standards. It's time to close down the Griffith Park Pony Ride & Petting Zoo, send the animals to the sanctuaries who have offered to rescue them and ban pony rides in our city.

--

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## Re: Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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To: Kribs for Kritters

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I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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 iPad

--  
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](http://www.laparks.org)



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

---

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:38 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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 11:13 AM ron mcgill &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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Sent from my iPhone

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:38 PM

To: Chris Tarzan Studios &lt;

&gt;

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 11:17 AM Chris Tarzan Studios &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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 &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:39 PM

To: Matt Florin &lt;

&gt;

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 11:24 AM Matt Florin &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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 &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Please ban pony rides! Immediately!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:39 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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 11:34 AM Shelley Conger <> wrote:  
Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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.

Best wishes, Shelley

**Sent from my iPhone.**

--  
City of Los Angeles  
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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

---

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:39 PM

To: "ik.wales" &lt;

&gt;

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 11:40 AM ik.wales <

&gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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.

Imran Khan

Sent from my Galaxy

--

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:40 PM

To: Jeremiah Benjamin &lt;

&gt;

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 11:59 AM Jeremiah Benjamin &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:40 PM

To: anne oliver <

>

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 12:07 PM anne oliver <

> wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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--  
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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:40 PM

To: Nate River &lt;

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 12:20 PM Nate River &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

Please shut down this park, replace the park with a non-animal model, send the animals to a sanctuary, and ban pony rides. BAN THEM OR YOU DON'T CARE.

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

---

## Re: Please ban pony rides!

1 message

---

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:40 PM

To: L Lawliet <

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 12:21 PM L Lawliet <

> wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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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.

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:41 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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 12:21 PM Measuring Cups <

> wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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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.

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

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:41 PM

To: Shawn <

>

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 12:35 PM Shawn <

> wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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

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

---

## Re: Please ban pony rides!

1 message

---

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:41 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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 12:37 PM Tiffany Johnson <  
> wrote:  
Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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Tiffany Stair

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

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:41 PM

To: M P

>

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 12:51 PM M P <

> wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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

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

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:42 PM

To: Anita Butler <

>

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:05 PM Anita Butler <

> wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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.

Regards,  
Anita Butler

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

---

## Re: Please ban pony rides!

1 message

---

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: KURT & ELLEN KRONINGER < >

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:42 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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:22 PM KURT & ELLEN KRONINGER < > wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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.

Kind regards,  
Ellen Kroninger

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

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:56 PM

To: Niccola Gentile <>

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 1:53 PM Niccola Gentile <> wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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 &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Please ban pony rides already!**

1 message

---

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:49 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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:03 PM Aylam Orian <> wrote:  
Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards in this city. Why has the Council not acted?

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,

Aylam Orian

--  
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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: PLEASE. ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:49 PM

To: Zora Andrich

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:06 PM Zora Andrich &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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.

--

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

Telephone: (213) 202-2640  
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Mail Stop: 625/15  
Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:49 PM

To: Jesse Raya &lt;

&gt;

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:18 PM Jesse Raya &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

---

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:49 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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:19 PM Malvina Landau <> wrote:  
Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:49 PM

To: Mike Fujimori &lt;

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:25 PM Mike Fujimori &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

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Sent from my iPhone

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:49 PM

To: Mars Green &lt;

&gt;

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:36 PM Mars Green &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

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When are you going to act on the suffering of these animals?

They are dying right in front of your eyes and you do NOTHING>

It's time to act,before it is too late.

Thank you.

M Green

--  
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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:49 PM

To: Edward Oporto &lt;

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:39 PM Edward Oporto &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

---

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:50 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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:40 PM &lt; &gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

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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.

Melanie Ross  
Sent from my iPhone

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

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 3:19 PM

To: Gloria RFesa < >

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:58 PM Gloria RFesa < > wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Re: Griffith Park and Pony Rides

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 3:19 PM

To: karen elger <

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 3:14 PM karen elger < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

Please listen to your constituents.  
The animals at this concession are suffering.  
There are videos and witnesses to prove it.

Please cancel the Griffith Park and Pony Ride contract and see that the animals are released to a sanctuary where they can receive the proper care.

Thankyou.

Sent from my iPhone

--  
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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo**

1 message

---

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 3:25 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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 3:25 PM Christina Downing &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I am contacting you again about The Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo. The animals are suffering. I was there a few weeks ago and saw for myself. It's unnatural for horses and ponies to walk around in circles for hours on end. They need to be free in open pastures where they can graze on fresh grass. 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 replace the rides and zoo with non animal related entertainment.

Thank you,

Christina Downing

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

**Re: Please ban pony rides already!**

1 message

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 3:26 PM

To: Aylam Orian <

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:03 PM Aylam Orian <

> wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards in this city. Why has the Council not acted?

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,

Aylam Orian

--  
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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Tue, May 24, 2022 at 9:09 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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 3:44 PM Marie A. Baker <>  
Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

&gt; wrote:

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

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Sent from my iPhone

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

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

Tue, May 24, 2022 at 9:09 AM

To: Zohra F &lt;

&gt;

Cc: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@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

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

---

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

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 4:02 PM

Good Afternoon,

We would APPRECIATE a reasonable response to this query!  
These animals are suffering while the city supports their abuse and neglect !

Respectfully,  
M GREEN  
Sent from my iPad

On May 23, 2022, at 2:50 PM, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 2:36 PM Mars Green < > wrote:  
Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

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They are dying right in front of your eyes and you do NOTHING>  
It's time to act,before it is too late.

Thank you.

M Green

---

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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

---

## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

---

ginny

>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 4:31 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

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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.

With urgency,  
Ginny Rankin



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

---

## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

---

maria rios <

>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 5:02 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@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 &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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**Alondra Reveles**

&gt;

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 5:02 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@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>

---

## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

---

**Andrea Kaye** < > Mon, May 23, 2022 at 5:04 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@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>

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## Abused animals in the city

1 message

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**Theresa Gilyeart**

>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 5:05 PM

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Hello,

There is a video of the Griffith park pony rides were there was a few sheep in distress locked in tiny corner caged area this was just this past weekend. Not sure when the abuse neglect of these animals are going to end and who is responsible for this?

It's distressing to watch.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

---

## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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**Rubi Ramirez** <

>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 5:06 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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**Javier Ramirez**

>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 5:06 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

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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>

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## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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**Joel Rojas**

>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 5:14 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers, <BR><BR>On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated. <BR><BR>Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony. <BR><BR>I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted? <BR><BR>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.<BR><BR> <BR>

Sent from my iPhone



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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

1 message

**pat fiore**

&gt;

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 5:17 PM

To: Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Thank you for your response.

On Mon, May 23, 2022 at 3:31 PM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

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.

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. hazel Fiore



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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**Joseph Cortez**

>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 5:20 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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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.



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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**Skyler Odom** <

&gt;

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 5:29 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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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.



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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**AJ Arjona** <

&gt;

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 5:32 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

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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 iPad



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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**Kirk Rhoads**

>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 5:33 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

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Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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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. Kirk Rhoads



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

**Arame Mirzakhanian**

&gt;

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 5:55 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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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 &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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

1 message

**MAYURA SAMATH**

&gt;

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 6:12 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,  
Mrs. MAYURA SAMATH



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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**Linda Logan**

&gt;

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 8:19 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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.

Linda Logan

Sent from my iPhone



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

V L < > Mon, May 23, 2022 at 8:25 PM

To: "councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org" <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, "paul.koretz@lacity.org" <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, "contactd4@lacity.org" <contactd4@lacity.org>, "councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org" <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, "councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org" <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, "councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org" <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>, "councilmember.kevindoleon@lacity.org" <councilmember.kevindoleon@lacity.org>, "councilmember.lee@lacity.org" <councilmember.lee@lacity.org>, "councilmember.bonin@lacity.org" <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, "councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org" <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, "rap.commissioners@lacity.org" <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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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.

Best Regards,  
Concerned Citizen



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Sheep in distress at Griffith Park Petting Zoo.

1 message

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**J S**

>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 8:30 PM

To: "rap.commissioners@lacity.org" <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

The petting zoo enclosed within the Griffith Park Pony Rides has a large sheep who pants heavily and appears to be in distress.

The sheep is the same each time I've been there. The sheep does not appear well as people surround it to gawk.

The owner does not appear interested in providing care. This situation supports and promotes animal neglect over profit.

Jamie Sanders

Sent from my iPhone



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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**Amy Squires** <

&gt;

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 8:42 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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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.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

---

## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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**Courtney Atienza** <

>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 8:58 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

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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.



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Pls cancel Griffith Park Pony Ride & Petting Zoo contract(s)**

1 message

**Julie Sontag**

&gt;

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 9:54 PM

Reply-To: r

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Parks Commissioners,

I write to urge you cancel your contract with the vendor(s) at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo. Ponies are forced to work long hours with bouncing and often screaming kids on their sensitive backs. It's both stressful and dreadfully boring. How would you feel, day after day, and in the heat?

Over at the petting zoo, you'll find more of our fellow animals living unhappy lives, their basic needs and wants not being met. Last weekend, a sheep there was filmed, panting and appearing to be in distress. Again, how would you feel?

Is this reflective of LA's values? I hope not. I grew up loving ponies and horses, and showing goats in 4-H. I don't think such a background is needed to understand that these animals are suffering, but I mention it in hopes that you won't just dismiss my comments. It took me a while as a child to recognize the cruelty of these operations and I wish I'd opened my eyes sooner: it started by seeing how miserable the elephants at the circus were. You can help today's children and their parents to see what's before them and to understand that our fellow animals are not entertainment.

Please cancel that contract(s). It'd be great if you'd facilitate allowing a rescue(s) to give a home to these exploited animals so they could all have the retirement they deserve. I'd definitely contribute to that. At the very least, let's end the ongoing demand for more fodder for this sad "entertainment." Ringling Brothers finally had to forego the elephants; let's take the next step.

Thank you,

Julie Sontag  
Davis, CA



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

---

## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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**David Khak**

>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 11:07 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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.

Dave Khak



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

---

## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

---

**KJett**

>

Tue, May 24, 2022 at 1:47 AM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22nd, depressed elderly ponies at the Griffith Park Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep was seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

Los Angeles is better than this. We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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.

K Jett  
Los Angeles

Sent from Jett's iPhone



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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松田恵美 <

>

Tue, May 24, 2022 at 5:24 AM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

---

## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

---

**Brooke Burchill**

>

Tue, May 24, 2022 at 5:42 AM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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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 &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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**Marie A. Baker**

Tue, May 24, 2022 at 6:09 AM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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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>

---

## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

---

**Cheryl Travers** <

>

Tue, May 24, 2022 at 10:23 AM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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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>

# Griffith Park and Pony Rides

1 message

karen elger <  
To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Tue, May 24, 2022 at 1:28 PM

Dear Commissioners,

Please listen to your constituents. Please cancel Griffith Park and Pony Rides contract.

The animals need your help.

Thankyou.

Sent from my iPhone


  
 Such a sad environment. I don't know why parents would want to take their children to ride these sad ponies. I've been in this area when the weather is hot and have witnessed these poor ponies standing in the heat for hours. I've seen the private party area where a pony is led around with children on it's back and it looks like a miserable experience. I would far rather ride a non animal form of entertainment than to participate in this kind of experience. The smell around this place lingers in the air and the sad looking ponies stay in my mind. This is nothing to teach children about -- exploiting these ponies in this heartbreaking existence. Send these poor animals to a sanctuary and put an end to pony rides. I'm not impressed with what I've seen from the staff either. All the way around a demoralizing experience.

image.png  
200K



**Leia T.**



0 32 4



9 days ago

Such a sad environment. I don't know why parents would want to take their children to ride these sad ponies. I've been in this area when the weather is hot and have witnessed these poor ponies standing in the heat for hours. I've seen the private party area where a pony is led around with children on it's back and it looks like a miserable experience. I would far rather ride a non animal form of entertainment than to participate in this kind of experience. The smell around this place lingers in the air and the sad looking ponies stay in my mind. This is nothing to teach children about -- exploiting these ponies in this heartbreaking existence. Send these poor animals to a sanctuary and put an end to pony rides. I'm not impressed with what I've seen from the staff either. All the way around a demoralizing experience.



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

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

1 message

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**Deborah Chronister** <

&gt;

Tue, May 24, 2022 at 1:37 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,  
Mrs. Deborah Chronister



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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Measuring Cups <

>

Tue, May 24, 2022 at 1:50 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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.

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

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## Griffith Park Cruelty

1 message

**Helen Carlisle**

&gt;

Tue, May 24, 2022 at 2:00 PM

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Sir or Madam

I am contacting you from the UK regarding the treatment and conditions of the poor ponies in Griffith Park.

