

INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

December 15, 2022

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FROM: JIMMY KIM, 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) Various comments regarding Griffith Park Pony Ride		Referred to General Manager
2) Laura Ceballos comments regarding Oakwood Park	#9150ak	Referred to General Manager
3) Laura Ceballos comments regarding Oakwood Park	#9150al	Referred to General Manager
4) Jennifer Massey comments regarding Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone	#9223d	Referred to General Manager
5) Linda Gravani, President of Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council comments regarding Jesse Owens Plaque	#9228	Referred to General Manager
6) Chris Spitz comments regarding Potrero Canyon	#9229	Referred to General Manager
7) Chris Spitz comments regarding Potrero Canyon	#9229a	Referred to General Manager
8) Peter Longo comments regarding Potrero Canyon	#9229b	Referred to General Manager
9) Randall Paulson comments regarding Potrero Canyon	#9229c	Referred to General Manager
10) Melanie And Andy Goldberger comments regarding Potrero Canyon	#9229d	Referred to General Manager

11) Chris Spitz comments regarding Potrero Canyon	#9229e	Referred to General Manager
12) Melvin Sukow comments regarding Robert M Wilkinson Center	#9230	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Carolyn Shannon-Joyner, RAP Commission Office



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: RETRACT MOTION TO CHANGE Oakwood Park name

1 message

**Laura Ceballos**

>

Sun, Nov 27, 2022 at 9:24 AM

To: councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, Councilmember Rodriguez <councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org>, vrenely.garcia@lacity.org, Denise Jackson <denise.jackson@lacity.org>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Cc: councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, , Lillycat83@gmail.com, Kevin de Leon <lillycat83@gmail.com>, gilbert.cedillo@lacity.org, Councilmember Rodriguez <councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org>, Jose Gonzalez <josegonzalez@lacity.org>, Hector Garcia <hector.garcia@lacity.org>, Darlene Rodriguez <darlene.rodriguez@lacity.org>, ethics.commission@lacity.org, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, bob.blumfeld@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, contactCD4@lacity.org,

On Oct 24, 2022, at 10:34 PM, Laura Ceballos <laura.ceb@lacity.org>

> wrote:

Hello President Krekorian,

My name is Laura Ceballos and I am a Community Organizer in Venice.

I am writing about a matter that should be investigated, because there has been a violation in policy and procedures.

How does a Historical Park in Venice get approval for a name change in a matter of 2 months without community input? All it took was 11 signatures from the black community to have the name change.

Oakwood Park is a Historical park in the Heart of Venice that both the brown and black community share deep roots to.

The name change was expedited and done in an unforthcoming manner without good governance. Policy and procedures were not followed and a public hearing was omitted in the process. There was no input from the community.

It is unethical to ostracize POC who have been marginalized and to create division within the brown and black community.

We have asked Council Member Mike Bonin to retract the motion and allow the community as a whole to decide whether the park should be renamed. We have asked to meet with Council Member Bonin and have been ignored. He continues to move forward without acknowledging the Venice Community.

Down below is a petition with over 1,200 signatures from the Venice Community opposing the name change and asking that the LA City council retract the motion.

We ask that you look into this matter and allow for transparency and accountability. Thank you.

Laura Ceballos  
Community Organizer

<https://www.change.org/p/protect-save-the-historical-oakwood-park-in-venice-from-a-major-name-change>

On Jun 23, 2022, at 11:06 AM, Laura Ceballos <

> wrote:

Oakwood Park is a Historical Park that both the brown and black community have deep roots and connection to. Why the name change now? Is this a power grab? Why create division? Why start a race war that will spread throughout the City of Los Angeles?

Why not claim Oakwood Park as a Historical site that will preserve the brown and black history in the Oakwood area? There is already Historic Cultural sites in Venice designated in the names of these individuals.

Oakwood Park is where we celebrate our annual Historical Venice Cinco de Mayo Parade & Festival, Mexican Independence Day " El Grito", Venice Car Show, Venice Mexican American Traquero Monument Fundraisers, Birthdays, celebrations of life, picnics, gatherings, etc.

This is morally and ethically wrong. Any Leader that remains silent on this issue and allows this to move forward is on the side of the oppressor. WE WILL NOT REMAIN SILENT. Discussions are always black and white and the brown community is ostracized from all racial equity discussions within the community. Intentionally overlooking and excluding the brown community, erasure of the Chicano- Mexican American history in the Oakwood area, dividing the community, does not put progress in bringing unity and peace amongst people of color.

Down below is the article of the June 2022 Venice Beachhead where we found out about the name change. It also shows a strong message by the "Save Venice" group stating they are taking their power back. Power grab? I say so. I question the intentions behind this group, knowing their actions will cause division and disharmony between the brown and black community.

The brown community has been trying to designate a Chicano/A-Mexican American History month in the City of Los Angeles for over a year now and no Councilmember on the LA City Council has been willing to make a motion to approve our proposal. Our Leaders Dolores Huerta, Carlos Montes, and CA LULAC have all endorsed the proposal and we still have not been heard. Our history is intentionally being erased and no one is willing to take a stand.

I suggest the leaders take action now and retract the motion for the Oakwood Park name change and allow the Oakwood Park to remain the same. I also suggest that the proposal to designate a Chicano/A-Mexican History Month in the City of LA be approved.

Thank you.

Laura Ceballos  
Venice Community Organizer  
Seguimos Adelante

<image0.jpeg>

<image1.jpeg>

<CHICANO:A-MEXICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH\*\*.pdf>

On Jun 22, 2022, at 6:46 PM, Francisco Juarez <

>

wrote:

"Oakwood community is home to a rich and unique history that must be preserved for generations to come."

What part of this goal do you, Mr. Fleishman, escapes you?

Please be advised that the community will not tolerate any "divide and conquer" shenanigans.

Families of Color that have populated the neighborhoods surrounding Oakwood Park for several generations see through this "rush-to-name-a-park" tactic that is aimed to create tension.

In fact, you, your lame-duck boss, and whomever gets elected to this City Council district better realize that there is a deep-rooted Venice Neighborhood Unity, that does not include public servants or so-called neighborhood councils. The power-of-the-people is alive and well in Venice and knowledgeable of this misrepresentation.

We strongly suggest you go back to your drawing board and re-notify ALL of the public about this idea. Consider more names like Yniguez, Saenz, McCraw, Preciado but be open, timely, and fair about how you do it.

FJ

On Wed, Jun 22, 2022 at 2:33 PM, Ruben Pacheco  
> wrote:

Hello Noah,

My name is Ruben Pacheco. I am part of the Mexican American community in the Oakwood Area of Venice. My family have been stakeholders in Venice for nearly a century living on San Juan b/w Electric Ave. 5th and 6th, Sunset Ave, and Vernon Ave amongst a few streets where my family own/owned homes. I currently reside in the house my Great grandfather acquired in 1957 on Brooks. Generations of us grew up in the Oakwood area of Venice and have played sports, learned crafts, and raised our children at Oakwood Park. However, throughout the years our history is being stripped away, and in some cases become extinct by gentrification. Changing the name of Oakwood Park would be another action toward erasing our history and culture in Venice. Can't we honor these influential and notable African American figures in other ways rather than changing the name of our sacred Oakwood Park? The motion mentions " The Oakwood community is home to a rich and unique history that must be preserved for generations to come." How are we preserving history by replacing the name of Oakwood Park? I think changing the name would set new precedence between African African and Mexican American relations initiated by your office, since the Mexican American community was overlooked in this motion. How many community members would want this change? Why hasn't the broader community received any information about this motion? What is being done to bring awareness to the broader Oakwood community in regards to this significant issue?

Sincerely,  
Ruben Pacheco

On Tue, Jun 21, 2022 at 1:51 PM Laura Ceballos  
< > wrote:

Noah,

The Brown Community was excluded from the conversations and the Venice Community was not informed. There is a huge problem. This is going to cause disharmony between the black and brown community. The proper steps were not taken to get this approved. SHAME ON YOU! All our murals and history has been erased in the Venice. The Mexican Community has deep roots in the Oakwood Area and now you are erasing all that we have left.

Laura Ceballos  
Community Organizer

On Jun 21, 2022, at 1:12 PM, Noah Fleishman  
<[noah.fleishman@lacity.org](mailto:noah.fleishman@lacity.org)> wrote:

Laura,

The [motion](#) requesting the City Dept. of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to change the name of Oakwood Park was approved by the City Council a little less than a month ago. This is the start of the renaming process, not the end of it.

As further background, RAP staff will be gathering biographical information on Arthur Reese and Irving Tabor, then presenting the renaming proposal to the community at a meeting that is TBD, then get approval from the RAP Board of Commissioners Facility Repair and Maintenance Taskforce, then get approval from the full Board of RAP Commissioners. At each of the last three steps, there will be an opportunity for the public to provide comments.

If this still doesn't answer your questions, please feel free to use [THIS LINK](#) to schedule a call with me and I would be happy to talk with you further.

I'm looking forward to hearing back from you, and I hope you have a good rest of your week.

All the best,  
Noah Fleishman

**Noah Fleishman**  
*District Director*  
Councilmember Mike Bonin  
City of Los Angeles  
C: 213-776-2860 | [www.11thdistrict.com](http://www.11thdistrict.com)

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On Tue, Jun 21, 2022 at 9:14 AM Laura Ceballos  
> wrote:

Hi Noah,  
Good Morning, thank you for responding. The matter is regarding the Oakwood Park name change. My phone number is 509-833-8187. Thank you.

Laura Ceballos

On Jun 21, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Noah  
Fleishman <[noah.fleishman@lacity.org](mailto:noah.fleishman@lacity.org)>  
wrote:

Hello Laura,

It is a pleasure to e-meet you.

Apologies that I was unable to call you last Friday, but I hope that you had a nice weekend.

I am the Councilmember's new District Director, not the new Venice Field Deputy, but I would be happy to help.

May you please let me know more about what the important matter is that you'd like to discuss?

All the best,  
Noah Fleishman

### Noah Fleishman

*District Director*

Councilmember Mike Bonin

City of Los Angeles

C: 213-776-2860 | [www.11thdistrict.com](http://www.11thdistrict.com)

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On Fri, Jun 17, 2022 at 10:15 AM Laura Ceballos > wrote:

Hello Noah,

My name is Laura Ceballos and I am a Community Organizer in Venice. Tristen informed me that you are the new Venice Field Deputy. It is important that I speak with you. Please call me at 509-833-8187. I will be available until noon. Thank you.

Laura Ceballos



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: Meeting for Oakwood Park Name Change

1 message

**Laura Ceballos** > Sun, Nov 27, 2022 at 12:29 PM

To: Meghan Luera <meghan.luera@lacity.org>, David Lee <david.s.lee@lacity.org>  
 Cc: Meghan Luera <meghan.luera@lacity.org>, David Lee <david.s.lee@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Belinda Jackson <belinda.jackson@lacity.org>, Anthony Noriega < >, Darlene Rodriguez < >, Ethics Enforcement <ethics.enforcement@lacity.org>, Frank Sr Juarez <westsideservice@yahoo.com>, Hector Garcia < >, Jgallego@maldef.org, Jose Barrera < >, Jose Gonzalez < >, Laura Island <laura.island@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Raymond Delgado < >, Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Venice Kush < >, alfonsina gonzalez < >, desiree.ramirez@lacity.org, ethics.commission@lacity.org, matthew.rudnick@lacity.org, mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org, media@maldef.org, Ruben Pacheco < >

Hello Meghan,

Good Afternoon, I am still waiting for a response from RAP. I would also like to note that this past meeting, on Thursday, November 17, 2022 was not inclusive. Your staff failed to properly inform the Venice Community of the meeting, and the invitation was only sent to the few members that were in support of the name change of Oakwood Park. Your power point states "On September 1, 2022, RAP staff presented the proposed renaming of Oakwood Recreation Center to the RAP Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force for conceptual approval." From my understanding, RAP Staff is moving forward with the name change without Community input. Can you please explain why the proposal for the name change was already sent to the Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task for approval, if you claim that the name has not been decided on? Thank you.

