

INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM: JIMMY KIM, General Manager *J/K*

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. Nick Leathers comments regarding Safety Issues at Spring Street Park	#10051	Referred to General Manager
2. Klaus Havelund comments regarding Safety Issues at Spring Street Park	#10051a	Referred to General Manager
3. Nichole Stenbak comments regarding Safety Issues at Spring Street Park	#10051b	Referred to General Manager
4. Ron Bitzer comments regarding Board Report 26-026	#10052	Referred to General Manager
5. Jens Midthum comments regarding Board Report 26-030	#10053	Referred to General Manager
6. Vora Pong Nimnual comments regarding Pickleball at Westwood Recreation Center	#10054	Referred to General Manager
7. Guy Smith comments regarding a Situation that Happened at Rustic Canyon Park	#10055	Referred to General Manager
8. Alex Crow comments regarding Board Report 26-029	#10056	Referred to General Manager
9. Debra Matlock comments regarding Board Report 26-029	#10056a	Referred to General Manager

10. Gerry Hans comments regarding Board Report 26-029	#10056b	Referred to General Manager
11. Hannah Jaeger comments regarding Board Report 26-029/28	#10056c	Referred to General Manager
12. Lydia Hallett comments regarding the Venice Flying Carousel	#10057	Referred to General Manager
13. Robin Murez comments regarding the Venice Flying Carousel	#10057a	Referred to General Manager
14. Philip Murphy comments regarding Urban Ecologist Courtney McCammon	#10058	Referred to General Manager
15. Bryony Roberts comments regarding Replacing the Sand at Crestwood Hills Park	#10059	Referred to General Manager
16. Michael Howard comments regarding Dogs Off Leash at Poinsetta Park	#10060	Referred to General Manager
17. Zay Turner comments regarding Report on Oakwood, Westminster and Dog Parks	#10061	Referred to General Manager
18. Howard Katchen/Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council supports the staff recommendations in CF 24-0602 and supports a ban on artificial turf in both public and private spaces (Council File Number: 24-0602)	#10062	Referred to General Manager
19. Max Young comments regarding Safety Violations, BuildingCode Non-Compliance, and Disparate Treatment	#10063	Referred to General Manager



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: MyLA311 - Spring Street Park Jan 30th follow up Ongoing Safety Issues

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 30, 2026 at 9:16 AM

To: Nick Leathers

Good morning,

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

On Fri, Jan 30, 2026 at 9:10 AM Nick Leathers wrote:

Dear Council District 14 Team, Mayor's Office, LAPD, and Recreation & Parks,

I am reaching out again regarding the ongoing and escalating public safety issues at Spring Street Park. As directed, residents have continued to submit 311 service requests, call LAPD non emergency line & file online police reports. We are doing everything we are being told to do and would greatly appreciate your assistance in helping move this toward resolution.

We have seen LAPD presence and response, which residents greatly appreciate. However, as of late I don't believe my neighbors and I have received responses from CD 14 despite worsening conditions.

The Recreation and Parks staff did not feel safe opening the park gates this morning. Attached are photos showing a fire started by the gate last night and existing conditions observed this morning.

Summary of current conditions and concerns:

- Aggressive and volatile behavior by individuals occupying the park perimeter, including confrontations with LAPD
- Visible drug paraphernalia documented on video by residents
- Multiple dogs acting aggressively, barking nonstop overnight (approximately 3:00 am to after 7:00 am), contributing to safety concerns and severe sleep disruption
- Harassment and intimidation of pedestrians, including residents being followed or stared down while using the adjacent sidewalk
- Open flames/fires observed overnight (see attached photo)
- Individuals occupying or climbing park fencing, obstructing normal park and sidewalk access
- Rec and Parks staff unable to safely open the park gates due to aggressive dogs and occupants at the entrance

While keeping the park gates closed may be necessary in the short term, residents do not feel safe and this is not a sustainable condition. This situation requires more than LAHSA outreach alone. Outreach has not stabilized conditions and the situation has escalated to the point where city staff cannot safely perform routine duties and residents feel at risk.

We are again requesting active engagement from CD 14 and relevant departments to address safety, enforce park rules, and restore safe public access. Please advise what actions are being taken and what the plan is to address this situation.

Thank you for your time and attention on this.

Nick Leathers





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

From: **MyLA-311** <311-no-reply@lacity.org>

Date: Fri, Jan 30, 2026 at 8:53 AM

Subject: MyLA311: New - Park Amenity and Facilities Repair

To:

Thank you for contacting the City of Los Angeles. Your Park Amenity and Facilities Repair Service Request has been received.

Service Request Type: Park Amenity and Facilities Repair

Service Request: #02613391

Location: 428 S SPRING ST

Typical Time for Completion: 30 day(s)

Please visit this [website](#) and search for your Park Amenity and Facilities Repair Service Request to get important information about how this service request will be processed and the specific rules or application instructions that may apply.