I have over 40 years' experience with horses and ponies and can see from the videos that these unfortunate animals are elderly with arthritis and should be retired. Ponies don't do well in hot temperatures especially older ones and these have no shelter, bedding or water or good quality hay. Workers have been seen hitting them to get them to move in these hot temperatures and over weight riders have been seen riding them.

Horses and ponies need to have their hooves trimmed and checked every 6 weeks and their teeth floated by a qualified person at least yearly. I doubt these ponies have this care. It's also very important that they are regularly wormed and vaccinated for equine 'flu and tetanus.

I beg you, from across the Atlantic, to stop this abuse and neglect and instead have musical carousel rides, attractions and other rides for visitors.

The days of using animals for amusement has come to an end in the 21st century and it's time to catch up.

Thank you for reading this email. I hope you will consider the points raised.

Kind regards

Helen Carlisle  
(Scotland UK)

Sent from my iPhone

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

---

## Pony rides?

1 message

**Holly Pearson**

&gt;

Tue, May 24, 2022 at 2:12 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Instead of relying on the pony rides, where kids just sit atop the bored and joyless animals please consider something different. Some creative thinking might lead to an entertainment where the kids might participate more, for instance some kind of dancing (line dancing?). How about the old fashioned but classic Simon Says? I'm sure there are a number of alternatives that could get the kids moving and thinking

Thank you for your consideration.

Sent from my iPhone



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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## Why does Griffith Park neglect animals?

1 message

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**Kirk W. Murray**

&gt;

Tue, May 24, 2022 at 3:01 PM

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Hello,

Saw the horrible neglect that is occurring at Griffith Park at the pony ride and petting Zoo. why would you continue to have a concession that neglects animals, remain open? Please cancel the contract, replace the park with a non-animal models and have all of the animals sent to a sanctuary.

This is madness and has got to stop. Does this look like a happy horse to you?

<https://www.facebook.com/1514853900/videos/553153823183039/>

Kirk W. Murray



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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**Tamar Rosenberg-Walker**

>

Tue, May 24, 2022 at 4:45 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

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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 &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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**Linda Middlesworth**

&gt;

Tue, May 24, 2022 at 5:18 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

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Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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.

Thank you,  
Linda Middlesworth

Sent from my iPhone



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Please ban pony rides!**

1 message

mark owen &lt;

&gt;

Wed, May 25, 2022 at 4:09 AM

To: Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Thank you for your assistance.

On Mon, 23 May 2022, 21:35 Rap Commissioners, <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

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 Mon, May 23, 2022 at 10:33 AM mark owen <

&gt; wrote:

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

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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. Kind regards. Mr M. Owen

--

City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza  
[221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300](https://www.laparks.org)  
[Los Angeles, CA 90012](https://www.laparks.org)

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



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

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

1 message

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**Dozy Cryer**

&gt;

Wed, May 25, 2022 at 8:55 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,  
Ms. Dozy Cryer



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

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

1 message

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**Charlotte Horlock**

&gt;

Wed, May 25, 2022 at 9:46 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.

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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,  
Miss Charlotte Horlock



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

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

1 message

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**Victoria Bustamante** <

&gt;

Wed, May 25, 2022 at 12:07 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.

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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,  
Mrs. Victoria Bustamante



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

---

## Cancel Griffith Pony Ride and Petting Zoo contract: always animal abuse

1 message

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**Nancy P.** < >  
To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Wed, May 25, 2022 at 1:30 PM

Please cancel the Griffith Pony Ride and Petting Zoo contract, remove the ponies and farm animals and bring them to a sanctuary that is already available. These forms of entertainment are always abusive to animals. Please replace the park with a non-animal model.

Thank. You,

**Nancy Poznak, MS**



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

---

## Griffith Pony Ride & Petting Zoo HEARTBREAKING

1 message

---

**Julie King**

Wed, May 25, 2022 at 1:54 PM

To: "rap.commissioners@lacity.org" <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Dear lord,

Stop this in\$anity 🙏❤️ NOW.

Imagine the \$uffering. Try to REALLY imagine 🙏❤️ Stop this in\$anity. There is nothing healthy physically nor mentally for these poor precious souls ❤️🙏

Julie King, Canada.



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

## Please Stop Pony Rides at Griffith

1 message

---

**Tina Riedel**

&gt;

Wed, May 25, 2022 at 2:06 PM

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Hello,

I hope you and your family are doing well.

Please keep the elderly ponies in mind as the weather warms up. It's heartbreaking to watch the handlers treat them without any care or respect. We stopped passing by them on the way to the park for picnics.

New York is working to end horse carriage rides. Did you hear about the carriage driver who beat the horse while she was on the ground? When does the abuse end? Please be their voice and put a stop to this. You can make a difference.

Thank you!  
Tina Riedel

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## A concern

1 message

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**Cheri Joseph** <

Wed, May 25, 2022 at 2:45 PM

To: "rap.commissioners@lacity.org" <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Greetings Commissioner,

The animals at the Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo are clearly not being treated very humanely. I think it's important to be an example of animal welfare when running a business like this. The animals would be much better off if there were measures put into place to help create positive changes for them. If that can't happen, then they should be taken to a sanctuary.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Cheri Joseph



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

---

## Stop the Griffith Park Pony Ride NOW!

1 message

---

**Shelley Conger**

>

Wed, May 25, 2022 at 3:35 PM

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Please cancel the Griffith Pony Ride and Petting Zoo contract NOW!

Remove the ponies and farm animals and bring them to a sanctuary that is already available.

These forms of entertainment are always abusive to animals. Please replace the park with a non-animal model.

Animal abuse is a crime in California. You are enabling a serious crime by not acting.

--

Best wishes, Shelley Shelley Conger Sent from Gmail Mobile Excuse dictation typos



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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## Griffith Park Ponies

1 message

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**Leslie Randall**

&gt;

Wed, May 25, 2022 at 4:45 PM

Reply-To: Leslie Randall &lt;

&gt;

To: "rap.commissioners@lacity.org" &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Hello and Good Afternoon,

My name is Leslie Randall. I am writing to you today to express my concerns for the ponies and the petting zoo animals at Griffith Park. I recently spent over three hours observing the ponies. The weather was hot, the ponies had filthy water in the trough (only the taller ponies could reach it) and there was no shade for the rabbits, the sheep, and the ponies. The misters were blowing over and away from the ponies so it was a mute point.

The sheep were panting, the attendant was too busy on his cell phone to care and little kids were virtually unsupervised with these animals. The rabbits (I've owned several) were totally exposed to the sun with no shade. Rabbits will overheat and die within minutes if not given shade and water. There was no water in the bottle provided in their very small enclosed pen.

The ponies were so exhausted the uncaring attendants had to hit them on the rear or yell or clap at them to get them to move. WHY are you allowing this?

There are animal abuse laws in Los Angeles.... please abide by them. If you don't believe me, just drive over there for yourself and witness what I, and hundreds of others, have witnessed over the days, months, and years. Better yet. do on YELP and read some of the reviews.

It's not rocket science but it IS animal abuse. The world is full of enough hatred and harm right now. Can't you do something about this?

Thank you.

Leslie Randall



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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

1 message

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**vicky tang** <

&gt;

Wed, May 25, 2022 at 9:13 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,  
Ms. vicky tang



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**PLEASE Discontinue using animals for entertainment!!!**

1 message

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**Susan Estrella** <

&gt;

Wed, May 25, 2022 at 9:29 PM

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It has come to my attention that Los Angeles has a "Griffith Pony Ride and Petting Zoo contract", which is causing ponies to be used and abused for the entertainment of innocent children!!!

Personally I am horrified and I KNOW that if the children understood how abusive and unfair to the innocent animals, they would also be horrified!

Please immediately terminate this arrangement, remove the ponies and any other animals so that they can live out their lives in freedom on a sanctuary that will care for their needs without torturing them and expecting them to turn a profit!!!

As for the children, replace the attraction with a non-animal model such as a carousel or some ride toy, perhaps. Anything that does not exploit animals, please!!!

Thank you, in advance, for your immediate response to this urgent matter!!!

Wishing you all the best,

*Susan Estrella*



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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

1 message

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**Andrea Sreiber**

&gt;

Thu, May 26, 2022 at 11:18 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,  
Ms. Andrea Sreiber



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Sheep in distress at Griffith Park Petting Zoo.

1 message

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**J S**

>

Mon, May 23, 2022 at 8:30 PM

To: "rap.commissioners@lacity.org" <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

The petting zoo enclosed within the Griffith Park Pony Rides has a large sheep who pants heavily and appears to be in distress.

The sheep is the same each time I've been there. The sheep does not appear well as people surround it to gawk.

The owner does not appear interested in providing care. This situation supports and promotes animal neglect over profit.

Jamie Sanders

Sent from my iPhone



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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## Griffith park pony rides

1 message

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**Cassady Cayne** <

&gt;

Thu, May 26, 2022 at 6:30 PM

To: "rap.commissioners@lacity.org" &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Dear sir/madam,

I am writing to express concern about the welfare of the elderly ponies used for rides at Griffith park.

They are being worked in overheated temperatures without concern for their well-being and safety.

I know I am not alone in believing that these pony rides are cruel to the animals and they are being overworked without concern for their well-being.

As a city full of pet lovers priding itself on ethical treatment of animals, it's time to end outdated and cruel practices like this in Los Angeles.

I urge you to cancel the Griffith Pony Ride and Petting Zoo contract, remove the ponies and farm animals to be sent to a sanctuary that is already available, and replace the park with a non-animal model.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter

Cassady Cayne



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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

1 message

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**Rene Ruston**

&gt;

Thu, May 26, 2022 at 6:50 PM

Reply-To:

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

I won't go to Griffith Park or the Observatory for this very reason. 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 Rene Ruston



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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

1 message

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**Eberhard Patricia** <

&gt;

Thu, May 26, 2022 at 6:55 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. Eberhard Patricia



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Griffith park pony rides

1 message

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**Mary Pierce** < >  
To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Thu, May 26, 2022 at 7:32 PM

LA City Commissioners,

Please consider cancelling the Griffith park pony rides. The conditions for these ponies are abysmal and cruel. There are so many other ways to enjoy the park and the closure of this activity will not be missed.

Please cancel and rescind the permits.

Mary Pierce  
90272

Sent from my iPhone



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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

1 message

richard lynn &lt;

&gt;

Thu, May 26, 2022 at 10:13 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,  
Mr. richard lynn



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**SHUT THE PONY RIDES DOWN AND PUT THE PONIES INTO SANCTUARY!!**

1 message

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**dyan kane** < >  
To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Fri, May 27, 2022 at 1:12 PM

Are you really making that much money?

We'll find another way.

Elderly ponies are "spooked" for several hours a day at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo. None of the elderly ponies want to be scared, and chased. The elderly ponies are also hit in hot temperatures. You can see the terror, and sadness in their eyes. This is animal abuse, and animal abuse is a crime in the state of California.

Please cancel the Griffith Pony Ride and Petting Zoo contract, remove the ponies and farm animals to be sent to a sanctuary that is already available, and replace the park with a non-animal model.

Santa Monica closed THEIR PONY RIDES DOWN. You can too!!

This is inhumane!

Dyan Kane

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Please show that you have a heart and stop using dad, elderly ponies for entertainment

1 message

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**Paula Ciobanu** < >  
To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Fri, May 27, 2022 at 4:28 PM

Why do you continue to have a concession that neglects animals, remain open? Cancel the contract, replace the park with a non-animal model and have all of the animals sent to a sanctuary. Thank you in advance.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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**Evelyn Hill** <

Sun, May 29, 2022 at 8:41 AM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated.

Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony.

I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted?

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>

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## Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

**Craig Banta**

&gt;

Sun, May 29, 2022 at 10:58 PM

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you today regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides. I am an educator, asking you to please not renew the contract for the Griffith Park Pony Rides. The pony rides teach children the wrong message. They aren't taught that we need to show compassion towards other beings, but that it is okay to ignore the suffering of others for their amusement. This goes against Section 233.5 of the CA Education Code. It states that "Each teacher shall endeavor to impress upon the minds of the pupils the principles of morality, truth, justice, patriotism, and a true comprehension of the rights, duties, and dignity of American citizenship, and the meaning of equality and human dignity, including the promotion of harmonious relations, kindness toward domestic pets and the humane treatment of living creatures, ..." This includes the ponies.

I urge you to put yourself in the ponies' place. They are forced to circle the same track day after day, even under the extreme heat. Can you imagine this as your life? Experts have said that the ponies are depressed. Is this the image that we want to impress upon our children when we are supposed to be teaching compassion towards living creatures at school?