Laura Ceballos  
 Venice Community Organizer

On Nov 21, 2022, at 3:45 PM, Laura Ceballos < > wrote:

Hello,

We, the Venice Community, are asking that you please wait until the new council member Traci Park takes office before moving forward. The decision making process has not been inclusive from the beginning. The Venice Community was intentionally left out, and Mike Bonin allowed an 11 people petition to change the Historical Oakwood Park name. We ask that please not expedite the process and allow Traci Park look into this matter. Thank you.

Laura Ceballos  
 Venice Community Organizer

On Nov 17, 2022, at 2:08 PM, Ruben Pacheco < > wrote:

Hi Mr. Kim,

Is there an agenda for tonight's meeting? What procedures were followed to notify the Venice community? I was not notified 4 weeks ago by mail nor phone. I have not seen any flyers posted up about this meeting. Where are the RAP members at in the name change process?

What authority do they (RAP) have over the entire Venice community to make a name change on our behalf without due process?

Thanks!  
Ruben

On Thu, Nov 17, 2022 at 12:50 PM Jimmy Kim <[jimmy.kim@lacity.org](mailto:jimmy.kim@lacity.org)> wrote:

Good Afternoon Ma'am,

Staff has sent out notice 4 weeks ago and have followed all procedures to my knowledge. In addition, RAP will host another meeting in the near future on the same topic.

I am adding Belinda Jackson, AGM of Recreational Services Branch to answer any other questions you may have.

Thank you SO much.

On Thu, Nov 17, 2022 at 11:53 AM Laura Ceballos

wrote:

Mr Kim,

For the record, you and your staff have made the decision to move forward with the meeting without publicizing the meeting and giving advance notice to the Venice Community Residents. You need to be inclusive throughout the whole process. If you continue to move forward without proper policy and procedures, we will take legal action.

Laura Ceballos  
Venice Community Organizer

On Nov 16, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Laura Ceballos <[laura.ceb@lacity.org](mailto:laura.ceb@lacity.org)>  
wrote:

>

Mr. Kim,  
Shouldn't there be inclusion in **ALL** meetings? How is your staff moving forward if the meeting has not notified all Venice Community Members? What is being discussed? It seems like you are moving forward with the name change and just having a meeting to claim you informed the public. Where is the agenda for this meeting?

Laura Ceballos  
Venice Community Organizer

On Nov 16, 2022, at 12:55 PM, Jimmy Kim  
<[jimmy.kim@lacity.org](mailto:jimmy.kim@lacity.org)> wrote:

Good Afternoon All,

Thank you for your emails of concern regarding the Oakwood Park renaming virtual meeting on November 17, 2022 scheduled 4 weeks ago. The scheduled meeting we will move forward as planned. However, an additional meeting will be scheduled to ensure inclusion. Staff on this email tree will make notification for this additional meeting once we have confirmed a date and time.

Thank you for understanding and our team looks forward to engaging with the community.

On Tue, Nov 15, 2022 at 9:02 AM Laura Ceballos

< > wrote:

Jim,

Good Morning, your staff is having a virtual meeting regarding the Oakwood Park name change this Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 7:00pm. Your staff has not properly notified the Venice Community and public. The meeting has not been properly publicized and many residents are unaware of this very important meeting. The meeting does not provide a call in number, nor a Spanish interpreter. Everyone does not own a computer, and have access to a computer.

We are aware that RAP is moving forward with the name change of Reese Tabor Recreational Park without community input. The letter down below by council Member Mike Bonin sent to you already has the biographical information to move forward with the name change.

We ask that you postpone the meeting until **ALL** of the Venice Community has been properly notified, and that your meeting is accessible to **ALL** Community Members and the public. We would also like the new CD 11 CouncilMember, who has no bias, look into this matter.

We look forward to hearing back from you. Thank you.

Laura Ceballos  
Community Organizer

Good Evening,

Please see the attached correspondence from Councilmember Mike Bonin regarding the requested, preliminary biographical information on Arthur L. Reese, Jr., Irvin B. Tabor, and their families.

Thank you!

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CitySeal.png

**Jason Patrick Douglas**  
*Planning Director*  
Councilmember Mike Bonin  
City of Los Angeles  
213-473-7011 | [www.11thdistrict.com](http://www.11thdistrict.com)  
[Sign Up for Mike's Email Updates](#)

On Nov 2, 2022, at 10:19 AM, Laura Ceballos < > wrote:

Hello Jim,

I am writing to inform you that the zoom meeting regarding the Oakwood Park Name Change in Venice you are scheduled to have on November 17, 2022 needs to be cancelled.

Policy and procedures were not followed and there was no community input. To move forward with the meeting and ignore the community is unethical and unjust.

Council Member Mike Bonin allowed 11 people to decide the name change of Oakwood Park in a matter of 2 months.

Oakwood Park is a Historical Park that both the Brown and Black Community share deep roots to. By changing the name you would erase the the Chicano- Mexican American History from the Oakwood Area. Preserving ones history while erasing another's does more harm than good to POC in the community who have been marginalized.

The Venice Community is very upset over this matter. We have a petition with 1,200 signatures from the Venice community opposing the name change. I have attached the petition down below.

I am asking that you cancel the meeting and allow for the next CD11 CouncilMember to step in and resolve this issue.

Let's be inclusive and fair in the decision making process.

I am looking forward to hearing back for you. Thank you.

<https://www.change.org/p/support-to-keep-oakwood-parks-name-retract-motion-for-oakwood-park-name-change-in-venice>

<Oakwood Recreation Center Community Meeting (1).pdf>

Laura Ceballos  
Venice Community Organizer

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Please excuse errors. Sent from Gmail Mobile

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Please excuse errors. Sent from Gmail Mobile



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

## Re: Illegal Open Burning/Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone/LAMC 57.4908.2

1 message

Sonya Young-Jimenez &lt;sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org&gt;

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 8:00 AM

To:

Cc: Joe Halper &lt;

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

&gt;, Jasmine Dowlatshahi &lt;jasmine.dowl@lacity.org&gt;, Kortley Norris &lt;Kortley.Norris@lacity.org&gt;,

Maryam Z &lt;

&gt;

In response to your email,

Thank you for your email. We believe that you may be inadvertently misquoting the law related to open burning.. The fire code section you quoted does say “open burning” is prohibited in VHFHSZ's, but you did not copy the entire definition of “open burning” in your email, which specifically **excludes** recreational fires, including bbqs. Please see Section 202 of the Fire Code, which is incorporated into the LAMC in Section 57.201. For this reason, the public’s use of bbqs in City parks is controlled by the language in LAMC Section 63.44, which RAP follows and enforces.

Under 63.44(P), the department can designate specific areas of use for barbecuing in VHFHSZ's, even **between** April 1 and November 1. Because we share your belief in fire safety, we have implemented a process of locking the grills and only unlock them when a request is made to the recreation staff so staff are aware of use ( but do note that a permit is not required to use the grills). Further, grills will not be unlocked during Red Flag days. In addition, we also require people to have a fire extinguisher when they are using the bbq's. These are the strictest precautions taken at any park in the City’s system.

On Thu, Nov 17, 2022 at 2:51 PM <

> wrote:

Commissioner Halper and Sonya,

It has come to our attention that there is a provision of the Los Angeles Municipal Code that codifies Chapter 49 of the California Fire Code, and addresses specifically “open burning” in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones of Los Angeles. “Open Burning” is defined in the Fire Code as “the burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber”. The 8 outdoor charcoal barbecues located within the Veterans Gardens of the Palisades Recreation Center fall under the description of “open burning”, as they have no stack or chimney.

Under **LAMC Sec. 57.4908.2:**

***“There shall be no open burning or smoking in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The Chief shall cause such districts to be posted at all times by suitable signs giving notice thereof.”***

There is no exception under this code provision for the months of November through March, the period when RAP is currently allowing parkgoers to burn in this Park. The provision of the LAMC 63.44 dealing with fire months applicable to park grilling, applies only to “High Fire Hazard” parks—the Palisades Recreation Center is located within a higher risk fire zone, and therefore, LAMC Sec 57.4908.2 is directly on point and prohibits grilling at any time.

We will be providing notice to the local Fire Captain of these city laws, which codify Section 4908 of the California Fire Code (state law). The Park's approval of any grilling within the parameters of any VHFHSZ park is in clear violation of state and local law.

Best,

Jennifer Massey

Massey Media Law, P.C.

--

**Sonya Young Jimenez**

*Superintendent of Venice Beach and West Region*

City of Los Angeles

Department of Recreation and Parks

2459 Motor Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90064

Cell: (213) 312-7966

Website: [laparks.org](http://laparks.org)





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

**Re: URGENT Jesse Owens Plaque**

1 message

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

Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 7:26 AM

Good morning,

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

On Sun, Dec 4, 2022 at 9:31 AM Linda Gravani &lt; &gt; wrote:

Hi Everyone.

The Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council (LBNC) would like to have an historical plaque at the Jesse Owens "mini" Park in Lake Balboa.

I understand from Cathie.Santo Domingo, Assistant GM that there is a process to make this happen.

Unfortunately, no one can advise me of what that process is. What can you do to assist me in getting this accomplished?

We would like it to be presented to the community during Black History Month in February so time is of the essence.

Please advise,

Thanks,

L

[Linda Gravani, President](#)

[Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council \(LBNC\)](#)

[Executive Committee & Chair of VANC](#)

[Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils](#)

-cell

--

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: Fw: URGENT -- Potrero security/public safety issue**

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 10:38 AM

To: Chris Spitz &lt;

Cc: "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Cathie Santo Domingo <Cathie.SantoDomingo@lacity.org>, Darryl Ford <darryl.ford@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Jasmine Dowl <Jasmine.Dowl@lacity.org>, Losorelli Joe <joe.losorelli@lacity.org>, "patrick.schmidt@lacity.org" <patrick.schmidt@lacity.org>, Kristen Ly <kristen.ly@lacity.org>, Noah Fleishman <noah.fleishman@lacity.org>, president <president@pacpalicc.org>, vp <vp@pacpalicc.org>, Dave Card <>, " >, " >, Sharon Kilbride <>, Brian Espin <37430@lapd.online>

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 9:11 AM Chris Spitz <>  
Officials --

&gt; wrote:

I bring to your attention a significant security and public safety concern related to George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon in Pacific Palisades: despite assurances and representations made to the community, the perimeter fencing does NOT completely surround the Park, and it is effectively **open at the mouth of Potrero Canyon (south end, at PCH)**, so that **persons may enter and exit at will, day or night**.

Please see the email message below (sent to Noah Fleishman of CD 11 yesterday) for a more detailed description of the conditions. I have not received a response so I don't know if any other officials are aware of this issue or if steps are now being taken to address this serious problem.