You can check the status of your request by visiting [MyLA-311](#)



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Spring Street Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Feb 2, 2026 at 9:41 AM

To: Klaus Havelund

Cc: Dylan Stickland <dylan.stickland@lacity.org>, "to: Kelli Lloyd" <kelli.lloyd@lacity.org>, Alfredo Rodriguez <Alfredo.rodriguez@lacity.org>, Adan Acosta <adan.acosta@lacity.org>, "rap.publicinfo@lacity.org" <rap.publicinfo@lacity.org>, pershing.square@lacity.org, rap.cityranger@lacity.org, "Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org" <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, KIMBERLY GUERRA <41768@lapd.online>, DEON JOSEPH <32511@lapd.online>, GORDON HELPER <34549@lapd.online>, KELLY MUNIZ <35361@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 Sun, Feb 1, 2026 at 7:18 PM Klaus Havelund

wrote:

Dear Dylan and Kelli,

First of all, many thanks again for making it happen that the park is closed at night. The following is meant to be of help rather than a complaint.

The homeless got the habit of coming to the park when it was not closed. They have now populated especially the southern half circle, where they camp out at night and in day time. See photos I have taken attached. The Northern half circle is typically occupied with transient drug users. One of the pictures shows that. The situation at the South gate is now so bad that Parcs and Recs has closed that gate "permanently" since they have been intimidated by the homeless when they try to close that gate at night. Only the Northern gate is now open in the daytime.

There are also homeless in the park during daytime, but perhaps one problem at a time: I think that something needs to be done with those half circles so that people cannot hang out there. It has been a problem for years, but now it has gone extreme. Basically Skid Row has moved to Spring Street.

The citizens around the park want to collaborate and not be foes. We are friends of the city. We want to collaborate on this, and as I said: the fact that you caused the park to be closed at night was noticed and greatly appreciated.

Best regards,

Klaus Havelund

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

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





DOG CARE AREA
AT THE BACK OF
THE PARK

No Dogs
Allowed

MRIBK
must be on leash
and
defecation must be
cleaned up by owners.

GAP







NO DOGS ALLOWED
IN THIS AREA
EXCEPT AS NOTED
ON THIS SIGN

DOG WALKING AREA
AT THE BACK OF
THE PARK

No Dogs
Allowed

Should be on leash
and under control
at all times
Failure to comply
may result in
ejecting the dog
and its owner
from the park









Coca-Cola

U.S.A.
MOVING & STORAGE
1-800-898-8474

U.S.A.
MOVING & STORAGE
1-800-898-8474

Jewelry
Display

RACT



DOG CARE AREA
AT THE BACK OF
THE PARK

No Dogs
Allowed

Wash
your hands
after
using
the
park

Woman in black jacket and pink shorts

Man in black hoodie and grey pants

Person in black hoodie sitting in a stroller

Wheeled cart covered with a grey blanket and an orange tarp, with a black plastic crate on top.

Area with various items including bags, blankets, and a small table, suggesting a makeshift living or storage area.

Open manhole cover on the sidewalk.





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Spring Street Park Follow-Up

1 message

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

Mon, Feb 2, 2026 at 12:20 PM

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Feb 2, 2026 at 11:35 AM Nichole Stenbak

wrote:

Hello,

I last contacted you in November regarding the situation in Spring Street Park. First of all, I'd like to thank you for your efforts so far. The park is now being closed at night and there have been at least two major clean ups. This has not gone unnoticed!

That said, there are some persistent issues I'd like to bring to your attention.

1. A group of homeless has begun to occupy the bench outside the park on a nightly basis. They yell, play loud music, have multiple barking dogs, and they harass passersby. The ring leader of this group is a person who usually wears a bright yellow beanie.
2. Another group spends days in the children's play area using and selling drugs, taking over the slide and benches.
3. Half the park is gated off, allowing the homeless to occupy and set up tents, coolers, blankets etc. The other half is being used by off-leash dog owners as a makeshift dog park (explicitly against park regulations).
4. While the cleanups remove bulky items and most trash, the park is still in poor condition and not inviting to residents or visitors of DTLA.

I have included some photos for your reference.

Thank you!

Nichole Stenbak

Hello,

I am a resident of the _____ I am writing to ask that you immediately address the current condition of Spring Street Park by closing the gates at 6pm.

We are currently being subject to open drug use, late-night fights, and noise disruptions, and public urination.

The park has rules that explicitly prohibit these activities as well as stated hours. However, the rules are not being enforced and the park is not being closed at night.