I am asking you to please allow the ponies to be sent to a sanctuary, where they can live the remainder of their lives happily and be treated with the decency and the respect they deserve. There are other forms of non-animal entertainment that could replace the pony rides. We have learned about the cruelty in circuses and therefore have banned exotic animal acts in Los Angeles. It's time to act humanely and teach our children kindness. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Kimura



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Griffith Park Pony Rides Inspection Report

1 message

Mary Cummins <

>

Tue, May 31, 2022 at 11:02 AM

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

PDF letter attached with photos, video links

City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

I'm Mary Cummins of Animal Advocates Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. I've been involved in animal issues for over 35 years in Los Angeles. I've gone through the Police Academy and Humane Academy to become a Humane Officer and investigate animal cruelty and violations. I've worked positively with the City of Los Angeles for over 20 years including on the Prop F Committee and getting the current Los Angeles Animal Services Wildlife Policy passed in 2004 (Ref. 1).

May 29, 2022 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. I visited the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo (GPPR). The following is a report of my visit and a summary of my research including attached/linked photos, videos and references.

### 1. Petting Zoo

#### **a. Sheep**

The sheep's hooves were overgrown and needed trimming (Photo 1, 2). This is link to overgrown (left) and properly trimmed (right) hooves <https://cdn.outdoorhappens.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Diagram-of-Hoof-anatomy-tom-milner-1024x405.jpg> . His coat needed to be cleaned because he had feces matted to his wool. His coat needed to be sheared. This is a photo of Larry the same sheep from the official website of the GPPR. <https://www.griffithparkponyride.com/petting-zoo> You can see that Larry is clean, shorn and his hooves are properly trimmed. This shows that the owner knows how to care for sheep but has chosen not to give proper care. There are photos of children hugging animals with their faces touching the animals in GPPR's website which is why they must be clean. This is a violation of California Penal Code 597, not providing proper veterinary and other care (Ref. 2). Also a violation of the Animal Welfare Act because these are exhibit animals under USDA permit Cert # 93-C-1163 Cust #502682 (Ref. 3). Also a violation of the Health Dept for exposing children to zoonotic diseases.

#### **b. Goats**

The goats' hooves were overgrown and needed to be trimmed (Photo 3). Violation of CA 597 and AWA.

#### **c. Rabbits**

The rabbits' water bottle was empty. I asked the staff to refill the water bottle. They removed the totally empty bottle and refilled it (Left of Photo 4). As soon as they did all three rabbits quickly drank water which means they were dehydrated. Violation of CA 597 and AWA.

#### **d. Lack of Zoonotic Disease Control, Handwashing Stations**

The item of greatest concern in the petting zoo and pony rides was the lack of concern for zoonotic diseases. Zoonotic diseases are passed from animals to humans such as SARS-CoV-2, plague, West Nile and rabies. Every year children are sickened from touching animals in petting zoos, pony rides with some children dying (Ref. 4). Petting zoo animals can carry E. coli, Cryptosporidium, Salmonella, ring worm and more. Humans can contract the diseases by hand feeding animals, petting animals, touching the fence rails, sitting on something the animals touched, the ground...

The California Department of Food and Agriculture offers hand washing information and signs for places such as county fairs when one would encounter agricultural animals (Ref. 5).

There should be warning signs at the entrance and exit of the petting zoo along with handwashing instructions and stations. Everyone who enters the petting zoo or even just touches the fencing must wash their hands. Children were hugging the sheep with feces on its coat. They were feeding the animals out of their hands. They were given brushes to brush the animals. The animals were licking the children. These same children will walk a few feet away and eat food with their hands. Many states have Hand Sanitation Laws for animal contact for these reasons (Ref. 6).

Food, drink, baby pacifiers, baby bottles, strollers, wagons should not be allowed in the petting zoo area. They were allowed in that area. Here is a sign from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (Ref. 7).

The City is exposing itself to lawsuits from sick and dying children besides harming its public image. Violation of the Health & Safety Code.

#### **e. Animals in and Near the Food Preparation, Dining Areas**

A staff member had two goats on leashes in the food preparation and dining areas, [https://scontent-lax3-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.6435-9/86411826\\_3496341357073569\\_330790903599857664\\_n.jpg?\\_nc\\_cat=105&ccb=1-7&\\_nc\\_sid=9267fe&\\_nc\\_ohc=llqmN3sHNfwAX85Osm0&\\_nc\\_ht=scontent-lax3-1.xx&oh=00\\_AT9OMY0A5JrIO-XDKRaZB0P1RXXtfK94WNACX1kfetDF-A&oe=62B992B3](https://scontent-lax3-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.6435-9/86411826_3496341357073569_330790903599857664_n.jpg?_nc_cat=105&ccb=1-7&_nc_sid=9267fe&_nc_ohc=llqmN3sHNfwAX85Osm0&_nc_ht=scontent-lax3-1.xx&oh=00_AT9OMY0A5JrIO-XDKRaZB0P1RXXtfK94WNACX1kfetDF-A&oe=62B992B3). This photo came from the GPPR website. These people even had a non-service dog. I witnessed the exact same. The three pony corrals are too close to the multiple food prep and dining areas. Animals can't be within at least 20 feet at the minimum of food prep or dining areas per California Food Safety and Health Codes.

Violation of California Retail Food Code, Sections: 114259, 114259.1, 114259.4, 114259.5 no animals are allowed in food preparation or dining areas except some service dogs, patrol dogs and pet dogs in certain situations (Ref. 8). California Civil Service Code, Section 54.1, 54.25 covers these exceptions (Ref. 9). Weeks has no experience operating a business which preps and serves food.

The issue is again zoonotic diseases. Children pet a goat, pony then eat food with their hands which could transfer disease. It's very possible that many children have already been sickened but their parents assumed it came from the food and not the animals. In cases where many people were sickened investigations revealed the exact cause of the infections and knew it was the petting zoo and not the food.

## **2. Pony Rides**

### **a. Algae, Scum in Water Troughs**

Algae were visible in all of the horse water troughs, (Photo 5). Violation of 597 for not providing proper care, not providing potable water.

### **b. Loud Noises Used to Scare Ponies to Run**

The staff members told the children not to yell or scream at the ponies. Then the staff members ran behind the ponies and made loud clapping sounds that sounded like a whip being cracked in order to get the ponies to run. They also yelled and made other loud noises at the animals. The staff did this every time they wanted the ponies to run. This is harassment and cruel treatment which is a violation of CA 597. I have many more videos and photos. Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2CA15u9cXI&feature=youtu.be>

### **c. Ponies too Close to Food Preparation, Dining Areas**

There are four pony corrals, one large one which is the main track, one small carousel and two smaller ones called Party Corrals which are generally rented out for birthday parties, see GPPR website. <https://www.griffithparkponyride.com/birthday-parties> They offer the Party Corrals with cooking area, picnic tables and ponies. Again, animals can't be within 20 feet of food prep or dining. The animals are directly next to the food prep and dining areas (Photo 6).

The main corral is within 20 feet of the food prep, dining area of a Party Corral. People were seen eating and drinking right next to the small carousel. There are two small corrals in the two Party Corrals which have food prep and dining.

I witnessed ponies in the two Party Corrals. The goats are defecating in the food prep, dining area. The ponies defecate in the Party Corrals. Violation of Health & Safety Codes.

### **3. Stephen "Steve" Allen Weeks, Los Angeles Pony Rides Inc, Traditional Equitation School, The Loan Consultants Inc.**

Per the 2016 Request for Proposals For the Operation and Maintenance of the GRIFFITH PARK PONY RIDE CONCESSION "Mr. Stephen Weeks, owner of Los Angeles Pony Rides, Inc., has twenty-two (22) years of experience in the horse and pony business. For the past six (6) years (since 2010), he has owned the Traditional Equitation School (TES) and developed a pony ride and lesson program serving children as young as four (4)." This statement does not appear to be true.

Stephen Allen Weeks controls Los Angeles Pony Rides Inc. an active California corporation # 3867428 (Ref. 10). Weeks is the CEO, CFO, Secretary and Director.

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Based on my inspection and research I don't believe that Stephen Weeks is the best candidate to run the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo. He has not been honest with the Commission. I feel there are other activities that could be offered in the park which would not be cruel to animals, would not be a danger to public health and safety, would not harm the City's public image, would be more beneficial to children and the citizens of Los Angeles while still providing income to the City.

Sincerely,

Mary Cummins

Animal Advocates Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

cc: County of Los Angeles Public Health  
USDA Inspector for Petting Zoo permit  
California Department of Food and Agriculture

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**Griffith\_Park\_Pony\_Rides\_and\_Petting\_Zoo\_report\_by\_Mary\_Cummins\_05312022.pdf**

268K

Mary Cummins  
Animal Advocates Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

May 30, 2022

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

RE: Griffith Park Pony Rides & Petting Zoo

I'm Mary Cummins of Animal Advocates Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. I've been involved in animal issues for over 35 years in Los Angeles. I've gone through the Police Academy and Humane Academy to become a Humane Officer and investigate animal cruelty and violations. I've worked positively with the City of Los Angeles for over 20 years including on the Prop F Committee and getting the current Los Angeles Animal Services Wildlife Policy passed in 2004 (Ref. 1).

May 29, 2022 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. I visited the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo (GPPR). The following is a report of my visit and a summary of my research including attached/linked photos, videos and references.

### **1. Petting Zoo**

#### **a. Sheep**

The sheep's hooves were overgrown and needed trimming (Photo 1, 2). This is link to overgrown (left) and properly trimmed (right) hooves <https://cdn.outdoorhappens.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Diagram-of-Hoof-anatomy-tom-milner-1024x405.jpg> . His coat needed to be cleaned because he had feces matted to his wool. His coat needed to be sheared. This is a photo of Larry the same sheep from the official website of the GPPR. <https://www.griffithparkponyride.com/petting-zoo> You can see that Larry is clean, shorn and his hooves are properly trimmed. This shows that the owner knows how to care for sheep but has chosen not to give proper care. There are photos of children hugging animals with their faces touching the animals in GPPR's which is why they must be clean. This is a violation of California Penal Code 597, not providing proper veterinary and other care (Ref. 2). Also a violation of the Animal Welfare Act because these are exhibit animals under USDA permit Cert # 93-C-1163 Cust #502682 (Ref. 3).

#### **b. Goats**

The goats' hooves were overgrown and needed to be trimmed (Photo 3). Violation of CA 597 and AWA.

### **c. Rabbits**

The rabbits' water bottle was empty. I asked the staff to refill the water bottle. They removed the totally empty bottle and refilled it (Photo 4). As soon as they did all three rabbits quickly drank water which means they were dehydrated. Violation of CA 597 and AWA.

### **d. Lack of Zoonotic Disease Control, Handwashing Stations**

The item of greatest concern in the petting zoo and pony rides was the lack of concern for zoonotic diseases. Zoonotic diseases are passed from animals to humans such as SARS-CoV-2, plague, West Nile and rabies. Every year children are sickened from touching animals in petting zoos, pony rides with some children dying (Ref. 4). Petting zoo animals can carry E. coli, Cryptosporidium, Salmonella, ring worm and more. Humans can contract the diseases by hand feeding animals, petting animals, touching the fence rails, sitting on something the animals touched, the ground...

The California Department of Food and Agriculture offers hand washing information and signs for places such as county fairs when one would encounter agricultural animals (Ref. 5).

There should be warning signs at the entrance and exit of the petting zoo along with handwashing instructions and stations. Everyone who enters the petting zoo or even just touches the fencing must wash their hands. Children were hugging the sheep with feces on its coat. They were feeding the animals out of their hands. They were given brushes to brush the animals. The animals were licking the children. These same children will walk a few feet away and eat food with their hands. Many states have Hand Sanitation Laws for animal contact for these reasons (Ref. 6).

Food, drink, baby pacifiers, baby bottles, strollers, wagons should not be allowed in the petting zoo area. They were allowed in that area. Here is a sign from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (Ref. 7).

The City is exposing itself to lawsuits from sick and dying children besides harming its public image. Violation of the Health & Safety Code.