As most of you know, the Park is scheduled to open to the public on Dec. 10 (in 5 days). Time is of the essence. If measures cannot be taken to properly secure the Park's entire perimeter in the next few days -- including fencing and gates required per the Park plans approved by the Coastal Commission -- **then the opening should be delayed until this occurs**.

At a well-attended public community meeting held on December 1 (sponsored by Pacific Palisades Community Council/PPCC), at which several of the officials receiving this email spoke and answered questions, residents expressed concern about what is being done to secure the Park. Hundreds of residents live along the rim of the canyon. Given the community's experience with wildfires and illegal overnight camping by transients and unhoused individuals (who regularly venture into already-restricted bluff and canyon areas during the night), there is particular concern about whether the Park will be actually closed at night in order to prevent these activities in the canyon. Residents were assured that all entries would be locked overnight and that fencing is or would be in place at the mouth of the canyon, as a deterrent -- again, as per the approved plans. (The actual conditions described below were not generally known at the time.)

*Under no circumstances should the mouth of the canyon be open at all (day or night) until either the lateral trail to Temescal Canyon Rd. (required by the relevant Coastal permit) or the pedestrian bridge across PCH is built.* That is because Park users, including children and teens, may be attracted to the opening and may seek to exit and unsafely cross PCH to access the beach at that point. Over the years, pedestrians have been killed and/or severely injured attempting to cross PCH (a 6-lane highway, effectively a freeway at this point). The fencing, the lateral trail and/or the pedestrian bridge were intended to deter or prevent this dangerous activity from occurring.

I write in my individual capacity, as a resident of the rim area of the canyon for the past 31 years. For context and identification, I am also the current elected At-large Representative on the board of Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC), as well as a former PPCC Chair and immediate past PPCC Secretary. I am very aware of the pulse of the community. Scores of residents have already let me know that they are extremely concerned that the Park is not sufficiently secure; when the open conditions at the mouth of the canyon become more known (which will inevitably occur when the Park opens to the public, if the conditions are not corrected), I can assure you that there will be wider community dismay and even anger.

Please advise immediately as to what steps will be taken to comply with the approved Park plans and to close the now-open conditions at the mouth (south end) of the canyon, and whether or not these measures will be completed before the Park's opening.

Thank you.

Christina Spitz

---

**From:** Chris Spitz

**Sent:** Monday, December 5, 2022 9:34 AM

**To:** Noah Fleishman <[noah.fleishman@lacity.org](mailto:noah.fleishman@lacity.org)>

**Subject:** URGENT -- Potrero security/public safety issue

Good morning Noah --

Following up on my text to you last night -- and realizing how busy you must be this week -- I want to bring to your attention troubling information about a serious security issue with the new Potrero park: **fencing isn't completed** per the park plans, and the canyon park is basically "open" to reasonably agile and determined individuals (transients, the unhoused, scofflaws, curious teens, etc.) from the mouth (south end) of the canyon.

It seems to me that the only deterrent/barrier to entry (day or night) from the canyon mouth at this point is topography and possibly ongoing construction at the bottom of the slope. *I'll separately send photos taken yesterday, showing that these conditions can be fairly easily overcome.*

As you may recall, at Thursday's meeting Dave C. explained that **a 6 ft. fence is supposed to be in place across the bottom/mouth of the canyon, with gates**. This is indeed reflected in the attached plans (sheet L405 of, respectively, the 2020-21 plans and the recent/amended 2022 plans approved by the CCC).

The plan sheets show that there is supposed to be *6 ft. fencing running down each side of the canyon (from the "top" rim/residential area)*, to connect at the bottom with gates connecting to *fencing across the mouth*, and (at the west corner) with the eventual lateral trail. Note: the more detailed sheet from 2020-21 indicates that this gate will have a "Trilogy" lock, i.e., the intent obviously was to be able to lock the gate (automatically?) at night and thereby prevent (or at least deter) nighttime entry into the park from the lateral trail.\*

For reasons unknown, there is now a 6 ft. fence running down the length of the east (Huntington) side (as per the plans), but **the 6 ft. fence running down the west side stops roughly midway down the slope**, with only black support poles in place at intervals, presumably for fencing to be installed later (unknown when, if ever). There are a few poles planted askew at the bottom that look like they may be intended to support eventual fencing (and there are some flimsy construction fence panels at the site, where equipment is located), but **there is no permanent 6 ft. fencing across the bottom. There are also no gates as indicated on the plans**. There is one temporary vehicular gate coming from the Caltrans yard area (across an access road), but I understand this isn't locked and persons can easily walk through or around this gate and continue hiking up the canyon and into the park.

I personally observed the conditions yesterday, from the shoulder of PCH/at the bottom of the canyon, where construction equipment/vehicles and the contractor's trailer are located (after being alerted by

another resident who is concerned about the park being "open" at this end). Again, I'll separately send photos.

Frankly, due to all the construction work, I hadn't focused on the complete picture at the mouth of the canyon before now. Regardless, I hope that you can immediately contact RAP, BOE and the landscape contractor to ensure that measures are put in place in the next few days -- installing the fencing and gates as per the plans, or implementing other functional stopgap measures -- to provide adequate security by the 10.<sup>th</sup>

I truly don't want to be an alarmist, but otherwise, I fear that residents and park visitors alike will soon become aware of these conditions and there will likely be increased community dismay and even anger about the failure of security and the fact that the park after all this time still isn't ready for prime time.

I very much hope that you can help resolve this problem without delay. Please let me know what is being done (or can be done) as soon as possible.

Thank you!

Chris

\*Wording on the sheet: "Trilogy gate to remain locked until City provides future ped connection."

--

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

## Re: Potrero fencing/mouth of canyon

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 10:40 AM

To: Chris Spitz <

>

Cc: "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Cathie Santo Domingo <Cathie.SantoDomingo@lacity.org>, Darryl Ford <darryl.ford@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Jasmine Dowl <Jasmine.Dowl@lacity.org>, Losorelli Joe <joe.losorelli@lacity.org>, "patrick.schmidt@lacity.org" <patrick.schmidt@lacity.org>, Kristen Ly <kristen.ly@lacity.org>, Noah Fleishman <noah.fleishman@lacity.org>, president <president@pacpalicc.org>, vp <vp@pacpalicc.org>, Dave Card <>, " >, " >, Sharon Kilbride <>, Brian Espin <37430@lapd.online>

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 10:07 AM Chris Spitz

> wrote:

Officials --

Following up, please see photos of the conditions at the mouth of Potrero Canyon, which I forwarded to Mr. Fleishman yesterday. These were taken on Sunday. The last four images were taken by me, from the vantage point of PCH looking up; the first images were taken by another resident (from the top access road, going down the canyon mouth towards PCH).

Thank you.

Christina Spitz

--

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ACCESS 

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: URGENT -- Potrero security/public safety issue

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 2:45 PM

To:

Cc: Chris Spitz < >, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Cathie Santo Domingo <Cathie.SantoDomingo@lacity.org>, Darryl Ford <Darryl.Ford@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Jasmine Dowl <Jasmine.Dowl@lacity.org>, Losorelli Joe <joe.losorelli@lacity.org>, "patrick.schmidt@lacity.org" <patrick.schmidt@lacity.org>, Kristen Ly <kristen.ly@lacity.org>, Noah Fleishman <noah.fleishman@lacity.org>, vp < >, Dave Card < >, " < >" < >, Sharon Kilbride < >, Brian Espin <37430@lapd.online>, Joe Everett <joseph.everett@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 Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 11:56 AM < >

> wrote:

Hi everyone,

I thank many of you again for attending our community meeting, which was focused on issues surrounding the opening of the George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon.

I'd like to echo Chris's cautions below, as I have heard from community members who remain concerned about both *standing water* as well as an *unsecured perimeter fence*. As I said at the meeting, this kind of regional park is new to this small community, which has long hosted two community parks and Rustic Canyon and Palisades Recreation Center. This new park promises great new open space but also brings with it unknown perils. Among them is (a) the threat of fire in a very high fire severity zone with few evacuation routes, and (b) the concern of lingering park users or transients who will again access to the park during daylight hours and fail to leave once the gates lock.

Without daily monitoring (as our city Councilmember has requested) and without assurances that the fence securing the perimeter is installed and functioning (as we've been assured will be done), the community is left with a number of concerns that are legitimate and should be addressed before the opening of the park.

Best,  
Maryam Zar

On Dec 6, 2022, at 10:40 AM, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 9:11 AM Chris Spitz < >

> wrote:

Officials --



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

---

**Re: Potrero Canyon Park**

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 2:47 PM

To: Peter Longo &lt; &gt;

Cc: Noah.Fleishman@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 Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 1:22 PM Peter Longo < > wrote:

It has come to our attention that the park is too open this week, WITHOUT adequate security. As a long time resident living on the canyon, this is disheartening and sad to learn. If I were to build my home without the proper code requirements, I would be forced to pay a penalty, not be allowed to live in the home and put through a litany of government beauracray. BUT, why do you let a city park not play by the rules? Do you believe the City is entitled to not follow rules while citizens should?

Please address the following:

Hours of operation: It was promised from Sunrise to Sunset.

Standing water: Drain all the standing water in the park

Gate at mouth of South Entrance by PCH: Anyone can enter and leave through the south entrance

Please be responsible; take the few minutes to come and see EXACTLY what is happening. Perform the way you want your citizens to perform.

Peter

--

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

---

**Re: Potrero Park**

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 7:32 AM

To: Randall Paulson &lt;&gt;

Cc: noan.fleishman@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 Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 2:18 PM Randall Paulson &lt;&gt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I received information from the PPCC that the southern boundary of the new Park does not have perimeter fencing as required per the plans and thus is not secure. I request that the opening be delayed until the perimeter fencing is completed for safety and security reasons. Thank you.

Randy Paulson

Sent from my iPhone

--

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

**Re: SAFETY ISSUES AT POTRERO CANYON- DO NOT OPEN PARK YET!!**

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 7:40 AM

To: Amgoldy &lt;

&gt;

Cc: "noah.fleishman@lacity.org" &lt;noah.fleishman@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.

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 6:28 PM Amgoldy &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Hi there,

We are on the De Pauw St rim and am NOT happy with the false info we have been given!

We have learned that the mouth of the canyon (south end, at PCH) does NOT have perimeter fencing or gates as we were told it would have and as required under the approved park plans. The park is thus OPEN to anyone who wants to enter or exit, at will, day or night. **This is a significant security and public safety risk.**

There is still standing water throughout the canyon, which is a breeding ground for mosquitoes and another public safety risk.

The motion by CM Bonin that we were assured would be voted on in City Council this week -- to make the operating hours officially "sunrise to sunset" -- is NOT on any City Council agenda before the 10<sup>th</sup> (when the park opening is scheduled). Thus, we can't be assured that proper signage will be installed when the park opens.

***The park should not open to the public until these matters are properly addressed and resolved.***

Thanks,  
Melanie and Andy Goldberger

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

**Re: URGENT -- Potrero security/public safety issue**

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 8:31 AM

To: Chris Spitz &lt;

&gt;

Cc: "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" &lt;jimmy.kim@lacity.org&gt;, Cathie Santo Domingo &lt;Cathie.SantoDomingo@lacity.org&gt;, Darryl Ford &lt;Darryl.Ford@lacity.org&gt;, Sonya Young-Jimenez &lt;sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org&gt;, Jasmine Dowl &lt;Jasmine.Dowl@lacity.org&gt;, Losorelli Joe &lt;joe.losorelli@lacity.org&gt;, "patrick.schmidt@lacity.org" &lt;patrick.schmidt@lacity.org&gt;, Kristen Ly &lt;kristen.ly@lacity.org&gt;, Noah Fleishman &lt;noah.fleishman@lacity.org&gt;, vp

&lt; &gt;, Dave Card &lt; &gt;, " &lt; &gt;, Sharon Kilbride

&lt; &gt;, Brian Espin &lt;37430@lapd.online&gt;, Joe Everett &lt;joseph.everett@lacity.org&gt;, president

&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 Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 8:19 AM Chris Spitz &lt;

&gt; wrote:

City officials:

I have now learned indirectly that, although I and other residents *still haven't received direct responses to our concerns*, some officials may have instead given assurances to a small group of unnamed individuals that outstanding park issues supposedly would be corrected or resolved.

Of course, *if* these problems will in fact be addressed before the park opens, this would be a welcome development. However, *private communication only to a small group* is clearly insufficient to quell concerns of the wider community, particularly when the following inaccurate representations were made at the *public community meeting* held last Thursday and attended by many residents:

1. That CM Bonin's motion (CF 22-1472) would be heard and passed in Council before the park opens . . . Demonstrably untrue.
2. That there is perimeter fencing across the mouth of the canyon . . . Demonstrably untrue.
3. That there is no standing water in the canyon . . . Perceived by residents to be untrue, based on ongoing, observable conditions.

I continue to stress my strong objection to behind-the-scenes, private messaging and/or decision-making concerning the development of this project, which unfortunately has been occurring for many years. Frankly, the lack of transparency, obfuscation, misrepresentation and refusal to respond to residents' concerns (including concerns expressed by me as well as by PPCC in a series of letters this past spring *which were never responded to*) has been appalling -- as has been the City's ongoing *disregard of relevant Coastal permit requirements*.

**I request that one or more City officials with authority please confirm the following immediately:**

- Notwithstanding the fact that the Bonin motion will not pass in Council by Dec. 10th, proper signage stating that the hours of operation are "sunrise to sunset" has *already been created at the direction of GM Kim* and such signs *WILL be installed before the park opens*.
- *Standing water will not be in place* at park opening, and a logical explanation will be given to the public as to why there is green scum or algae present in what appear to be stagnant pools of water, i.e., reliable assurances that there is *no risk to public safety* from these conditions.

- *Appropriate/effective stopgap measures* will be taken before the park opens to install *locked gates and secure, additional fencing* at the mouth of the canyon to deter or prevent entry and exit temporarily, while construction is ongoing in that area and/or in advance of lateral trail construction.
- The *approved plans will eventually be complied with*, so that a 6 ft. permanent fence will be installed across the mouth of the canyon and locked gates as indicated on the park plans will also be installed.

With regard to the last bullet point, please give an estimate of when the City expects to install the permanent fencing and gates, i.e., when it will *actually comply* with the park plans.

I note that **residents continue to have overall serious security concerns**, including understandable concern about the fact that we have been told that the City will not assign a Ranger or other appropriate staffer to monitor park conditions on an ongoing daily basis (and the Bonin motion calling for such daily monitoring unfortunately will not be heard while he is in office).

And of course, as we all know, the park is STILL not completed, construction is ongoing and no one (including the Coastal Commission) seems to have any idea when either the lateral trail (required by the Coastal permit) or the pedestrian bridge will ever be constructed.

I'm guardedly hopeful, however, that PPCC will provide a public forum for discussion of these concerns and other park-related issues as they continue to arise in the future; that the PPCC Board will weigh in on these matters as appropriate going forward; that the Palisades Park Advisory Board (PAB) will also take up and publicly discuss these matters; that City officials will provide ongoing, accurate and current information on the park's status and plans to PPCC and the PAB; and that *transparency and public involvement* in park decision-making will finally occur.

Again, I implore City officials to respond to this email message with confirmation and answers as requested above. I also request that this information be made **publicly available before the park's opening**.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christina Spitz  
31-year resident, Via bluffs neighborhood, Pacific Palisades  
For ID only:  
PPCC At-large Representative (2022-2024)  
PPCC Secretary (2018-2022)  
PPCC Chair/President (2014-2016)  
PPCC Citizen of the Year (2021)

---

**From:** Chris Spitz <>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 6, 2022 12:13 PM

**To:** >; Rap Commissioners

<[rap.commissioners@lacity.org](mailto:rap.commissioners@lacity.org)>

**Cc:** [jimmy.kim@lacity.org](mailto:jimmy.kim@lacity.org) <[jimmy.kim@lacity.org](mailto:jimmy.kim@lacity.org)>; Cathie Santo Domingo <[Cathie.SantoDomingo@lacity.org](mailto:Cathie.SantoDomingo@lacity.org)>; Darryl Ford <[Darryl.Ford@lacity.org](mailto:Darryl.Ford@lacity.org)>; Sonya Young-Jimenez <[sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org](mailto:sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org)>; Jasmine Dowl <[Jasmine.Dowl@lacity.org](mailto:Jasmine.Dowl@lacity.org)>; Losorelli Joe <[joe.losorelli@lacity.org](mailto:joe.losorelli@lacity.org)>; [patrick.schmidt@lacity.org](mailto:patrick.schmidt@lacity.org)



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Wilkinson Center Outrageous Rate Increase

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 3:48 PM

To:
Cc: contactCD4@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org, councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.Lee@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, Gilbert <Gilbert.Cedillo@lacity.org>, Mayor's office <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>, Melvin Sukow <

Good afternoon,

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

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 1:36 PM melvin sukow < > wrote:

Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners, Mayor's office and City Council,

Please take the time to read the short note attached about the rate increase that is driving us from utilizing your facility that we have used for over 30 years.

Melvin Sukow

Valley Trailers Square Dance Club

Phone:

E-mail:

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

VALLEY TRAILERS SQUARE DANCE CLUB

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DECEMBER 6, 2022

The Valley Trailers Square Dance Club just celebrated its 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It has provided the citizens of the City of Los Angeles and the surrounding region the wholesome activity of square dancing for all of those years. This activity is good for the community, providing a way for people to get together in a safe social gathering that offers physical and mental exercise, social connections and fun. This club is one of the few remaining organizations in the San Fernando Valley that offers this service. The club going back to the 1990's has been able to offer this cost effective service to the community by being able to utilize the City's Department of Recreation and Parks Robert M Wilkinson Multipurpose Center at a reasonable cost for all those years. We have been informed that starting January 1, 2023 this cost will increase by more than five times its current rate. This will preclude us from using the facility. Most of the current square dancing community is of the senior age. By increasing the cost of a facility paid for by taxpayers to a level that eliminates its use by citizens of the City of Los Angeles, most of whom are seniors, you are failing your constituents.

It has also come to our attention that the Department of Recreation and Parks is going to change the availability of their facilities to uses only being part of the Department's pre- approved programs. Being a long time renter of the facility, it would seem that we should have received something in writing about the fee increase and a detailing of this apparent new policy but we have not. Depending on how this policy works it could mean that outside organizations like ours that provide reasonable cost services to the community will be precluded from using the taxpayer paid for facilities. If that is the case, this new policy would not be a service to the community.

We schedule our callers (individuals who make the dancing happen) years in advance, and we need to notify the dancing community well in advance of the dance date so they can plan to attend. Based on this we cannot wait for long drawn out hearings and meetings but need to take action now. For us to continue using the Center and for you to service you constituents, one or all of you needs to champion keeping the Center available at a reasonable rate. This is our request, and we hope someone in power will take action to save this activity that is so beneficial to the community.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Linda Kaplan and Mel Sukow  
Presidents Valley Trailers Square Dance Club

CC: All members of the City Council  
Mayor's office  
Daily News  
Los Angeles Times



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

**Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides**

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 7:38 AM

To: Kristeen Hernandez

Cc: "contactCD4@lacity.org" &lt;contactCD4@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.

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 2:44 PM Kristeen Hernandez &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim, and Councilwoman Raman,

I am urging you to act immediately to halt the pending eviction of the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The original founder and concession holder was Tommy Wright. My Dad (now 89-year-old) started working for Tommy in 10th grade at Marshal High School, and because my Dad loved the pony rides so much, he continued working weekends and holidays even after being hired by Lockheed, was married, and had his 1st child (me 1953). My first pony ride was at 3-months of age and as I grew older, I progressed thru the different lanes until I was big enough to ride the galloping ponies; meanwhile, Tommy who I always called "T" would sit me on the office counter, and let me push the silver buttons of the flip ticket dispenser, which I loved almost as much as I loved riding. Many years later, after several Air Force moves, I took my 4-year-old son for a few rides as we sat on one of the picnic benches close to the parking lot, my back toward the ticket booth, from behind and slightly to the left I felt a man approach, as I turned to look up, I hear "You look exactly like your Mom". It had been at least 15 years since I'd seen Tommy, and for him to recognize me from the back was amazing. "T" took us into the office, placed my son on the counter, and let him push the silver buttons of the flip ticket dispenser just like I used to do when I was little. A few years later my Dad called to let me know "T" had passed.

It's abundantly clear Steve Weeks (current concession holder) is carrying on Tommy Wright's legacy. Mr. Weeks is fully invested in caring for the ponies and has responded to all recommended policy changes made by third-party equine experts.

It's unfair to the countless families who share fond memories of the Pony Rides that City Council issued a motion on October 25 directing RAP to make a determination terminating the Pony Rides' lease in less than two months with no public notice, no report to City Council and no opportunity for comment.

If there are to be changes made to the Pony Rides concession in the interest of new ideas about animal rights, these new ideas should be fully hashed out before these

senior ponies are displaced; it is a cruel and pointless end to a life of service, just to be sent for slaughter if no home can be found for them on such short notice.

Please! Stop the clock, extend the lease indefinitely, and give this treasured community resource a chance to continue surviving and bring joy to more families.

When I think of Griffith Park, I think of Tommy, the Pony Rides, the hundreds of times I raced around the track on the back of my valiant steed, and how the tickets popped out of the silver flip dispenser. Please reconsider taking away this treasure from future generations of Los Angelinos who will grow up feeling the wind whip through their hair as they gallop into a few minutes of magic.

I appreciate your consideration.  
Kristeen T. Hernandez



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

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

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 7:30 AM

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 1:35 PM Michael Henderson &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
Mr. Michael Henderson

--  
City of Los Angeles



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

---

**Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides**

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:20 AM

To: "Jonathan I. Reich" &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 Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 5:45 PM Jonathan I. Reich < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners – I was very disappointed to hear that the Griffith Park Pony Ride was being closed down because of the complaints of a few vocal activists. The Pony Rides are an institution in Los Angeles, that I enjoyed as a child, that my children enjoyed and I had hoped to take my grandchildren someday. It is my sincere hope that this decision will be reversed.

Regards,

Jon Reich

**Jonathan I. Reich, Esq.**

Phone:

Direct:

Fax:

E-mail:

Web:

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

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Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: Bring Back the Pony Rides!

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:15 AM

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 3:18 PM Jelena Woehr <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

As a Los Angeles resident, equestrian, and advocate for force-free, reward-based horse care, I am shocked and disappointed to see you have caved to a small group of extremists with no horse care experience and terminated the Griffith Park pony rides.

I understand it may be difficult for non-horse owners to evaluate the validity of claims that equines are not receiving adequate care. Even among horse experts, opinions differ greatly. But that's exactly why decisions on equestrian issues should be left to the equestrian community—not made by the loudest and most abusive minority voices.

As an equestrian who values science, I want to share with you a few important things science tells us about the equine-human relationship.