### **e. Animals in and Near the Food Preparation, Dining Areas**

A staff member had two goats on leashes in the food preparation and dining areas, [https://scontent-lax3-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.6435-9/86411826\\_3496341357073569\\_330790903599857664\\_n.jpg?nc\\_cat=105&ccb=1-7&nc\\_sid=9267fe&nc\\_ohc=llqmn3sHNfwAX85Osm0&nc\\_ht=scontent-lax3-1.xx&oh=00\\_AT9OMY0A5JrIO-XDKRaZBOP1RXXtfk94WNACX1kfetDF-A&oe=62B992B3](https://scontent-lax3-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.6435-9/86411826_3496341357073569_330790903599857664_n.jpg?nc_cat=105&ccb=1-7&nc_sid=9267fe&nc_ohc=llqmn3sHNfwAX85Osm0&nc_ht=scontent-lax3-1.xx&oh=00_AT9OMY0A5JrIO-XDKRaZBOP1RXXtfk94WNACX1kfetDF-A&oe=62B992B3) . This photo came from the GPPR website. These people even had a non-service dog. I witnessed the exact same. The three pony corrals are too close to the multiple food prep and dining areas. Animals can't be within at least 20 feet at the minimum of food prep or dining areas per California Food Safety and Health Codes.

Violation of California Retail Food Code, Sections: 114259, 114259.1, 114259.4, 114259.5 no animals are allowed in food preparation or dining areas except some service dogs, patrol dogs and pet dogs in

certain situations (Ref. 8). California Civil Service Code, Section 54.1, 54.25 covers these exceptions (Ref. 9). Weeks has no experience operating a business which preps and serves food.

The issue is again zoonotic diseases. Children pet a goat, pony then eat food with their hands which could transfer disease. It's very possible that many children have already been sickened but their parents assumed it came from the food and not the animals. In cases where many people were sickened investigations revealed the exact cause of the infections and knew it was the petting zoo and not the food.

## **2. Pony Rides**

### **a. Algae, Scum in Water Troughs**

Algae were visible in all of the horse water troughs, (Photo 5). Violation of 597 for not providing proper care, not providing potable water.

### **b. Loud Noises Used to Scare Ponies to Run**

The staff members told the children not to yell or scream at the ponies. Then the staff members ran behind the ponies and made loud clapping sounds that sounded like a whip being cracked in order to get the ponies to run. They also yelled and made other loud noises at the animals. The staff did this every time they wanted the ponies to run. This is harassment and cruel treatment which is a violation of CA 597. I have many more videos and photos. Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2CA15u9cXI&feature=youtu.be>

### **c. Ponies too Close to Food Preparation, Dining Areas**

There are four pony corrals, one large one which is the main track, one small carousel and two smaller ones called Party Corrals which are generally rented out for birthday parties, see GPPR website. <https://www.griffithparkponyride.com/birthday-parties> They offer the Party Corrals with cooking area, picnic tables and ponies. Again, animals can't be within 20 feet of food prep or dining. The animals are directly next to the food prep and dining areas (Photo 6).

The main corral is within 20 feet of the food prep, dining area of a Party Corral. People were seen eating and drinking right next to the small carousel. There are two small corrals in the two Party Corrals which have food prep and dining. I witnessed ponies in the two Party Corrals. The goats are defecating in the food prep, dining area. The ponies defecate in the Party Corrals. Violation of Health & Safety Codes.

## **3. Stephen "Steve" Allen Weeks, Los Angeles Pony Rides Inc, Traditional Equitation School, The Loan Consultants Inc.**

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cc: County of Los Angeles Public Health  
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Photos



1.



2.



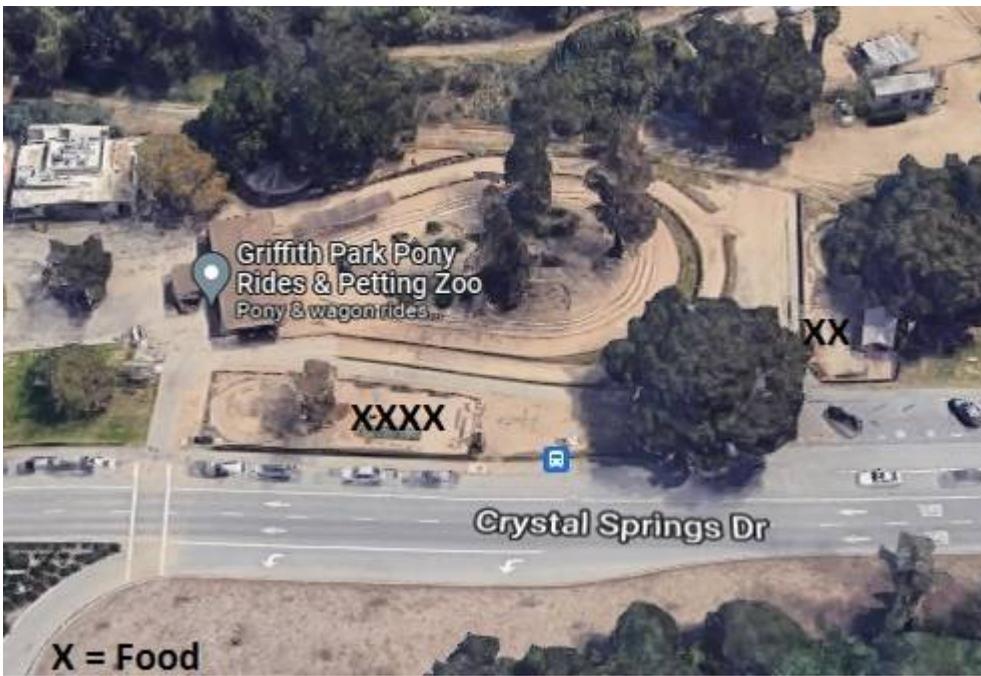
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Please ban pony rides!

1 message

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**Deborah Martin** < > Tue, May 31, 2022 at 11:55 PM

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, contactcd4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers, <BR><BR>On May 22 nd depressed elderly ponies at Griffith Park and Pony Ride and Petting Zoo were hit to go faster, unclean water was provided, and a sheep were seen in distress and overheated. <BR><BR>Workers were seen on their phones while children were riding on the backs of the elderly ponies, and workers were on their phones in the petting zoo while children were hand feeding the animals, which can be a huge liability for the city if a child is bitten or is unsupervised while riding on the back of an elderly pony. <BR><BR>I am no longer heartbroken. I am no longer sad. I am angry. We are Angelenos! We hold child welfare and animal welfare to highest standards. Why has the Council not acted? <BR><BR>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.<BR><BR> <BR>

Sent from my iPhone



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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

1 message

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**Janet Bennett**

&gt;

Thu, Jun 2, 2022 at 4:17 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.

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. Janet Bennett



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Griffith Park Shutdown

1 message

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anne oliver < >  
To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Thu, Jun 2, 2022 at 11:40 AM

Dear Commissioners:

Please cancel the contract of the Griffith Park Pony Ride and Petting Zoo.  
Please replace these attractions with non-animal models, and send the animals to a sanctuary.

Thank you for showing compassion and mercy to these animals who can not defend themselves.

Sincerely,

Roseanne Oliver



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

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

1 message

**Bettina Kat**

&gt;

Sat, Jun 4, 2022 at 2:17 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.

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. Bettina Kat



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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

1 message

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**Shadoe Drury**

&gt;

Sat, Jun 4, 2022 at 12:42 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.

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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. Shadoe Drury



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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

1 message

anita maldonado &lt;r

&gt;

Sat, Jun 4, 2022 at 3:05 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.

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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,  
Ms. anita maldonado



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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

1 message

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**EDITH LOBROT** <

&gt;

Sat, Jun 4, 2022 at 4:51 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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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. EDITH LOBROT



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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

1 message

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**Ellen Corrigan** <e >

Sat, Jun 4, 2022 at 8:46 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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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,  
Ellen Corrigan



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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

1 message

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**Martine Cuisenaire** <

&gt;

Sun, Jun 5, 2022 at 4:47 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.

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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,  
Ms. Martine Cuisenaire



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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

1 message

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**Jane Cherry**

&gt;

Sun, Jun 5, 2022 at 6:38 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.

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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,  
Ms. Jane Cherry



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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## GP Contract Renewal

1 message

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**Kathy Cullen**

&gt;

Wed, Jun 8, 2022 at 10:56 AM

To: "rap.commissioners@lacity.org" &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Dear Commissioners Michael Shull, Matthew Rudnick, Rachel Ramos, Tafarai Bayne, and Nicole Chase,

It has come to my attention that your agency is renewing the Griffith Park and Pony Ride contract in spite of ongoing evidence that the concessioner has flouted the city's animal welfare laws, and neglected the health and well-being of the animals in his care.

In recent weeks alarming incidents documented at Griffith Park and Pony Ride have included elderly ponies working in 98 F, water bowls contaminated with algae, a pony collapsing in the heat, a pony running off the track with a child on his back, and the rabbits in the petting zoo having no access to water. **All of this has been documented and brought to your attention.** And yet, the Rec and Parks Commission, and the city of Los Angeles has failed to take meaningful action to protect these animals, and has ceded to pressure from out of state lobbyists instead of heeding the concerns of the thousands of Angelenos who have voiced their concerns about this unchecked cruelty being allowed to continue in a public park.

I am calling on you to investigate the dozens of violations that have been brought to your attention in recent weeks, and to cancel the Griffith Park and Pony Ride contract.

This is beyond disappointing and absolutely unacceptable!

Kathy Cullen



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## please take action

1 message

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**Jessica Dacher**

Wed, Jun 8, 2022 at 11:15 AM

To: matthew.rudnick@lacity.org, stefanie.smith@lacity.org, latricia.jones@lacity.org, michael.a.shull@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org, rachel.ramos@lacity.org

Dear Commissioners Michael Shull, Matthew Rudnick, Rachel Ramos, Tafari Bayne, and Nicole Chase,

It has come to my attention that your agency is renewing the Griffith Park and Pony Ride contract in spite of ongoing evidence that the concessioner has flouted the city's animal welfare laws, and neglected the health and well-being of the animals in his care.

In recent weeks alarming incidents documented at Griffith Park and Pony Ride have included elderly ponies working in 98 F, water bowls contaminated with algae, a pony collapsing in the heat, a pony running off the track with a child on his back, and the rabbits in the petting zoo having no access to water. **All of this has been documented and brought to your attention.** And yet, the Rec and Parks Commission, and the city of Los Angeles has failed to take meaningful action to protect these animals, and has ceded to pressure from out of state lobbyists instead of heeding the concerns of the thousands of Angelenos who have voiced their concerns about this unchecked cruelty being allowed to continue in a public park.

I am calling on you to investigate the dozens of violations that have been brought to your attention in recent weeks, and to cancel the Griffith Park and Pony Ride contract.

Best Wishes,  
Jessica Dacher



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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## I am very disappointed with the City of Los Angeles!!!

1 message

Susan Estrella &lt;

Wed, Jun 8, 2022 at 12:09 PM

To: matthew.rudnick@lacity.org, stefanie.smith@lacity.org, latricia.jones@lacity.org, michael.a.shull@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org, rachel.ramos@lacity.org, mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org

Dear Commissioners and ALL officials of the City of Los Angeles:

It has come to my attention that your agency is renewing the Griffith Park and Pony Ride contract, in spite of ongoing evidence that the proprietors have flouted the city's animal welfare laws, and neglected the health and well-being of the animals!!!

I find this appalling!

No animal should be a slave for human entertainment or any other human whim! These are sentient beings who want to live their lives on THEIR terms, not be our property! Think about how YOU would feel in their place.

In recent weeks alarming incidents documented at Griffith Park and Pony Ride have included elderly ponies working in 98 F, water bowls contaminated with algae, a pony collapsing in the heat, a pony running off the track with a child on his back, and the rabbits in the petting zoo having no access to water!

**All of this has been documented and brought to your attention.**

And yet, the Rec and Parks Commission, and the city of Los Angeles have failed to take meaningful action to protect these animals, and has ceded to pressure from out of state lobbyists instead of heeding the concerns of the thousands of Angelenos who have voiced their concerns about this unchecked **cruelty** being allowed to continue in a public park!

I am calling on you to investigate the dozens of violations that have been brought to your attention in recent weeks, and to **CANCEL** the Griffith Park and Pony Ride contract.

Thank you, in advance, for re-considering the example of this cruelty shown to the people (and especially the children) of our beautiful city and acting on the side of kindness and compassion!

Cordially,

*Susan Estrella*



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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## Griffith Park Pony Rides-I live near them, took my son but its too cruel. The train is better

1 message

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**Tina Vuk**

&gt;

Wed, Jun 8, 2022 at 3:43 PM

To: matthew.rudnick@lacity.org, stefanie.smith@lacity.org, latricia.jones@lacity.org, michael.a.shull@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org, rachel.ramos@lacity.org

Dear Commissioners Michael Shull, Matthew Rudnick, Rachel Ramos, Tafarai Bayne, and Nicole Chase,

It has come to my attention that your agency is renewing the Griffith Park and Pony Ride contract in spite of ongoing evidence that the concessioner has flouted the city's animal welfare laws, and neglected the health and well-being of the animals in his care.