1) Contact with humans is calming for human-socialized horses. Being cared for by a familiar human [modulates the equine heart rate](#) and [decreases stress](#), as compared to a research condition where horses' needs are met but they are not in contact with a human.

2) Horseback riding improves children's ability to regulate their attention and emotions. In one study, [briefly riding a walking horse allowed children to improve their self-control](#), as compared to walking on their own feet or resting. At a time when Autism and ADHD are increasingly being diagnosed in our Los Angeles kids, should we really be taking away a form of effective therapy for these conditions that was available for just \$5? As an adult with ADHD myself, I know that contact with horses from an early age has been hugely therapeutic and has helped me manage my neurodiverse condition.

3) Horses are so sensitive to human emotions, [they can distinguish an angry person from a happy one in a photograph](#), a level of cognition found in very few non-primate animals. Exposure to human anger causes horses to display an increased heart rate and other signs of stress. Therefore, the angry and threatening behavior of protesters in the presence of ponies was likely far more aversive and in fact abusive to the ponies than any other aspect of their use for pony riding.

4) The horse-human relationship is [unlike any other cross-species relationship found in nature](#). There is no other known interspecies connection in which a predator species and a prey species not only communicate, but experience such intense sensitivity to one another's thoughts and emotions. In horse/rider pairs, both the horse and the rider can detect the presence of an object they cannot see, but the other can, simply by feeling their partner's muscle tension change in reaction to the object.

Eliminating the most affordable horse-human contact opportunity for children in Los Angeles County means most low-income children will never get to experience this unique and mutually healing connection. If you continue to cave to animal rights extremists, horse contact will become a privilege only afforded to people rich enough to build tall, thick gates to keep these ignorant protesters out of their barns and ranches.

If you care about horses and children, you must immediately restore the pony rides' lease in Griffith Park—preferably before all of the ponies have been rehomed!

If you only care about grown men and women who scream at children and expose themselves at children's birthday parties, then, by all means, continue your current course of action, but don't be surprised when they show up at your house to "liberate" your dogs and cats next.

Lastly, if any of the commissioners are interested in a demonstration of force-free, reward-based horse training, I am extending an open invitation to come watch me work with my three-year-old Arabian gelding. Every trained behavior he knows has been learned while at liberty in a large arena, with the companionship of another horse available, and always with the option of walking away and eating free-choice hay rather than participating in training. He consistently and freely chooses training sessions over food or socializing with his equine peers. I'm even happy to teach you to train a new behavior to a horse yourself, if you like, so you can experience 10,000 years of evolution in horse-human communication for yourself!

Working horses and ponies are not "abused" any more than a herding dog on a farm is abused. "Pet" horses left alone in a stall with no intellectual stimulation, and Border Collies stuffed in crates in apartments for 8-12 hours alone at a time, would trade places with working animals in a heartbeat, given the chance.

--

Sincerely,  
Jelena Woehr

--

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

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

1 message

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

Thu, Dec 1, 2022 at 3:17 PM

To:

Good afternoon,

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

On Thu, Dec 1, 2022 at 12:52 PM Andrew Arneson &lt; &gt; wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
MR Andrew Arneson

--  
City of Los Angeles



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

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

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: dsmity50@hotmail.com

Mon, Nov 28, 2022 at 8:11 AM

Good morning,

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

On Fri, Nov 25, 2022 at 12:21 PM Debra Schmitt &lt; &gt; 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.

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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,  
Dr. Debra Schmitt

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



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

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

1 message

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

Thu, Dec 1, 2022 at 3:09 PM

To:

Good morning,

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

On Thu, Dec 1, 2022 at 9:14 AM Katie Nolan &lt; &gt; 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.

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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 Katie Nolan

--  
City of Los Angeles



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

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

1 message

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

Fri, Dec 2, 2022 at 11:31 AM

To:

Good morning,

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

On Fri, Dec 2, 2022 at 11:10 AM jeff hopkins &lt; &gt; wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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

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

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

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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. jeff hopkins

--  
City of Los Angeles



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

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**Re: Extend the lease of the Griffith Park Pony Rides**

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 7:39 AM

To: "Sonia G.G." &lt;

Cc: contactCD4@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.

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 3:25 PM Sonia G.G. &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim and Councilwoman Raman,

As a longtime Angeleno and small business advocate, I am urging you to act immediately to halt the pending eviction of the Griffith Park Pony Rides, a treasured legacy business and attraction that will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2023—if you let it.

It seems clear that concession holder Steve Weeks is invested in caring for the ponies and responding to all recommended policy changes made by the third party equine expert.

It is unfair to Mr. Weeks, to the ponies and to the countless families who care about the Pony Rides that City Council issued a motion on October 25 directing RAP to make a determination about terminating the Pony Rides' lease in less than two months time, and that RAP has now simply terminated that lease with **no public notice, no report back to City Council and no opportunity for comment.**

Please! Stop the clock, extend the lease into the 75th anniversary year of 2023, and give this treasured community resource a chance to survive and bring joy to more families.

If there are to be changes made to the Pony Rides concession in the interest of new ideas about animal rights, then these new ideas should be fully hashed out before these senior ponies are displaced, possibly to be sent for slaughter if no home can be found for them on such short notice.

That would be a cruel and pointless end to a life of service and would break many L.A. hearts because of a few loud mouth protestors who possibly are not even Los Angeles residents.

If you want to do public good, don't allow the marijuana smoking drum circle who gather at Griffith park near the childrens play area. These people smoke marijuana in a public park, is it allowed to smoke at the park, near children's play area? Why should individuals who are non marijuana users and much less children be exposed to these toxic and mind-altering fumes when they are trying to enjoy the public space? Do something about that!!!!

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sonia GG

Los Angeles Resident

---

City of Los Angeles



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

**Re: FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:27 AM

To: Brenda Masson

&gt;

Cc: iris.davis@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, Dec 5, 2022 at 9:40 PM Brenda Masson &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Hello,

Please read aloud during public comment. It is under 2 minutes.

**Good morning Commissioners,****Brenda Masson, constituent  
representing council district 6.****This is a call to action for  
renovations at Pedlow Skate Park.  
Pedlow is a community where A  
diverse group of skateboarders, rollerbladers and roller skaters can do what they love unhindered.****My eight-year-old son is on the autism spectrum and I have never seen him thrive more than when he is  
learning and interacting with fellow skaters at the park.****Unfortunately, Pedlow has been neglected. It is in desperate need of renovations, most importantly, lights.****Park utilization is limited due to the 4:45pm sunset forcing earlier closure. This affects adults who skate after  
work and kids who skate after school. This is particularly impacting teenagers this year due to the state  
moving school start times to 8:30am which gets them out at 4pm.****The community continues to take it upon themselves to cover all graffiti. They also make temporary repairs to  
the concrete and pool coping to ensure safety and ease of use. This is due to neglected maintenance. Our  
skate community cares but we need your help.****I think we all can agree that after a 2-year lockdown, this would be highly beneficial for kids and adults alike.****Thank you,**Brenda Masson  
Sent from my iPhone--  
City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza  
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Re: GP Ponies

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:28 AM

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 11:06 PM Zach Broussard <> wrote:  
Hey there!

I'm a longtime Los Feliz resident, and just celebrated my first trip to the pony rides with my son.

I feel the quick decision to close the pony rides does not best reflect the interest of residents and parents. I urge you to pause for full public comment to better understand the perspective of those who live this park.

Thank you for your time.

Zach Broussard

Sent from my iPhone

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

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**Re: Griffith Park - Thanks for saving the ponies**

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

Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 9:35 AM

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#)

We appreciate your feedback.

On Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 8:45 AM John Hartigan <

&gt; wrote:

Greetings,

I send this email to thank you from the bottom of my heart for abolishing the pony rides in Griffith Park. I have seen the pain those poor horses had to endure under the heat and in dire conditions. It is such a relief that this abuse is coming to an end.

I hope the activity will be replaced with a park for children to play and socialize. Or maybe, even better, convert the place into a spot for rescued animals to thrive and be taken care of. This way children will still have a chance to interact with animals.

Best regards,

Stefano

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

---

**Re: Griffith Park Ponies**

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 2:46 PM

To: Joan Klengler &gt;

Cc: CD4@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 Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 12:37 PM Joan Klengler < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners and Jimmy Kim:

It is disappointing that you were influenced to take action by a small group of animal activists with no knowledge of equines. However you have a chance to do the right thing and reverse your decision. Please reverse this terrible decision and give the pony rides a chance to stay and celebrate 75 years in 2023.

I have visited the site on many occasions and have seen no evidence of misuse of the ponies. They are well fed and cared for - fat and furry - hooves properly trimmed - plenty of hay and clean water.

More importantly, it is not cruel to allow ponies to carry small children. People who believe this are opposed to all use of animals. Riding is not cruel. Horses need to have room to move and exercise to stay healthy. There is not enough room for all horses to roam free. And life in the wild for mustangs is hard and often cruel - not a fantasy paradise.

There are many people and ponies counting on you. There has been talk of all of the ponies going to good homes. I would request that, if this is the case, every person who is planning to give a home to a pony provide information about how and where they plan to house and care for the pony. It is extremely expensive to keep horses and ponies and every day horses are found abandoned because people cannot afford to keep them. Rescues are filled beyond capacity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joan and Ingolf Klengler

--

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

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

1 message

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

Wed, Nov 30, 2022 at 10:11 AM

To: Alliance for animals &lt;

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Nov 29, 2022 at 4:57 PM Alliance for animals &lt;

&gt; wrote:

**From:** Alysa Brennan <  
**Date:** November 29, 2022 at 4:52:34 PM PST  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

Please do not renew the contracts for pony rides and the zoo. Animals are not ours for our entertainment.  
Put in pickleball courts instead!

Thanks,  
Alysa

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

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 7:53 AM

To:

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 10:21 PM Gretchen Matsumoto <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your service to the city.

There is an issue that our family would like to ask that you reconsider and that is closing the pony rides in Griffith Park. Our family has enjoyed the ponies for three generations and they've provided a unique opportunity for Angelenos for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a century. There is nothing as rejuvenating, refreshing, or fun as a view from a pony's' or a horse's back.

The pony rides are available equally to everyone in Los Angeles. Please reconsider allowing the pony rides to continue in Griffith Park so many more generations of families can enjoy this opportunity.

Thank you,

Gretchen Matsumoto

--

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

**Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides**

1 message

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

Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 7:28 AM

To: Gabrielle Agnew &gt;

Cc: RAP.PublicInfo@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 Sun, Dec 4, 2022 at 3:10 PM Gabrielle Agnew &lt;

&gt; wrote:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this email to express my disappointment to the news that the contract with the Griffith Park Pony Rides will not be renewed this month.

In an age where most children are glued to a screen, the pony rides gives families an affordable way to get outside and make memories interacting with these amazing animals. For countless people in the past, the pony rides have been a gateway to a life with horses. Horses teach people of all ages discipline, and a dedication to the well being of someone other than yourself. Being dedicated to a horse keeps teens out of trouble, and gives adults a quiet relaxing space to be to escape the stress of work and family life.

The people who have been protesting the pony rides don't have the first clue about how to take care of a horse, or the things that make them happy. The horses we ride are domesticated, and they thrive with having a job. There is no way you could force a pony to walk the track, carrying children, without a bridle, of their own accord. These ponies love their job, and when they are no longer able to do it, they are given a safe and happy retirement among their fellow ponies.

Please reconsider renewing the contract for the pony rides so that LAs children can continue to discover the wonder of horses at Griffith Park.

Thank you,

Gabrielle Agnew  
Horse Trainer, Riding Instructor  
NW Dressage - Assistant Trainer  
Middle Ranch/ Hacienda Del Valle - Ranch Coordinator

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides----

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 7:05 AM

To: "Jageck(Toni)" <

>  
Cc: "contactCD4@lacity.org" <contactCD4@lacity.org>, "Gilbert.Cedillo@lacity.org" <Gilbert.Cedillo@lacity.org>, "councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org" <councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org>, "councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org" <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, "paul.koretz@lacity.org" <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, "councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org" <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, "councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org" <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, "councilmember.price@lacity.org" <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, "councilmember.bonin@lacity.org" <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, "councilmember.Lee@lacity.org" <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, "councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org" <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, "councilmember.kevindoleon@lacity.org" <councilmember.kevindoleon@lacity.org>, "councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org" <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>, "mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org" <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>, "commissioner.gross@yahoo.com" <commissioner.gross@yahoo.com>, "ydd@lacity.org" <ydd@lacity.org>

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#)

We appreciate your feedback.

On Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 3:04 AM Jageck(Toni) <

> wrote:

To all on the LA City Council Board---Parks And Recs--

I am appalled at the shutting down of the Pony Rides in Griffith Park.

I am a tax paying horse owner here in LA area. I have owned horses , had them in my life from a super young age. You who have zero experience with horses period, listening to over radical people Alliance for Animals to make choices for LA. It is so sad that you have allowed these lunatic people to win this battle that they have promoted, for no reason. I have read the vet reports front to back....there was not anything worthy of being concerned , especially to this level....PLUS--some of the reports were to be expected of ponies that are that age. PLUS what could be taken care of/fixed has been....So explain why the contract is not being renewed???? They are part of the historical vibe of Griffith Park, along with promoting a family activity to share with kids. You talk about all the crime, drugs etc in LA, especially with youth....and yet you take away a family activity??

When children are exposed to horses-ponies at a young age , they can develop a long lived pure passion for the love of a horse in their life. Many many young people have been kept active with stronger moral values, learning values-responsibility from horses. You should be doing what you can to keep them in business, NOT shutting them down.

If any improvements need to be made---it is YOU understanding the value pony-horse riding adds to a life long responsibility that a child can learn from, for their future values.

Have you watched the videos of the nut jobs that you are allowing to sway your decisions?? OMG....Believe me--there are so many horse lovers/owners in this immediate community---and especially around Griffith Park itself....that tons of horse riders ride in , and go by every day/week.....If horses/ponies are being mistreated-truly abused everyone in this Equine community would speak out AGAINST it....But don't take the words from people who have no clue what is considered abusive with Equines.

Protestors saying the ponies "looked" sad....My horse lives in a wonderfully clean stall, has fans, misters, exercise rider I pay, person I pay to turn out every day, blankets laundered, blankets on/off as weather changes, premium hay, grains...Gets his butt wiped, literally every day....awesome hay /treats to eat....But I can send you any day of the week/ a "random" picture where you can "portray " him looking "sad" ....Its probably cause his owner(me) hasn't gotten there yet, or he wants another "treat"...Dont buy into this garbage they are spewing to you....truly.

Wow---as they say...read between the lines....these are paid protestors...they look like porn stars, or people with anger mental issues.....Stop this nonsense now....

Think about this....truly....

As I stated.....I am appalled....that you are even considering this....

The City needs to reverse this ruling, and be helping Steve Weeks or anyone else that will take on the Pony Rides to stay in Griffith Park....for its kids, youth, families and LA.

Your treating this business like they had a dog fighting ring going on....Those ponies are fine, they are cared for.....and loved by tons of kids.

DO not take the words of people who do not have any authority knowledge of horses-ponies....The real people who have knowledge are so very disappointed -outraged in your ruling.

Toni Osseck

Burbank

Property owner/horse owner/tax paying citizen/raised 2 incredible children-both college graduates..

--

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

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**Re: Griffith park pony**

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

Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 7:04 AM

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#)

We appreciate your feedback.

On Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 10:56 PM Jessica Martinez <

> wrote:

Dear Department of Recreation and Parks,

Unfortunately, I was not aware of the ongoing fight between keeping or removing the pony rides. I am completely heartbroken to hear that though no actual abuse has been found in these ponies who have for 74 years given the city children the experience of a life time will now come to an end. This equestrian establishment has allowed me and thousands of other children learn to respect and love horses. It is unlikely to find a location like this (so accessible to all) to ever be in the city of angels. Adults forget they once were children and how these decisions affect the future until we pay the consequences. Allow these ponies to stay, allow an extension, and allow families to continue creating memories for 74 more years. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A first time mom who wants her toddler son to appreciate the love of horses and all animals.

Jessica Martinez

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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

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**Re: Keep the Griffith Park Pony Rides Open**

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: Rick & Marya Eller < >

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:16 AM

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 5:03 PM Rick & Marya Eller < > wrote:

Dear LA City Parks and Recreation,

As Lifetime LA resident who has ridden ponies as a girl at the pony rides, taken my children to ride there, and now taken my grandchildren to the pony rides, I find your decision to not renew this contract extremely short sighted and not based on facts.

I have lived close by in Silverlake and Los Feliz all my life and frequently take kids to the pony rides, jog near the pony rides, take the train ride near the pony rides and have observed that the ponies are kept in spacious outdoor pens with other ponies, an ideal situation.

The last time I was there a few months ago, my grandson's sweet pony visibly enjoyed being ridden and petted. There are hardly any places in LA where children from all over the city can connect with real horses and farm animals.

Shame on you that you have caved to a minority of misinformed vocal activists, and won't stand up to their lies and intimidation tactics.

I would urge you to reverse course and renew the contract for the pony rides and petting zoo. Please allow this LA treasure to continue for the benefit of the people and ponies of LA.

Thank you,

Marya Eller

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

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

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**Re: KEEP The PONY RIDES**

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 1:29 PM

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 9:51 AM Alison Kallik <> wrote:

The pony rides at Griffith Park are an essential component of the community! They provide children of all socioeconomic status the opportunity to interact with horses.

What YOU are doing is removing the opportunity to ride horses from poor children. I rode the ponies as a child and my children ride them now.

YOU should be ashamed! The elite once again rule the roost.

DISGUSTING.

Alison Kallik

SPED Teacher and longtime resident of Glendale

--

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

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**Re: Petition · SAVE GRIFFITH PARK PONY RIDES · Change.org**

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

Fri, Dec 9, 2022 at 7:05 AM

Good Morning Ida,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#)

We appreciate your feedback.

On Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 9:34 PM ida dizon &lt; &gt; wrote:

FYI - over 4,000 signatures! Please reconsider.  
It's just tragic to break up the pony families!<https://www.change.org/p/save-griffith-park-pony-rides>

--

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

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**Re: Please don't take away the pony rides.**

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 10:20 AM

To: Constantine Singer < >  
Cc: contactCD4@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@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 Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 8:24 AM Constantine Singer < > wrote:

Although my own children are way past pony-ride age, I am devastated by the short-sighted decision to cancel the contract with the Griffith Park attraction based on the unverified complaints of a small set of non-local activists.

I've looked at the public documentation in the CC 21-1457 file and the documents associated with it, and I see no evidence that the claims made are true or that Steve Weeks is doing anything other than providing proper care. Instead of cancelling the contract, why on Earth aren't you bringing in an outside expert to do a competent assessment instead?

If you are truly concerned about the health and safety of the animals, bring in oversight, don't shut down the attraction. Shutting down the attraction means putting all the animals into the open market -- a place where their safety certainly cannot be guaranteed.

Please think again.

Constantine Singer

Echo Park

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

**Re: Please END the lease of the Griffith Park Pony Rides**

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:26 AM

To: Steph Mueller &lt;

&gt;

Cc: "contactCD4@lacity.org" &lt;contactCD4@lacity.org&gt;, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" &lt;jimmy.kim@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.

On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 8:39 PM Steph Mueller &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim, and Councilwoman Raman,

Not everything old is good. We are 20 years into the 21st Century. Not all practices and traditions from the past can or should be considered acceptable and humane in a world where many (maybe even most) people oppose the exploitation of animals for entertainment.

The horses in the Griffith Park Pony Rides are geriatric and should be retired. Finding sanctuary for them, a humane ending for this outdated attraction, should not be difficult at all. The report on these ponies says they have no medical records, no record of dental care, and have no records to even identify them individually. There are videos of a lame pony giving rides and a video of ponies being left out in the rain. A concession like this can never generate enough money to provide adequate medical and dental care, let alone the space and facilities they deserve.

Please end this antiquated and inhumane "tradition." It can certainly be replaced by a form of non-animal rides or recreation where no animal needs to be exploited for our amusement.

Thank you for doing the right thing at the right time.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Mueller

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

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**Re: Please extend the Griffith Park pony ride lease**

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 10:38 AM

To: "Cardelús, Jen" &lt;

&gt;

Cc: "contactcd4@lacity.org" &lt;contactcd4@lacity.org&gt;, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" &lt;jimmy.kim@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.

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 9:36 AM Cardelús, Jen &lt;

&gt; wrote:

I was very sad to learn that the lease for the Griffith Park ponies has not been renewed without any public notice or opportunity to comment. The city should not let a few extremist activists end an attraction that is one of the few ways small children in this city can interact with animals. My daughter had an opportunity to ride the ponies, but my son (born not long before the pandemic) never has, and I will be very disappointed if it is closed. Please extend the lease to give the operator an opportunity to respond to the policy changes recommended by the third party equine expert.

Thank you,

Jennifer Cardelus

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

**Re: Please extend the lease of the Griffith Park Pony Rides Inbox**

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:17 AM

To: Kim Cooper &lt;

&gt;

Cc: TeamCD4 &lt;contactCD4@lacity.org&gt;, jimmy.kim@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, Dec 5, 2022 at 5:35 PM Kim Cooper &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim and Councilwoman Raman,

As Los Angeles historians, tour guides and small business advocates, we are urging you to act immediately to halt the pending eviction of the Griffith Park Pony Rides, a treasured legacy business and attraction that will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2023—if you let it.

We have read the City Council file #21-1457 and supporting documents, and it seems clear that concession holder Steve Weeks is invested in caring for the ponies and responding to all recommended policy changes made by the third party equine expert.

It is unfair to Mr. Weeks, to the ponies and to the countless families who care about the Pony Rides that City Council issued a motion on October 25 directing RAP to make a determination about terminating the Pony Rides' lease in less than two months time, and that RAP has now simply terminated that lease with no public notice, no report back to City Council and no opportunity for comment.

Please! Stop the clock, extend the lease into the 75th anniversary year of 2023, and give this treasured community resource a chance to survive and bring joy to more families.

If there are to be changes made to the Pony Rides concession in the interest of new ideas about animal rights, then these new ideas should be fully hashed out before these senior ponies are displaced, possibly to be sent for slaughter if no home can be found for them on such short notice.

That would be a cruel and pointless end to a life of service, and would break so many L.A. hearts.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns, and happy holidays,  
Kim Cooper & Richard Schave  
Esotouric

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

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**Re: Please extend the lease of the Griffith Park Pony Rides**

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:26 AM

To: Adam Hyman &lt;

&gt;

Cc: contactCD4@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@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, Dec 5, 2022 at 7:00 PM Adam Hyman &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim, and Councilmember Raman,

As a native Angeleño who rode on the ponies in Griffith Park when just a tyke, and now as concerned member of the community, I request that you halt the pending eviction of the Griffith Park Pony Rides, a treasured legacy business and attraction that could celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2023 if allowed to survive.