In recent weeks alarming incidents documented at Griffith Park and Pony Ride have included elderly ponies working in 98 F, water bowls contaminated with algae, a pony collapsing in the heat, a pony running off the track with a child on his back, and the rabbits in the petting zoo having no access to water. **All of this has been documented and brought to your attention.** And yet, the Rec and Parks Commission, and the city of Los Angeles has failed to take meaningful action to protect these animals, and has ceded to pressure from out of state lobbyists instead of heeding the concerns of the thousands of Angelenos who have voiced their concerns about this unchecked cruelty being allowed to continue in a public park.

I am calling on you to investigate the dozens of violations that have been brought to your attention in recent weeks, and to cancel the Griffith Park and Pony Ride contract.



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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## Where is your compassion?

1 message

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**leslie davies** <

&gt;

Wed, Jun 8, 2022 at 6:27 PM

To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Dear Commissioners Michael Shull, Matthew Rudnick, Rachel Ramos, Tafarai Bayne, and Nicole Chase,

It has come to my attention that your agency is renewing the Griffith Park and Pony Ride contract in spite of ongoing evidence that the concessioner has flouted the city's animal welfare laws, and neglected the health and well-being of the animals in his care.

In recent weeks alarming incidents documented at Griffith Park and Pony Ride have included elderly ponies working in 98 F, water bowls contaminated with algae, a pony collapsing in the heat, a pony running off the track with a child on his back, and the rabbits in the petting zoo having no access to water. **All of this has been documented and brought to your attention.** And yet, the Rec and Parks Commission, and the city of Los Angeles has failed to take meaningful action to protect these animals, and has ceded to pressure from out of state lobbyists instead of heeding the concerns of the thousands of Angelenos who have voiced their concerns about this unchecked cruelty being allowed to continue in a public park.

I am calling on you to investigate the dozens of violations that have been brought to your attention in recent weeks, and to cancel the Griffith Park and Pony Ride contract.

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Thanks,

Leslie Davies



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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## Important message regarding Griffith Park Pony Rides investigation

1 message

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**Jeremiah Benjamin**

&gt;

Wed, Jun 8, 2022 at 8:07 PM

To: matthew.rudnick@lacity.org, stefanie.smith@lacity.org, latricia.jones@lacity.org, michael.a.shull@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org, rachel.ramos@lacity.org

Dear Commissioners Michael Shull, Matthew Rudnick, Rachel Ramos, Tafari Bayne, and Nicole Chase,

It has come to my attention that your agency is renewing the Griffith Park and Pony Ride contract in spite of ongoing evidence that the concessioner has flouted the city's animal welfare laws, and neglected the health and well-being of the animals in his care.

In recent weeks alarming incidents documented at Griffith Park and Pony Ride have included elderly ponies working in 98 F, water bowls contaminated with algae, a pony collapsing in the heat, a pony running off the track with a child on his back, and the rabbits in the petting zoo having no access to water. **All of this has been documented and brought to your attention.** And yet, the Rec and Parks Commission, and the city of Los Angeles has failed to take meaningful action to protect these animals, and has ceded to pressure from out of state lobbyists instead of heeding the concerns of the thousands of Angelenos who have voiced their concerns about this unchecked cruelty being allowed to continue in a public park.

I am calling on you to investigate the dozens of violations that have been brought to your attention in recent weeks, and to cancel the Griffith Park and Pony Ride contract.



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Venice Library Fire last night**

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Tue, May 31, 2022 at 7:

To: Friends of Venice Library &lt;l

&gt;

Cc:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sat, May 28, 2022 at 3:18 PM Friends of Venice Library &lt; &gt; wrote:

**Last night, a palm tree caught fire next to the Venice Branch Library building. See video below.**

We demand that the tents/camps on Venice Branch Library property, be removed already and fencing placed around the library to prevent this from happening again. Otherwise, we hope t city and the LAPL's fire and liability insurance are up-to-date because there's a very good chance this will escalate and you'll be left with the fall-out. Can you imagine if this happens later year during peak fire season? We sent an email to most of you on April 18, 2022 asking for help. Why is nothing concrete happening to resolve this situation? Why have we not directly h about a plan to abate this crisis? Why is this illegal activity allowed to continue and essentially condoned?

**At the very least, remove the 12 or so tents/camps on library property abutting the building itself, and do not allow the back.**

Please help!

*Concerned citizens of Venice and the Board of the **Friends of the Venice Library****Linda Martinek, Bert Fallon, Shelley Hochberg, Sarah Schacht,**Bruce Henstell, Suzanne Cumming, Anne Taylor, Carol Jones**Lucille Cappas (former Venice Branch manager for 28 years)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OEjI9FB4ng>

**The transformation of Centennial Park in Venice, CA into a homeless encampment:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1B4ENStDK8>

<https://www.latimes.com/homeless-housing/story/2022-02-03/hundreds-of-tents-that-lined-venice-boardwalk-are-gone-but-residents-say-the-job-is-not-done>

THIS LA TIMES ARTICLE IS FROM FEB. 2022. But Venice residents and community activists who worked with Councilman Mike Bonin's office and other city departments on the encampment-to-housing project view those... as evidence of a job that was never completed: Rather than accept the shelter that was offered, dozens of people simply slipped away, taking up residence in alleys near the beach, joining encampments that already existed and starting a new one on the median of Venice Boulevard.

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-05-28/council-district-11-venice-westside>

"If your neighbor was blasting music and screaming at 2 am, you could call the cops and they would hopefully come warn them to turn it down," one Venice resident wrote to @VeniceWasteland. "But if your neighbors were a bunch of drug addicts setting up a commune at the park library across the street, you now have zero recourse."

--  
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: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GAN GRAFFITI CD1 LA 90065**

1 message

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

Tue, May 31, 2022 at 7:28 AM

To: Garcia Incareal <

>

Cc:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff. Please remember you may report service requests to: <https://www.lacity.org/myla311>

If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, May 27, 2022 at 10:11 AM Garcia Incareal <

> wrote:

MAY 27

Council member Gill Cedillo

The Sycamore Grove Park has gan graffiti

Attach picture

Mauro Garcia

--

City of Los Angeles  
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Handwritten graffiti in blue paint on a white roller shutter door. The graffiti includes a stylized triangle with the number '1' inside, the word 'VANDERBILT' in large letters, and other symbols including a vertical arrow on the left and a square with an 'X' on the right.





Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GAN GRAFFITI CD1 LA 90065**

1 message

---

**Yovonte Robinson** <yovonte.robinson@lacity.org>  
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, May 31, 2022 at 11:18 AM

Good morning,

The job order has been placed.

Best Regards

On Tue, May 31, 2022 at 8:44 AM Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt; wrote:

Good morning Yovonte,

Please see the request below. Thank you!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Date: Tue, May 31, 2022 at 7:28 AM

Subject: Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GAN GRAFFITI CD1 LA 90065

To: Garcia Incareal &gt;

Cc:

&lt;silvio.nunez@lacity.org&gt;, &lt;mel.ilomin@lacity.org&gt;, &lt;ricardo.x.flores@lacity.org&gt;, &lt;bill.cody@lacity.org&gt;,&lt;silvio.nunez@lacity.org&gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff. Please remember you may report service requests to: <https://www.lacity.org/myla311>

If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

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The Sycamore Grove Park has gan graffiti

Attach picture

Mauro Garcia

--

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



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: 100s of Westchester Park users/supporters have signed this letter to you

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Thu, Jun 2, 2022 at 7:29 AM

To: Debra Huston &lt;

&gt;

Cc: Lisa GAINES &lt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Jun 1, 2022 at 9:09 PM Debra Huston <

&gt; wrote:

Honorable President and Members of the Recreation and Parks Board,

We learned today that our City Council member, Mike Bonin, has hired a security firm to provide ARMED SECURITY for his office in Westchester Park. This came as a complete shock to our community because members of our community have begged and pleaded with Mike Bonin's office for nearly two years to provide security for children and seniors who want to use the park but do not feel safe doing so. They do not feel safe because of physical attacks, harassment, and incidents of indecent exposure by homeless people as they try to enjoy the park.

We know that Mike Bonin voted to defund LAPD, so to learn he has hired armed security for his office in the park strikes us as complete hypocrisy. Members of our community have asked for well over a year for security to protect children and seniors, and our requests have been ignored--hundreds of our requests for security for the kids.

It is clear Mike Bonin knows the park is unsafe, or he would not have armed security for himself and his staff and office in the park.

I walked to Mr. Bonin's office in the park from my home today because I just could not believe he would have hired armed security for himself and his staff. I knocked on the door and personally spoke with the armed guard, who told me he was there because of the homeless people.

Jamie Paige of the Westside Current did some digging and verified what I heard about Mike Bonin hiring private security for himself and his staff. She is updating her news piece to specify the security is ARMED. The information that the security was armed came from LAPD officers, and I saw it for myself when I was at the park today.

[https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/bonin-hires-private-security-for-westchester-office/article\\_9ae3074e-e210-11ec-8e08-276e0322d2f8.html?utm\\_source=westsidecurrent.com&utm\\_campaign=%2Fnews%2Fbonin-hires-private-security-for-westchester-office%2Farticle-9ae3074e-e210-11ec-8e08-276e0322d2f8.html%3Fmode%3Demail%26-dc%3D1654132622&utm\\_medium=auto%20alert%20email&utm\\_content=read%20more](https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/bonin-hires-private-security-for-westchester-office/article_9ae3074e-e210-11ec-8e08-276e0322d2f8.html?utm_source=westsidecurrent.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnews%2Fbonin-hires-private-security-for-westchester-office%2Farticle-9ae3074e-e210-11ec-8e08-276e0322d2f8.html%3Fmode%3Demail%26-dc%3D1654132622&utm_medium=auto%20alert%20email&utm_content=read%20more)

I am attaching some photos I took today while I was at the park. We now have a chop shop in the parking lot outside Bonin's office (which also serves the library and the senior center). We have a homeless encampment set up in the doorway to Bonin's office in the park. The armed security has been there since January, although we did not know about it because the armed guard stays in Bonin's office, apparently. No one in our community knew about the armed security until today.

The people living in this parking lot, and especially the person living just outside the front door to Mike Bonin's office, seem to be more dangerous by the day. Our seniors and youth would like to return to this park. Please do what you can

to make this happen. Our league presidents are reluctant to have their leagues play on the ball fields there because of attacks on children in the public restroom in the park. Our community needs to know this park will be safe for children, seniors, and others who want to use the park for park purposes. Our kids have not had access to the ball fields in over two years. When the renovation of the ball fields is completed later this summer, we want the park to be safe for them.

Thank you so much for being the stewards of our public parks. There's no one else for our community to turn to, so we appreciate anything you can do.

Debra Huston



The









On Wed, Jun 1, 2022 at 10:16 AM Lisa GAINES <

wrote:

Attachments available until Jul 1, 2022

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

I am a 30-year resident of Westchester. My husband and I raised our three children here. Over the past few years, we have watched Westchester Park become a large homeless encampment with tent and vehicle dwellers and an LAPD crime hotspot. The park became unsafe for seniors and youth, as well as all others, because of the danger presented.

The tent encampments have been removed from the park, but we still have vehicle dwellers in the parking lots of the park, and we have a Safe Parking program that uses less than 25 of the 50 parking spots of the parking lot next to the ball fields and the recreation pool ( <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiaNzBiYTBJMDMtZjFhMS00OTkxLTlmZTEtYWJmNGNhZjRiNjZlhiwidCI6IjBiYWU1NDliLTUyZDgtNGEzYi1hYTE5LWQ1MDY2MmIzMDg5NyIsImMiOjZ9&pageName=ReportSection> ) as is reported by LAHSA. That Safe Parking program is underutilized and has eight or fewer cars in the lot each night.

Our community and surrounding communities need these parking spaces, and they need a park that is safe for them.

Please see the hundreds of letters in the attached google drive (the file is too big for email) <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jSSTLXV0AG-Hy-FzOe0qxPrC1IIWkaz0?usp=sharing> . They reflect the concern of our community, who have been waiting for over two years to be able to safely use the park.

We ask that you deny any request by our Council Office to extend or expand the Safe Parking permit, and that you help in any way you can to help clear the parking lots of homeless vehicle dwellers. Our Council Member has had two years to find other locations, and now LAX has 50 Safe Parking spots which can be used by the few who now use the Safe Parking lot in Westchester Park. Our Council Member has the staff and authority to find locations for the vehicle dwellers to park as well.

We have recently been informed by an LAPD officer that Mike Bonin has armed security at his office at the park. Therefore, we believe it is clear he recognizes the danger and seeks his own personal safety. We also ask that RAP arrange for armed security for the ball fields, the senior center, and other facilities within the park, such as the tennis courts and recreation pool for our safety, too.