My understanding is that the concession holder Steve Weeks is invested in caring for the ponies and is responding to all recommended policy changes made by a third party equine expert. It is unfair to Mr. Weeks, to the ponies and to the countless families who care about the Pony Rides that RAP has terminated that lease with no public notice, no report back to City Council and no opportunity for comment.

Please extend the lease into the 75th anniversary year of 2023 and beyond, and give this treasured community resource a chance to survive and bring joy to more families. If there are to be changes made to the Pony Rides concession in the interest of animal rights, then let them be made. We wouldn't want ponies to be displaced, possibly to be sent for slaughter if no home can be found for them. Would that actually be better for the ponies? As long as they are cared for properly, the ponies provide a small pleasure to children, something outside of computers and video games, and possibly encourage some kids to care for animals properly as they grow older.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Adam Hyman



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

**Re: Pony ride concessionaire's agreement**

1 message

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

Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 7:28 AM

To:

Cc: Councilmember Nithya Raman &lt;contactCD4@lacity.org&gt;, Stefanie Smith &lt;stefanie.smith@lacity.org&gt;, Tracy James &lt;tracy.james@lacity.org&gt;, Joe Losorelli &lt;joe.losorelli@lacity.org&gt;, Mehmet Berker &lt;mehmet.berker@lacity.org&gt;, Emma Taylor &lt;emma.taylor@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.

On Sun, Dec 4, 2022 at 5:46 PM &lt;

&gt; wrote:

I learned the Pony Rides at Griffith Park will discontinue their long time concessionaires's agreement with RAP. As a person from a twelfth generation American farm family who has lived in Los Angeles for 42 years I feel I have qualifications to weigh in on the matter. I have handled livestock, worked in fields and cared for a horse while growing up.

The departure of the pony concessionaire's agreement removed two important social elements to living : purpose and joy. Without purpose whether it is the living species of humans or animals we have little reason to live.

Alliance, a non profit, removed the purpose of a small business to operate and the innate purpose for these horses and ponies to walk , trot and work. The simple joy for many children, families who have never had the privilege of communing with livestock has also been denied.

At the very least, encourage Alliance to assist with funding the aging ponies by covering vet, feed and shelter costs and perhaps assist the unemployed staff of this concession with funds as well.

It appears LA Alliance's understanding of this subject is more reactionary than informed. How sad you bought into this ruse.  
Christine Mills O'Brien, Hollywoodland

Sent from my iPad

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

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**Re: Pony rides**

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

Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 7:02 AM

To:

Cc: Stefanie Smith &lt; &gt; ,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#)

We appreciate your feedback.

On Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 8:24 PM &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Commissioners:

I wanted to share images of my 41 year old son as a child riding the ponies and his 5 year old daughter taken just two weeks ago. I am sure there is a multitude of Los Angeles families spanning generations who can share similar images and who can relate fond, joyous memories of riding the ponies at Griffith Park.

Shameful a small, loud organized NGO with no standing except an ability to exert power over little children and families became the Grinch.

Christine O'Brien, Hollywoodland

Sent from my iPad

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Re: Pony Rides

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:26 AM

To: Beth Colla >

Cc: jimmy.kim@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, Dec 5, 2022 at 8:11 PM Beth Colla < > wrote:

I want to support the Griffith Park pony rides. I am so sad it's closing after 75 years! Please reconsider- the current owner treats these ponies with love, kindness and care.

Beth Colla  
Broker

--  
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

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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: RAP Commissioners -- please extend the lease of the Griffith Park Pony Rides**

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 7:29 AM

To: Ilka Erren Pardinias &gt;

Cc: contactCD4@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, publicity Fly PR &lt;

&gt;, Fly PR &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 Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 1:06 PM Ilka Erren Pardinias &lt; &gt; wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim and Councilwoman Raman,

As an Angeleno for over 30-years, I am are urging you to act immediately to halt the pending eviction of the Griffith Park Pony Rides, a treasured legacy business and attraction that will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2023—if you let it.

I am aware of the City Council file #21-1457 and supporting documents, and it seems clear that concession holder Steve Weeks is invested in caring for the ponies and responding to all recommended policy changes made by the third party equine expert.

It is unfair to Mr. Weeks, to the ponies and to the countless families who care about the Pony Rides that City Council issued a motion on October 25 directing RAP to make a determination about terminating the Pony Rides' lease in less than two months time, and that RAP has now simply terminated that lease with no public notice, no report back to City Council and no opportunity for comment.

Please! Stop the clock, extend the lease into the 75th anniversary year of 2023, and give this treasured community resource a chance to survive and bring joy to more families.

If there are changes to be made to the Pony Rides concession in the interest of new ideas about animal rights, then these new ideas should be fully hashed out before these senior ponies are displaced, possibly to be sent for slaughter if no home can be found for them on such short notice.

That would be a cruel and pointless end to a life of service, and would break so many L.A. hearts.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns, and happy holidays,

Concerned Citizen, former Vice President of the Silver Lake Chamber of Commerce, former Executive Director of the German American Business Association (Los Angeles)

Ilka Erren Pardiñas

T.





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Re: Resign NOW!

1 message

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

Thu, Dec 1, 2022 at 7:43 AM

Good morning,

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

On Thu, Dec 1, 2022 at 4:42 AM Margo Kligman < > wrote:  
Dear Los Angeles Recreation and Park Commissioners and Executive Team,

I am calling upon your resignation for allowing ongoing animal abuse at Griffith Park and Pony Rides. It is egregious that you're allowing for this park to remain open when Stephen Week is in violation of the law and his current contract.

Resign immediately. You're providing a disservice to all Angelenos by excusing animal abuse! You pass inspection reports when laws are being violated, you don't answer public act request, and you're allowing for a concessionaire to operate when he is in violation of his contract.

Every single one of the animals at Griffith Park need to be at a sanctuary, immediately!

Sent from my iPhone

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

**Re: Save the Griffith Park Pony Rides**

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 7:54 AM

To: Martha Szondy &lt;&gt;

Cc: contactCD4@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 Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 2:56 AM Martha Szondy &lt;&gt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim and Councilwoman Raman,

I am urging you to halt the pending eviction of the Griffith Park Pony Rides, a treasured legacy business and attraction that will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2023—if you let it.

Concession holder Steve Weeks is invested in caring for the ponies and responding to all recommended policy changes made by the third party equine expert.

It is unfair to Mr. Weeks, to the ponies and to the countless families who care about the Pony Rides that City Council issued a motion on October 25 directing RAP to make a determination about terminating the Pony Rides' lease in less than two months time, and that RAP has now simply terminated that lease with no public notice, no report back to City Council and no opportunity for comment.

Please! Stop the clock, extend the lease into the 75th anniversary year of 2023, and give this treasured community resource a chance to survive and bring joy to more families.

If there are to be changes made to the Pony Rides concession in the interest of new ideas about animal rights, then these new ideas should be fully hashed out before these senior ponies are displaced, possibly to be sent for slaughter if no home can be found for them on such short notice.

That would be a cruel and pointless end to a life of service, and would break so many L.A. hearts.

Sincerely,

L.A. native M. Szondy



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

---

**Re: SAVE THE PONIES**

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 7:52 AM

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 9:21 PM Alison Kallik &lt;

&gt; wrote:

The pony rides at Griffith Park are an essential component of the community! They provide children of all socioeconomic status the opportunity to interact with horses.

What YOU are doing is removing the opportunity to ride horses from poor children. I rode the ponies as a child and my children ride them now.

YOU should be ashamed! The elite once again rule the roost.  
DISGUSTING.

Alison Kallik  
SPED Teacher and longtime resident of Glendale

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

**Re: Save the pony rides.**

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 7:44 AM

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 9:17 PM jason asenbauer < > wrote:

Thousands of low income children who live in the city have had the opportunity and experience to ride a horse at the Griffith Park pony rides. If anything we should be creating more opportunities like this for our kids not taking away the only one the city has to offer. My son's first experience with riding a horse was at Griffith Park and he now loves to ride. Please renew their permit.



Sent from my iPhone

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



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

**Re: Save the Pony Rides**

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:25 AM

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 6:34 PM Nicholas Coles &lt; &gt; wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners,

I implore you to please keep the pony rides at Griffith Park!

I'm a resident of LA for over 15 years and the father of a 3 1/2 year-old daughter. I have taken my daughter on countless adventures to the Griffith Park pony ride and petting zoo since it reopened after being closed due to the pandemic. It is one of our favorite activities to do together. It is a chance for her to learn about animals, to see them up close and appreciate them. Plus it brings her so much joy!! It's heartbreaking that this is something we won't be able to do together. Or that her unborn sibling won't be able to share the same experience with her and with me.

Everyone who takes a child to this part of the park cares about the well being of the animals and expects that they are treated well. No parent wants their child to see animals treated poorly or in poor condition. If this was the case, parents would vote with their feet and not attend. But the opposite is true - there is always a line and a wait. And these animals bring so much joy to the children riding them and to the parents watching on.

If changes need to be made - then those concerns should be addressed and the operator given time to make the needed changes. It is unfair to the operator, to the ponies and to families like mine that the City Council and the Park Dept. has simply terminated the lease with no public notice, no report back to City Council and no opportunity for comment.

I hope you can find a solution to keep the pony rides at Griffith Park and address any animal welfare concerns there may be - the children of Los Angeles and surrounding areas should not be the victims of a noisy minority with their own misguided agenda.

Thank you for considering my concerns. Wishing you all a Happy Holidays.

Kind regards,

Nicholas Coles

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

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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**Re: save them ponies!**

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:28 AM

To: Joe Gallagher <

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Good morning,

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

On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 10:20 PM Joe Gallagher <

> wrote:

Save them ponies!

Thanks,

Joe Gallagher

--

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

**Re: Saving the pony rides**

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 7:29 AM

To: Linda Walling <

>

Cc: "

" <

>, "

" <

>

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 12:45 PM Linda Walling <

> wrote:

Jimmy Kim - General Manager  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
221 N Figueroa Street Suite 350  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

December 6, 2022

Dear Mr. Kim,

I am writing this email in support of the historical pony rides at Griffith Park to remain open. It is my understanding that the pony ride has been under attack by radical extremists that have been hired and accomplished a "take down." It is also my understanding that after 74 years the city has discontinued the lease to the owner Steve Weeks causing a closure date set for December 21, 2022. As an equestrian, who once had that first childhood pony I am saddened by the news.

I cannot imagine a world without small children having the opportunity to get that first ride on the back of a pony with the safety of a parent and guide present. I also am heartbroken for the future fate of the team of ponies that have enjoyed the life as working (exercising daily) with the children.

I hope you will reconsider the renewal of the lease agreement and continue to allow these children to experience falling in love with the horses and ponies for the first time. I also hope you recognize the equestrian community is alive and active in the City of Los Angeles.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Kindest Regards,

Linda Walling

--  
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



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

**Re: STOP!**

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:27 AM

To: liza nick &lt; &gt;

Cc: contactCD4@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@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, Dec 5, 2022 at 9:35 PM liza nick < > wrote:

Please extend the lease of the Griffith Park Pony Rides

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim and Councilwoman Raman,

As Los Angeles historians, tour guides and small business advocates, we are urging you to act immediately to halt the pending eviction of the Griffith Park Pony Rides, a treasured legacy business and attraction that will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2023—if you let it.

We have read the City Council file #21-1457 and supporting documents, and it seems clear that concession holder Steve Weeks is invested in caring for the ponies and responding to all recommended policy changes made by the third party equine expert.

It is unfair to Mr. Weeks, to the ponies and to the countless families who care about the Pony Rides that City Council issued a motion on October 25 directing RAP to make a determination about terminating the Pony Rides' lease in less than two months time, and that RAP has now simply terminated that lease with no public notice, no report back to City Council and no opportunity for comment.

Please! Stop the clock, extend the lease into the 75th anniversary year of 2023, and give this treasured community resource a chance to survive and bring joy to more families.

If there are to be changes made to the Pony Rides concession in the interest of new ideas about animal rights, then these new ideas should be fully hashed out before these senior ponies are displaced, possibly to be sent for slaughter if no home can be found for them on such short notice.

That would be a cruel and pointless end to a life of service, and would break so many L.A. hearts.

Former pony rider.

Thank you

--

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

---

**Re: Support for Griffith Park Pony Rides**

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

Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 9:36 AM

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#)

We appreciate your feedback.

On Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 8:17 AM Michael Elric <> wrote:  
Commissioners,

I'm writing to you today in support of the Griffith Park Pony Rides. I have read the reports and can plainly see no abuse. Any action items have been taken care of.

The true violation here are these animal activists that have terrorized the community shouting obscenities and threats of murder for over a year! How can you let these people trample on the dream of children wanting to have their first pony ride?

I was born in Los Angeles and my first ride was at the Griffith Park Pony Rides. Maybe some of you and your children had their first ride there too. Please, I ask that you reconsider your decision and grant Steve Weeks a concession to continue to operate the pony rides.

-Michael Elric

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

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**Re: Thank you for freeing the ponies**

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

Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 3:09 PM

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#)

We appreciate your feedback.

On Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 2:57 PM Eric Castro &lt; &gt; wrote:

My family thanks you all for freeing those poor ponies. All of us rest easier knowing that our favorite park is free from pony abuse.

--

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

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**Re: Thank you for NOT renewing the contract**

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: "Newman, Alicia" <

Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 9:38 AM

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#)

We appreciate your feedback.

On Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 9:37 AM Newman, Alicia <

&gt; wrote:

Dear Ms. Raman and LA Rec & Park,

Just wanted to thank you for doing the right thing and not renewing the contract for Griffith Pony Rides and Petting Zoo! These ponies deserve to retire and have a peaceful, non-exploitative rest of their lives.

I would suggest creating an animal sanctuary in that space. That way the city of LA can give families the opportunity to interact with animals and teach their kids empathy and respect for them in a non-abusive and exploitative way.

Thank you again for doing the right thing. The ponies are grateful.

Sincerely,  
Alicia Newman

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

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Re: Thank you!

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

Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 7:01 AM

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#)

We appreciate your feedback.

On Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 4:33 PM Alondra Reveles <

> wrote:

Hello, thank you so much for not renewing the contract for Griffith park pony rides. I'm glad that now the cycle of suffering that occurred at that place has been put to a stop. This sends a great message to kids and future generations. It teaches us to evolve and not needlessly harm beings for entertainment nor profit. The place can be replaced with a community garden, animal-FREE models, or anything else that doesn't harm beings. Thank you!

--

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

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

1 message

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

Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 7:27 AM

Good morning,

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

On Fri, Dec 2, 2022 at 8:17 PM Terry Wallerstedt &lt; &gt; wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Terry Wallerstedt

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



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

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

1 message

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

Mon, Nov 28, 2022 at 8:11 AM

To:

Good morning,

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

On Sat, Nov 26, 2022 at 6:52 AM David Wachsman &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners Recreation and Park Commissioners,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
Mr. David Wachsman

--

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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Re: Griffith Park Ponies

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 7:45 AM

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 9:17 PM JOHN ZIEGLER < > wrote:

Please reverse your nonsensical and counterproductive decision to shutdown the Griffith Park pony rides. You are damaging a lot people, especially a lot of poor kids, and horses all so you can selfishly feel good about yourselves for having ended yet another link to LA's past.

It is difficult to admit you are wrong, and I doubt you will have the courage to do so, but it would clearly be the right thing to do.

Sincerely,  
John Ziegler  
Glendale,CA

Sent from my iPhone

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

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**Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides**

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:20 AM

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Dec 5, 2022 at 5:57 PM Paul Dyson < > wrote:  
Commissioners,

Your decision to refuse to renew the pony rides concession amounts to kowtowing to domestic terrorism, and ignorance of animal care. There is no doubt that the ponies have received exceptionally good care, and those with knowledge of horse keeping can tell that they enjoy their "jobs". You have allowed yourselves to be swayed by a tiny minority; a loud, ignorant and uncompromising minority, but one that uses verbal abuse and bullying to achieve its aims. This is not a good precedent and only encourages these people to further acts that are contrary to the wishes of the great majority of the community.

PD

Paul Dyson, Commissioner, BGPAA  
LAEC tenant

--  
City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza  
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300  
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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 extend the lease of the Griffith Park Pony Rides**

1 message

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

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:26 AM

To: Adam Hyman &lt;

&gt;

Cc: contactCD4@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@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, Dec 5, 2022 at 7:00 PM Adam Hyman &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim, and Councilmember Raman,

As a native Angeleño who rode on the ponies in Griffith Park when just a tyke, and now as concerned member of the community, I request that you halt the pending eviction of the Griffith Park Pony Rides, a treasured legacy business and attraction that could celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2023 if allowed to survive.

My understanding is that the concession holder Steve Weeks is invested in caring for the ponies and is responding to all recommended policy changes made by a third party equine expert. It is unfair to Mr. Weeks, to the ponies and to the countless families who care about the Pony Rides that RAP has terminated that lease with no public notice, no report back to City Council and no opportunity for comment.

Please extend the lease into the 75th anniversary year of 2023 and beyond, and give this treasured community resource a chance to survive and bring joy to more families. If there are to be changes made to the Pony Rides concession in the interest of animal rights, then let them be made. We wouldn't want ponies to be displaced, possibly to be sent for slaughter if no home can be found for them. Would that actually be better for the ponies? As long as they are cared for properly, the ponies provide a small pleasure to children, something outside of computers and video games, and possibly encourage some kids to care for animals properly as they grow older.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Adam Hyman



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

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**Re: SAVE GRIFFITH PARK PONIES**

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 7:47 AM

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 9:19 PM alison kall < > wrote:

The pony rides at Griffith Park are an essential component of the community! They provide children of all socioeconomic status the opportunity to interact with horses.

What YOU are doing is removing the opportunity to ride horses from poor children. I rode the ponies as a child and my children ride them now.

YOU should be ashamed! The elite once again rule the roost.  
DISGUSTING.

Alison Kallik  
SPED Teacher and longtime resident of Glendale

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

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**Re: Griffith Park Ponies**

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 7:45 AM

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 9:17 PM JOHN ZIEGLER < > wrote:

Please reverse your nonsensical and counterproductive decision to shutdown the Griffith Park pony rides. You are damaging a lot people, especially a lot of poor kids, and horses all so you can selfishly feel good about yourselves for having ended yet another link to LA's past.

It is difficult to admit you are wrong, and I doubt you will have the courage to do so, but it would clearly be the right thing to do.

Sincerely,  
John Ziegler  
Glendale, CA

Sent from my iPhone

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

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**Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides, Los Angeles**

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 7:53 AM

To: Leslie Mercer &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 Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 9:49 PM Leslie Mercer &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Commissioners and others involved...Please do not close this beautiful and historical park. Families enjoy it so much. Growing up as a child in Northern California, my siblings and I were able to have horses and ponies in our lives. There is nothing like it. The spirit of the ponies and horses is magical and invaluable in a child's life. Please keep it open and let the activists go. Don't let them take it away. It would be incredible tragic.

Blessings, and happy holidays,

Sincerely, warm wishes.

Mrs. Leslie Mercer

Sent from my iPad

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

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**Re: GRIFFITH PARK PONY RIDES**

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 7:30 AM

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 1:30 PM Joan Klengler < > wrote:

It is disappointing that you were influenced to take action by a small group of animal activists with no knowledge of equines. However you have a chance to do the right thing and reverse your decision. Please reverse this terrible decision and give the pony rides a chance to stay and celebrate 75 years in 2023.

I have visited the site on many occasions and have seen no evidence of misuse of the ponies. They are well fed and cared for - fat and furry - hooves properly trimmed - plenty of hay and clean water.

More importantly, it is not cruel to allow ponies to carry small children. People who believe this are opposed to all use of animals. Riding is not cruel. Horses need to have room to move and exercise to stay healthy. There is not enough room for all horses to roam free. And life in the wild for mustangs is hard and often cruel - not a fantasy paradise.

There are many people and ponies counting on you. There has been talk of all of the ponies going to good homes. I would request that, if this is the case, every person who is planning to give a home to a pony provide information about how and where they plan to house and care for the pony. It is extremely expensive to keep horses and ponies and every day horses are found abandoned because people cannot afford to keep them. Rescues are filled beyond capacity. Thank you for your consideration.

JOAN KLENGLER

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

**Re: Please extend the lease of the Griffith Park Pony Rides**

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 7:42 AM

To: Spencer Hunt &lt;

&gt;

Cc: contactCD4@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 Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:16 PM Spencer Hunt &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim and Councilwoman Raman,

As Los Angeles historians, tour guides and small business advocates, we are urging you to act immediately to halt the pending eviction of the Griffith Park Pony Rides, a treasured legacy business and attraction that will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2023-if you let it.

I have read the City Council file #21-1457 and supporting documents, and it seems clear that concession holder Steve Weeks is invested in caring for the ponies and responding to all recommended policy changes made by the third party equine expert.

It is unfair to Mr. Weeks, to the ponies and to the countless families who care about the Pony Rides that City Council issued a motion on October 25 directing RAP to make a determination about terminating the Pony Rides' lease in less than two months time, and that RAP has now simply terminated that lease with no public notice, no report back to City Council and no opportunity for comment.

Please! Stop the clock, extend the lease into the 75th anniversary year of 2023, and give this treasured community resource a chance to survive and bring joy to more families.

If there are to be changes made to the Pony Rides concession in the interest of new ideas about animal rights, then these new ideas should be fully hashed out before these senior ponies are displaced, possibly to be sent for slaughter if no home can be found for them on such short notice.

That would be a cruel and pointless end to a life of service, and would break so many L.A. hearts.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns, and happy holidays,  
Spencer Hunt

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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 7:22 AM

To: MARCY GEHRKE <>

Cc: contactCD4@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, Dec 5, 2022 at 6:04 PM MARCY GEHRKE <> wrote:

To: [RAP.Commissioners@lacity.org](mailto:RAP.Commissioners@lacity.org), [contactCD4@lacity.org](mailto:contactCD4@lacity.org), [jimmy.kim@lacity.org](mailto:jimmy.kim@lacity.org)

Please extend the lease of the Griffith Park Pony Rides

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim and Councilwoman Raman,

As Los Angeles historians, tour guides and small business advocates, we are urging you to act immediately to halt the pending eviction of the Griffith Park Pony Rides, a treasured legacy business and attraction that will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2023—if you let it.

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That would be a cruel and pointless end to a life of service, and would break so many L.A. hearts.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns, and happy holidays,

Sent from Marcy's iPad

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