Our community and surrounding communities need our park. Thank you for your consideration.

Lisa Gaines

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: 100s of Westchester Park users/supporters have signed this letter to you

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Jun 1, 2022 at 11:35 AM

To: Lisa GAINES <l.gaines@lacity.org>

Cc:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Wed, Jun 1, 2022 at 10:16 AM Lisa GAINES <l.gaines@lacity.org>

> wrote:

Attachments available until Jul 1, 2022

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

I am a 30-year resident of Westchester. My husband and I raised our three children here. Over the past few years, we have watched Westchester Park become a large homeless encampment with tent and vehicle dwellers and an LAPD crime hotspot. The park became unsafe for seniors and youth, as well as all others, because of the danger presented.

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Our community and surrounding communities need our park. Thank you for your consideration.

Lisa Gaines

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Sepulveda Basin off-leash Dog Park**

1 message

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

Thu, Jun 2, 2022 at 2:13 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, Jun 2, 2022 at 10:53 AM Miriam Preissel &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Hi Sylvia and Mike,

I am not a very polished speaker and went over my 2 minutes, as you heard so I am sending this email to articulate my last 30 seconds... Thank you for your patience!

I intended to ask that RAP request the DWP to extend the purple line to our park as soon as physically possible.

We had been presented a plan many years ago that had it completed by 2017 which came and went. This is a common issue for community involvement, we are not following daily changes and what was assured changes without notice for unknown reasons.

Our park now has many distressed trees that are not being watered and we have not seeded through the pandemic. This may be unusual for a dog park to be seeded but maintenance has always followed the Army Corps Master plan which directs bacteria to be kept from the wash (as we border the wash) using seeding as "vegetative swales" and to keep erosion in the basin to a minimum. We have sprinklers sticking up 1" or more now after 3 years of the dirt turning into dust and blowing away.

Out of all the parks in the basin I believe our park is one of the most trafficked and will continue to suffer now with water restrictions on top of the sporadic watering of the last year. Linda Gravani has attained support from Congressman Brad Sherman but we need to begin here, with RAP requesting it to start the ball rolling. I am hoping this can happen and we can all follow the schedule through and make sure it gets accomplished.

The policy of changing personal and transferring to different parts of the city has honestly been disruptive. We have had all our contacts transferred or retired at the same time, trying to connect with the replacements with the same level of trust and communication has been challenging. From what I am seeing they are not attending community meetings anymore which is is unfortunate.

I may sound like the park I only have issues, but it is an oasis in a very busy city and don't want to seem ungrateful. I hope my intentions are taken as someone who wants to find solutions more than complain.

Thank you both for your service and support for our park and all the parks in Los Angeles.

Best,

Miriam Preissel

President - Friends of the Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park

Friends Board - Dana Bartholomew, Ter Lieberstein, Katie Serviss, Trudi Schoolhouse &amp; John Genga

--

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



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Clean Up the Disaster at Centennial Park that Bonin Created**

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Mon, Jun 6, 2022 at 7:20 AM

To: John Baginski &lt;

&gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Jun 3, 2022 at 9:09 AM John Baginski &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Bonin's favorite PR plan...

Create a Crisis. Pretend to Solve Crisis. Get A Bunch of PR. When the press leave, run away with no follow up and leave the area with the scars, trash, inflated crime, and disruption with he created. Ignore that most of the homeless do not go to or stay in the housing. Ignore that his policies attracted many of the people to his localized crisis in the first place.

**Penmar Park**

Disaster created by Mike. Fires, crime, trash, property values dropped, people moving, the neighborhood damaged etc.... To this day there is still no jogging path.

**Ocean Front Walk [the Boardwalk]**

Huge spike in violent crime, fires, murders, rapes, business leaving, residents moving away... Venice went from the "Coolest City in USA" to the poster child for how NOT to manage the homeless crisis. Mike even had the gall to stop the Sheriff when they tried to help.

The reputation damage to Venice as a tourist destination may never go away. Silicon beach is over. So many good people and businesses left and will not return to Venice.

**Westchester Park**

Same story. Push/invite all homeless to one place. Restrict the police from enforcing any laws. Let the neighborhood scream. Let the crime go up. Damage the neighborhood. Let the press get involved. Then concentrate services for a short duration and claim success. Then walk away.

**Centennial Park**

Same crap a different day....

Please do not let Bonin claim he fixed the localized problem at Centennial Park. Bonin created it. Thanking Bonin for the upcoming Centinela Park cleanup would be like thanking him for pulling out a nail he put in your head.

He is planning to have this his victory lap (by spending \$1M of taxpayer money to non-profits and service providers that we are already paying to do this work). He does not deserve it. He and his horrific policies have been a disaster for Venice Beach.

Centennial Park is just another example of his failures.

John Baginski

6/6/22, 7:23 AM

City of Los Angeles Mail - Re: In Support of the renaming of Gladys Park to General Jeff Park (In Skid Row)



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: In Support of the renaming of Gladys Park to General Jeff Park (In Skid Row)**

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Mon, Jun 6, 2022 at 7:22 AM

To: Katherine McNenny &lt;

Cc: Tanesha Anderson

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sat, Jun 4, 2022 at 3:02 PM Katherine McNenny &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Park Commissioners,

My name is Katherine McNenny. I am a 12-year resident of Downtown's Skid Row neighborhood and was a close friend to the late community activist, General Jeff.

I wish to submit the attached document, outlining the contributions General Jeff made to the park. I included the RAP created document as well.

I had also submitted the same document to the City Council file for the park renaming here:

[22-0198 \(CFMS\) \(lacity.org\)](#)

I have cc'ed Tanesha Johnson, General Jeff's beloved niece, who is keeping his family informed of this process.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Katherine

...

Katherine McNenny

Cell:

Support the Skid Row Neighborhood Council-Formation Committee! [skidrowneighborhoodcouncil.com](http://skidrowneighborhoodcouncil.com)

--

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Mail Stop: 625/15

# 6th & Gladys Street Park Naming Presentation

Department of Recreation and Parks

May 31, 2022



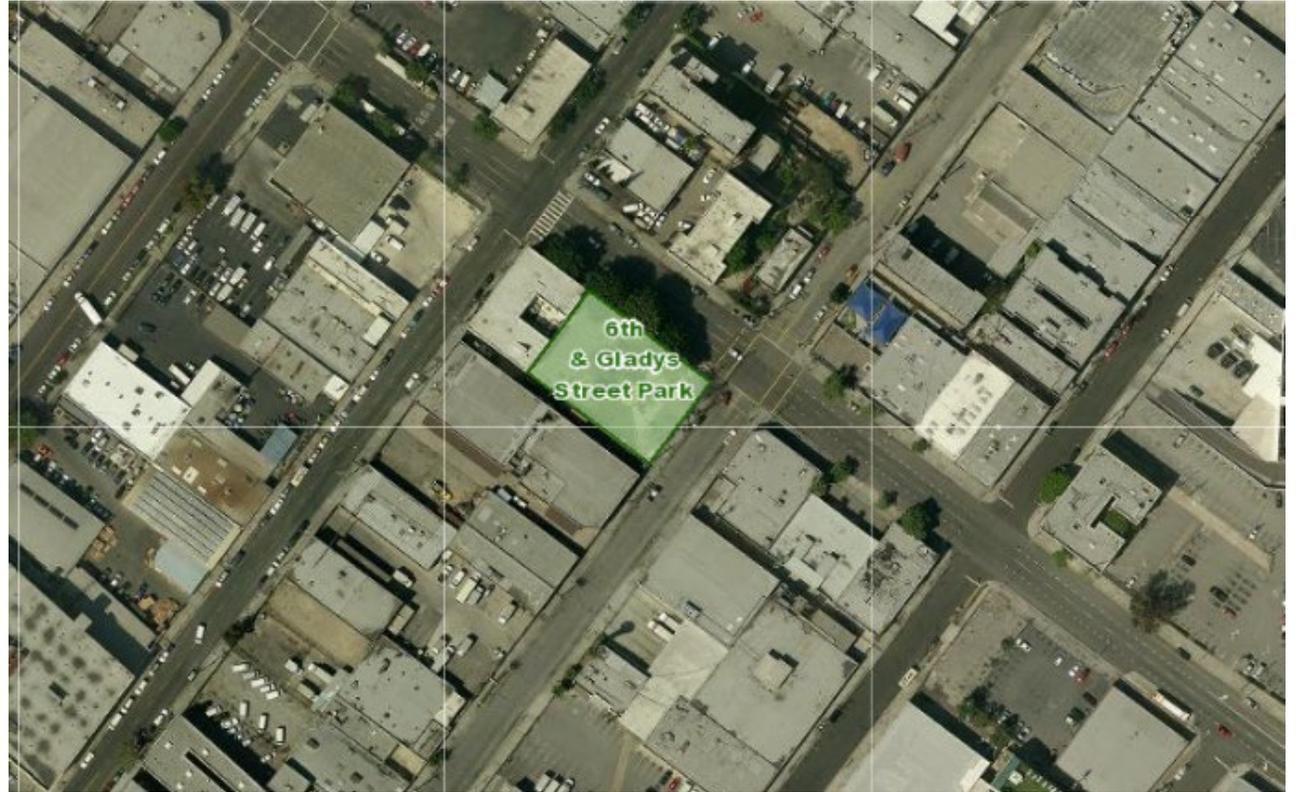
**PARK PROUD LA**

# Agenda

- About 6th & Gladys Street Park
- Surrounding Parks in the area
- RAP Naming Policy
- Current 6th & Gladys Street Park Name
- Proposed Names
- Naming Process Next Steps

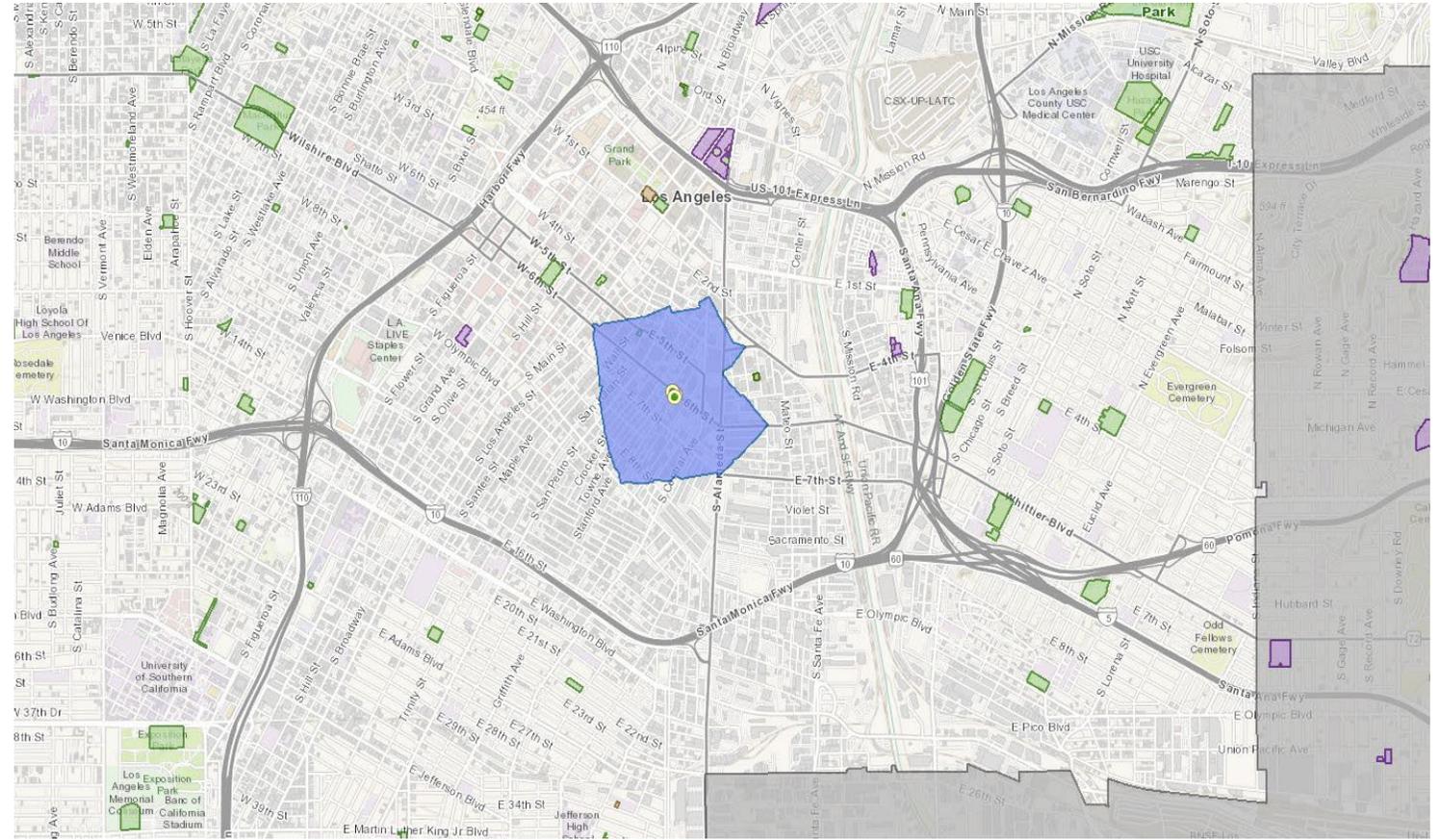
# About 6th & Gladys Street Park

- Located at 808 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street in the Skid Row community of the City
- Classified as a Neighborhood Park
- Current features of 6th & Gladys Street Park:
  - Basketball Court
  - Picnic Tables
  - Outdoor Fitness Equipment



# Surrounding Parks within 2 Miles of 6th & Gladys Street Park

- Arts District Park
- Spring Street Park
- Pecan Recreation Center
- City Hall Park
- Central Recreation Center
- Ord and Yale Street Park
- Grand Hope Park
- Pershing Square
- Hollenbeck Park
- Boyle Heights Sports Center
- Ross Snyder Recreation Center
- Prospect Park
- Alpine Recreation Center
- Vista Hermosa Soccer Field
- Echo Park Deep Pool
- Patton Street Pocket Park



# RAP Naming Policy

- The RAP Board adopted a Naming Policy in June 2013 (Report No. 13-161)
- The Naming of parks after individuals shall be limited to those who are deceased and have made exceptional contributions to the park or community within which the park is located.
- Parks shall only be named after living persons under circumstances requiring such naming as a condition precedent of a grant deed or covenant.
- The Naming of a park after a major historic event must be based on a direct connection between the park and such event.
- The Naming engenders a positive public image which does not unduly commercialize the park or recreational facility.
- The proposed name for the park or recreational facility, and/or contributor, must be compatible with the Mission of RAP.
- Initial Park Names shall be administratively assigned by RAP staff based on geographic features such as street and community names or prominent features.

# Current 6th & Gladys Street Park Name

- Property was acquired by RAP in 1981 from the Community Redevelopment Agency.
- Park was administratively named based on the park's geographic location at the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Gladys Avenue.
- The current name is consistent with the RAP Board's naming policy
- "6th & Gladys Street Park" shall remain the official park name until action has been taken by the RAP Board to rename the park.



# Proposed Names for 6th & Gladys Street Street Park

RAP is proposing the following names for 6th & Gladys Street Park:

- General Jeff Page Park - Proposed by the Office of Council District 14

Please note: this discussion is not limited to these previously submitted names. Additional naming proposals may be submitted to RAP staff for consideration at [rap.commissioners@lacity.org](mailto:rap.commissioners@lacity.org)

# About Jeff Page aka “Mayor of Skid Row”

- Jeff Page was born in 1965 and a South Los Angeles native and activist in the Skid Row community.
- West Coast hip hop pioneer, who worked as a producer and mixer for various artists and as an assistant for MC Eiht and DJ Quik
- Arrived in the Skid Row community in 2006
- He created an organization called “Issues and Solutions”, which engaged in cleaning, upgrading, and fixing the amenities at 6<sup>th</sup> and Gladys Street Park.
- He enlisted the help of the LA84 Foundation and Nike to help transform the existing half court basketball court at 6<sup>th</sup> and Gladys Street Park to a full court and grew Skid Row’s 3-on-3 basketball league.
- Promoted several community events such as Christmas lights at the park, summer movies, chess and photography clubs & a trash patrol
- He helped create the Gladys Park Advisory Board, which is an organization that works with local government agencies to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood.
- Served as the skid row representative in the DTLA Neighborhood Council
- Jeff Page passed away on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. He was 56 years old.



Photo Credit: Francine Orr / Los Angeles Times

# Actions Taken Thus Far...

- March 8, 2022, the Downtown LA Neighborhood Council voted to support the renaming of the park in honor of General Jeff Page
- On May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the Los Angeles City Council approved the motion requesting the RAP Board consider the renaming of 6th & Gladys Street Park to “General Jeff Page Park”.
- RAP staff has reviewed the proposed name and determined that it is within the RAP Naming Policy.

# Next Steps...

- Determine if there is a consensus in the Community on a new name for 6<sup>th</sup> & Gladys Street Park.
- If/Once a consensus name is identified, staff will prepare a preliminary Report for conceptual approval to the RAP Facility Repair and Maintenance Task Force.
- If granted conceptual approval, a Report will to be presented to the RAP Board of Commissioners recommending approval of the renaming of 6th & Gladys Street Park.



Photo by Ted Soqui

**Honoring**  
**“General” Jeff Page’s**  
**Work In Gladys Park**  
**Skid Row, Los Angeles**

*Born To Lead In 1965, Left A Legacy In 2021*

“General” Jeff Page did many things to improve Gladys Park, not only regarding its physical infrastructure, but also to uplift and inspire the people who use it. Knowing he wanted to help people, but not necessarily knowing exactly how, General Jeff moved into the neighborhood to gain an insider’s perspective.

*“...in order for me to help the community, I have to learn the community and so I started going to every meeting. I didn’t know anybody in Downtown. So, I’m like, let me go here, this meeting...*

*...[I] came to Skid Row by choice - strong able-bodied man, leading by example.” - General Jeff<sup>1</sup>*

General Jeff felt strongly that green space and physical activity were important components for a healthy community, so his early activism focused on connecting with existing grassroots improvement efforts already underway at Gladys Park.

*“The only way you can live an active lifestyle is by actively doing stuff. Physical exercise...you get your blood pumping, you know, you’re breathing in oxygen, you get your lungs flowing, get your sweat dripping, sweating out the impurities in your body. Then you have a thirst and a need to put nutrients back in your body so now you get your life... your body moving and living again. So, that’s a major component if we are going to rehabilitate the Skid Row community.” - General Jeff<sup>2</sup>*

He decided to start his own organization and named it “Issues and Solutions”.

*“...when I first got here in 2006 I would go sit in on a whole bunch of meetings at the nonprofit organizations in Skid Row...I got so sick and tired of them only talking about the issues. My concept was—let me find the meetings where they’re talking about the issues and the solutions. You know, ‘cause usually they talk about some stuff—complain, complain, complain—okay, that’s it for today...And I’m thinking—when are we going to get to the solutions? That was the impetus for me to name my organization Issues and Solutions. Kinda’ like, remind people, every time they say it, the last thing out their mouth is solutions. Well, that’s subliminal programming on my behalf, to get people to focus on the solutions for Skid Row more so than the issues.” - General Jeff<sup>3</sup>*

In 2006, Gladys Park had crumbing, broken park benches, only a half basketball court with a cracked surface, and wasn’t being cleaned regularly. Although the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) technically had jurisdiction over the park, SRO Housing Corporation had been managing it since 1988 with funds from the Community Redevelopment Agency. While SRO Housing Corp. had made a few aesthetic improvements to the park (i.e., painting the central stage area), many local residents were frustrated with this arrangement and increasingly demanding more. There was an upstart Skid Row 3on3 Streetball League, for example, that needed a full court

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from a 2014 Los Angeles Poverty Department “Walk the Talk” video archive transcript of General Jeff.

<sup>2</sup> Same as footnote #1.

<sup>3</sup> Same as footnote #1.

to better play their games. Soon after learning all this, General Jeff began asking questions at City Hall.

*“I had no idea that nothing had been done in Gladys Park in 20 years, since 1988. All I know is I take my basketball serious and when I went to that court and saw the baskets leaning and no nets, the balls not even qualified. Where I come from we don’t even call that a basketball that we play with. It is a ball, but you let the kids play with that. Let the youngsters play with that, but serious ball players? These are the poorest conditions. There were two side by side half basketball courts and there were four rotted out chess tables with a bunch of people standing around hovering over them “I got next, I got next,” and I’m thinking, we need more chess tables...we need fitness equipment...” - General Jeff<sup>4</sup>*



**Gladys Park  
Before Renovation**

Photo from SRO Housing Corporation

## *Identifying Quimby Funds For Park Improvements*

When General Jeff first reached out to RAP to inquire about upgrades at Gladys Park, they told him the park was “dead”.

*“...so I contacted them and they basically said, “No. We’re not interested in anything you’re talking about,” and they took it a step further and actually insulted me by saying, “Gladys Park is dead,”...my attitude was—I’m not letting that slide, I’m taking that one personal. I’m the nicest coolest person on the planet, but don’t put me in a position where I’ve got to take something personal cause for one it’s going to be impetus and definitely motivating for me to do what I whatever I’ve got to do and I have no idea how I’m going to come back, but I am going to come back, you can guarantee that...I have to play political chess now ‘cause I already know these cats is not going to move...You insulted me and my community, you know I got to do this.” - General Jeff<sup>5</sup>*

A 2007 audit of RAP<sup>6</sup> revealed millions of dollars in unspent funds allocated for parks. Of this amount, \$16 million was to be used for Downtown parks. General Jeff went on to advocate that City staff direct these Quimby funds to replace damaged and run-down park fixtures over the next couple of years. Today, Gladys Park has several new tables with umbrellas, where people regularly gather to socialize, play dominoes, or just relax.

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<sup>4</sup> Same as footnote #1.

<sup>5</sup> Same as footnote #1.

<sup>6</sup> Few parks, but city sits on a pile of green - Los Angeles Times (latimes.com)



Photo by Lynn Rossi



Photo of the renovated Gladys Park from [laparks.org/park/6th-gladys-street](http://laparks.org/park/6th-gladys-street)

### *Park Water Fountain Replacements*

Not only was the furniture in disrepair at Gladys Park, but the water fountain was corroded too - yet another symbol of the longstanding neglect Skid Row suffered from. In May 2008, General Jeff initiated an inquiry to The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) regarding the drinking water at both Gladys and San Julian Parks. This resulted in RAP not only replacing the drinking fountain units, but also most of the adjoining underground pipes at Gladys Park.

“...they talked it over, and they said, you know what, since we haven’t done anything in the park in 20 years, we’re going to go ahead and switch out the water fountain and plus fifty feet of piping in the streets...So, they went big and it was successful and so what I did was I wrote them a thank you note, ‘cause my mama taught me, someone does something for you, you thank them. So I thanked them. I sent it up and down City Hall: Jan Perry, José Huizar, the Mayor’s Office and all these kind of folks, the DWP commissioners and everybody. So they got some good PR, ‘cause at the time they were taking some heat in the media. You know, a lot of water main breaks...so they were like, oh, we really appreciate what you’re doing, you know, and the Rec and Parks they were like, oh, we really appreciate this...And it was like, matter of fact, now let’s revisit the improvement list, ‘cause there was about 15 20 things and they were like, you know what, yeah, let’s look at that thing.” - General Jeff<sup>7</sup>

## *Christmas in Skid Row/Gladys and San Julian Parks*

In December 2008, General Jeff organized a project with the LADWP called “Christmas in Skid Row/Gladys Park” which included a Christmas tree, lights and decorations meant to bring joy to area residents. This project continues to this day in both Skid Row parks, now with the full support of RAP.

## *The Skid Row 3on3 Streetball League and Nike Basketball Court*

The revamping of Gladys Park’s basketball court made perhaps the biggest splash to the people who use the park. The popularity of the Skid Row 3on3 Streetball League allowed General Jeff to successfully enlist both NIKE and the LA84 Foundation (created to manage an endowment from the 1984 Olympic Games) to help fund the court’s transformation.



Photo by Bobby Buck

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<sup>7</sup> Same as footnote #1.

By December of 2008, there was a Grand Opening celebration of the brand-new Gladys Park full basketball court which included an event featuring the Skid Row 3on3 Streetball League versus a team from the Los Angeles Police Department's Central Division. General Jeff created and initiated this Gladys Park improvement project, working directly with RAP.

The Skid Row 3on3 Streetball League, founded by Manuel Compito aka "OG Man", had General Jeff as its Marketing Director, Charles Porter as Commissioner, Sway Ford and Peter Bell as Presidents and Jose Egurbide and Casey Jones as Advisory Board Members. General Jeff was also a player in the League and the only one to be on three (3) Championship teams, all played at Gladys Park - teams "Game Over", "Da Ryders" and "Da Villanz". Hundreds of players participated in the League and contributed to building a strong community at Gladys Park.

*"OG provided me with the signs of life that I needed to reassure my willingness to plant roots here and say yes, this is the area that I will do this, and not South Central or anywhere else." - General Jeff<sup>8</sup>*



Photos by Lynn Rossi

<sup>8</sup> Same as footnote #1.



Photo by Gary Leonard

In October of 2009, The Downtown News published a Three-Part Series by Ryan Vaillancourt titled, “More Than Just a Game”, which detailed how “Recovery Works In Many Ways”. From the Series:

*“...General Jeff, waves a thick, outstretched arm, calling for the ball. Off the court he’s a prominent Skid Row activist, hell-bent on showing the world there’s more to the neighborhood than drugs, homelessness and despair.”*

*“Manuel Compito grins, and offers the younger man somewhat of a challenge: “What are you going to do about it? You gonna stay mad? Man, ain’t no losers here. It’s more than just a game.”*

*“Just last month, a kid recognized Sway on a street corner about a mile from the park and asked him for his autograph. To be recognized, he says, “as that baller from Gladys Park was pretty cool, man.””*



Photo by Lynn Rossi



Photos by Lynn Rossi

From a January 5, 2009 Downtown News article titled, “Skid Row Park Gets New Hoops Court”:

*“The facility had long consisted of two blacktop, side-by-side half-courts. Now, thanks to an effort by Nike and the LA84 Foundation, the park has a full-length court that was finished on Dec. 20...the foundation and Nike spent about \$17,000 on the court, the surface of which is made from recycled rubber shoes...“We want it to be a hotspot for basketball players all around L.A.,” said General Jeff, a Skid Row activist and member of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council who helped organize the project. “The court is actually a Christmas present to Skid Row that gives hope to our community.”*

In 2010, the Skid Row 3on3 Streetball League won a Downtowners of Distinction Award, given annually by the Downtown News. The award was presented to the homegrown League because it had created a “safe haven” in Gladys Park.

*“A little more than two years in and we were deemed winners. From a psychological standpoint I could see that rattling out through our community, that, hey, we won something. Winners, that was the theme and we were hoping to instill hope and pride in our residents, not just the men, but the women as well.” - General Jeff9*

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<sup>9</sup> Same as footnote #1.

In light of this impressive success, General Jeff kept pushing the envelope for what was possible in Gladys Park.

*“So then from June of 2008 we were done, the basketball court was in by December 2008. So later on the bleachers were there, instead of those old four chess tables—they took those out—we got eight new chess tables...Later on, in 2009, I got some dip bars out there. So we’re still working our way across the park. So the water fountain is done...a Skid Row resident created a half-million dollar project to improve a park that they said was dead, in our own community, so that was my first big hit, my first big notch on my resume as a community activist in our community...at the same time we need to recognize there’s been folks in Skid Row way before me. I’m not the first person ever...oh, look at what I did...it’s not even about me. It’s a body of work and, you know, the Skid Row residents, folks that care about the people who live here have done a lot of tremendous things over the years.” - General Jeff<sup>10</sup>*



Photo on top left and bottom left by Lynn Rossi / top right and bottom right by Katherine McNenny

<sup>10</sup> Same as footnote #1.

## *The Formation Of The Skid Row Park Advisory Board (PAB)*

Witnessing the positive effect that the transformation of Gladys Park had on the community and understanding that consistent communication between the residents of Skid Row and RAP was necessary, General Jeff went on to lobby hard for the establishment of an official Skid Row Parks Advisory Board (PAB) which would eventually oversee both Gladys and San Julian Parks. There were more hurdles to overcome first. For starters, at the time General Jeff began advocating for a Skid Row PAB, San Julian Park was not yet under the jurisdiction of the City, or by extension, RAP. In fact, San Julian Park was owned by the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), and then a successor agency up until 2015, when RAP finally took control of it.



Photo on left by Mel Melcon / top right by Charlene Muhammad / bottom right by Francine Orr

From an October 21, 2015 “Summer Activity Report” from General Manager Michael Shull to Park Commissioners<sup>11</sup>:

*“In the early 1980’s, the CRA acquired property at the intersection of San Julian Street and 5th Street for the development of the San Julian Park. Since its completion, the CRA has operated and maintained the park for the benefit of those living in Skid Row. In 2011, Governor Brown signed*

<sup>11</sup> [laparks.org/sites/default/files/pdf/commissioner/2015/oct21/info.pdf](http://laparks.org/sites/default/files/pdf/commissioner/2015/oct21/info.pdf)

*into law Assembly Bill (AB) X126 which dissolved all California Redevelopment Agencies. With the CRA no longer able to operate and maintain the park, the City Council approved the recommendation to transfer ownership of the park to the Department. On March 19, 2015, the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners, through Report No. 15-059, approved the acceptance of the property.”*

*“On May 4, 2015, Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff met with Jeff Paige [Page], a community activist, and discussed the needs at Gladys Park, the park hours of operation, the needs of the Skid Row Drifters, the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) group, drinking fountain, water mainline, and park lighting.”*

*“On September 1, 2015, RAP staff met with Jeff Paige [Page] and Katherine McNenny, a community activist. They requested to establish a Park Advisory Board (PAB) for San Julian Park. Both Jeff Paige [Page] and Katherine McNenny shared their interest in becoming PAB members. Park improvements were also discussed.”*

Having both Skid Row parks under the jurisdiction of RAP was something area activists had wanted for a long time and General Jeff knew that a PAB would help make sure things stayed this way. However, because these parks were designated as “pocket parks” by the City, he encountered some pushback in his fight for a Skid Row PAB. Traditionally, the City only granted PABs to larger parks, such as Pershing Square or Griffith Park. He was told Skid Row’s two (2) parks were too small for a PAB. Yet, General Jeff continued pushing. After listening to several of his impassioned speeches at Park Commission meetings, EXPO Center (designated as an LA Park) Executive Director Belinda Jackson connected with what General Jeff was saying - that Skid Row is a community like others, but one that has unique needs and had suffered from neglect far too long, including its parks which represent a very real lifeline for its residents! She began to work with General Jeff to help make the Skid Row PAB a reality.

On January 26, 2017, General Jeff led community presentations for the National Recreation and Park Association who visited Gladys Park as part of their Los Angeles tour, noting best practices for engaging people experiencing homelessness<sup>12</sup>.



(2017 presentation to National Recreation and Park Association) Photo by Michael Blaze

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2017/march/los-angeles-innovation-lab-tackles-homelessness/>

In January of 2018, RAP began seeking community members who were interested in joining the Skid Row PAB. After a few delays, the Skid Row PAB held its first meeting in October of 2020. Also in 2020, the revitalization of the Skid Row Parks earned the City of LA a “Creating Community Award of Excellence” from The California Park and Recreation Society<sup>13</sup>.

The existence of a Skid Row PAB<sup>14</sup> is important because it can advocate for needed resources to support the community’s two local parks and receive funds to be utilized for future park improvements and programming. It also embodies the struggle for Skid Row to be recognized as a neighborhood whose parks receive an equitable share of funding and amenities to accommodate the many patrons that frequent them.

### *Gladys Park Bench-Building Day*

General Jeff advocated for both Skid Row parks to receive new park benches in 2017. RAP was onsite at Gladys Park for a day of community-building as local residents helped City staff assemble and install them.



<sup>13</sup> <https://www.cprs.org/resources/cprs-awards-2020-winners/creating-community-award-of-excellence-2020>

<sup>14</sup> Agendas (listed as Gladys Park and San Julian Park) are posted at: <https://www.laparks.org/volunteer/pab-agendas/2021>. Also see the Skid Row PAB Facebook Page.

## Redirected Los Angeles Police Department Funding Towards The Skid Row PAB

The Summer of 2020 brought national, even *international* protests over police brutality and racism for the May 25, 2020 murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American man who was killed during an arrest after Derek Chauvin, a Minneapolis Police Department officer, knelt on Floyd's neck for 9 minutes and 29 seconds. Black Lives Matter was at the forefront of calls to redirect funding away from bloated and over militarized police departments and towards more community-based solutions, education, and health care.



Photo on left by Alexis Hunley / top right by Jason Armond / bottom right by Lynn Rossi

By July of 2020, the Los Angeles City Council was voting on plans to cut \$150 million from LAPD's budget for the next fiscal year<sup>15</sup>, a move that followed activist's mounting calls to "Defund the Police." Specifically, activists wanted this money to be directed towards Black communities. General Jeff reached out to new City Councilman Kevin de León (whose District 14 includes

<sup>15</sup> Los Angeles City Council votes to slash LAPD budget by \$150 million - CBS News

Downtown) to inquire about this funding. When all was said and done, General Jeff was able to secure \$200,000<sup>16</sup> for the Skid Row PAB, to be used for positive programming for years to come.

*“...Skid Row is mine. That’s my mindset...let’s keep it one hundred—Skid Row is a fifty block community...from Third to the north, Seventh to the south, Main St. to the west and Alameda to the east, and my mindset is, Skid Row is my first 40 acres and a mule, and I try to spread that mindset through the rest of the community because...I learned from Magic Johnson many moons ago is that it’s all about ownership. If you ever hear about Magic Johnson making any type of business moves, he’s owning something. You know, it’s an ownership move, you know, from the Lakers to the Dodgers to the Sparks just yesterday, Starbucks, TGI Friday’s, movie theaters, whatever it is, he’s owning stuff; even with the Canyon Johnson Urban Development Corporation, he ownership’n. So that’s the mindset we have to be as Skid Row. We have to own our community even though we don’t physically own it yet. We don’t have any deeds in our pocket, but it’s the mindset. ‘Cause that way we’re going to take better care and be more serious about where we live.” - General Jeff<sup>17</sup>*



Photo by Tommy Oliver

<sup>16</sup> Council File: 20-0600-S83. Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget / Los Angeles Police Department / Reinvest Funds for Impacted Communities

<sup>17</sup> Same as footnote #1.



Photo by Ted Soqui

**Donations to the Skid Row Park Advisory Board can be made through the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. All donations will go towards park improvements and programming for both Gladys and San Julian Parks.**

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**Authored by Katherine McNenny, with help from Manuel Compito aka “OG Man”, Charles Porter, The Los Angeles Poverty Department, and The Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.**

**December 2021**



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: Emergency Procedures Feedback

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Jun 6, 2022 at 10:52 AM

To: Nina H <>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, info@oag.ca.gov, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, contactCD4@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, Councilmember.Rodriguez@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.ridley-thomas@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Jun 6, 2022 at 10:05 AM Nina H <>

> wrote:

Hello, my name is Nina and I am a resident and a parent in Los Angeles. Pre-pandemic, we loved using the wonderful facilities that the LA Parks and Recreation maintain, from the kids summer camps to the pools.

On Friday afternoon, my 8 year old daughter was denied entry into one of the LA Public pools because she is not vaccinated. I am appalled, as the "covid 19 emergency" has been over for months - hospitals have ample capacity and 98% of the USA is open and functioning as normal (not to mention Europe is COMPLETELY open, no mandates or masks or anything!), yet cities like NYC, SF and here in LA we are persisting in these arbitrary mandates.

Firstly, my taxes pay for these services and facilities - and as a taxpayer I should have a say in how my tax dollars are spent. I personally don't believe in discrimination or segregation for any reason, and I find it appalling that anyone in a progressive liberal society finds this behavior to be acceptable! I am appalled that we are still demanding vax cards in public spaces, especially considering the latest evidence that Pfizer has made public.

I hope you are aware that by order of federal courts, Pfizer has been required to release its clinical trial findings in monthly installments. You can read them all in full here: <https://phmpt.org/pfizers-documents/> If you analyze what has been released so far, you would know that there is no scientific evidence that requiring the C19 vaccine will reduce transmission, infection, or severity of cases and number of deaths within the workplace or the local community. The available vaccines were never designed to stop the transmission of covid-19, greatly evidenced by the omicron and delta variant's infection and transmission among fully vaccinated persons.

And yet, if at least the vaccines work to protect the people they are injected into, then it shouldn't matter if anyone else is vaccinated - aren't you confident in the vaccine's ability to protect you? If not, why would you inject yourself with something that doesn't do anything and that hasn't been tested for longer than a few years in a human population?

It is completely reasonable to implement certain common-sense health and safety policies in public spaces, such as directing people to stay home if they are sick. But it is unreasonable (and *unconscionable*) to penalize healthy individuals who simply have not received a particular vaccine. Society is comprised of individuals and we must be allowed to maintain our bodily autonomy in a just and free society. NO drug is one-size fits all, and even the pharmaceutical companies admit this!

I implore you, FOLLOW THE SCIENCE and lift these restrictions that do nothing but needlessly and unjustly discriminate against people.

Thank you,  
Nina Hirten

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