Please respond to this email at your earliest convenience. I can also be reached at

Thank you,
Nichole Stenbak



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Public Comment RAP 26-026

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Feb 2, 2026 at 9:10 AM

To: Ron Bitzer

Bcc: Takisha McFarland <takisha.sardin@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, Feb 1, 2026 at 12:39 PM Ron Bitzer

wrote:

| Madam or Sir: Please refer to the attachment. Ron Bitzer

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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 **Public Comment RAP 26-026.pdf**
276K

Public Comment for RAP Report 26-026 -- February 5, 2026:
**Will LADWP Spend Millions to Capture Storm Water Below
Valley Plaza and Valley Plaza Sports Complex & Leave
In Question Valley Plaza Park Improvements?**

By Ron Bitzer, North Hollywood,

City and county studies over recent years have pointed to the maintenance and capital needs of Valley Plaza Park, Recreation Center and Sports Complex (Whitsett Fields) in North Hollywood.

Citizen deference to the priorities of City and State planning in North Hollywood has required many residents to ignore previous and pending impacts of major government construction, such as the following:

1. A 171-acre park, Victory-Vanowen Park, preceded the current smaller park at issue when the State Highway Agency acquired ownership of half of the park land for building the 170 freeway in the 1950's.
2. "Remnant" parks were created from remaining 77 acres then renamed Valley Plaza Park --- 5 acres on which the City agreed in 2020 to build "temporary" interim homeless housing, Alexandria Tiny Homes for 200 people, with the sitting Councilmember giving public safety assurances,
3. Illegal camping adjacent to Tiny Homes calls for periodic "clean-ups" apparently designed to mollify protesting nearby residents and business owners. Fires both inside and outside Tiny Homes-Alexandria triggered costs to the City for replacement beds and to nearby residents paying for homeowners insurance e.g. Sylvan Ave. addresses.
4. Ratepayers may bear a portion of the cost of the North Hollywood Stormwater Capture Project for which all 7 projects are estimated to cost a total of \$298M, Quarterly Report, Safe, Clean Water Regional Reporting, August 15, 2024,

The projected cost of the LADWP Program has been publicly criticized as excessive. LADWP internal ratepayer advocate's questions about the cost of this Program appear to have slowed the LADWP approval process.

A "... feeling of desperation has long animated debates across the city (of New York) over preserving green space or meeting other city needs and desires," New York Times, October 12, 2025, p.32.

Ongoing consultation with LADWP is appropriate for several reasons including reimbursement issues as outlined in the January 2025 Memorandum of Understanding, (Copy available upon request).

Question #1: What are the short and long term costs contractually attributed to the Department of Recreation and Parks?

As an example, hiring of additional staff specialists will be a forthcoming expense over the lifetime of the Program to accomplish.

- "RAP will have sole and full responsibility for overall park management, regulatory compliance, permitting, maintenance, and operation, ," Memorandum of Agreement By and Among the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering, and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for the Implementation of the Stormwater Capture Parks Program, January 21, 2025, p. 11.
- "Maintain the park trails, **access roads**, fencing, signage, trash receptacles, ports lighting, related electrical control panels, any electric vehicle station infrastructures, and recreational features of for each Program project," Memorandum of Agreement By and Among the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering, and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for the Implementation of the Stormwater Capture Parks Program, January 21, 2025, p. 11, Emphasis added.
Construction of access roads as represented in the MOU do not currently exist onsite and represent a property interest conveyed permanently to a non-RAP entity without compensation and in violation of the City Charter.

Question #2: What will project owners' funding for mitigation at \$300,000.00 support financially at all 7 projects?

What has not been controversial thus far is a \$300,000.00 reimbursement plan prepared by the City to fund mitigation of park assets subject to the LADWP Program. The \$300,000 dwarfs the '19 \$12,500.000 from LADWP for payment to RAP for park enhancements in exchange for the Elysian Park reservoir and property (Community Parks Enhancement Fund), RAP Report 19-042, p. 4.

Fully 79% has been earmarked for added staff compensation incurred by Rec and Parks as reported: Additional RAP staffing cost \$238,913, Lost permit revenue \$38,462, Storage bins \$22,625 **Total: \$300,000,** " Memorandum of Agreement By and Among the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering, and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for the Implementation of the Stormwater Capture Parks Program, January 21, 2025, p. 22 (Emphasis added).

Missing from the final MOU is the earlier draft definition of park enhancements, "Provide new or improved park and recreational amenities, such as new baseball fields with backstops, dugouts with shades, batting cages, bullpens, sports lighting, bleachers, exercise equipment, walking paths and upgraded irrigation systems, MOU, May 24, 2024, p. 4.

The final MOU merely restates the significance for Los Angeles DWP of the North Hollywood projects and the reimbursement to Recreation and Parks '...the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners for the City of Los Angeles, by resolution in 2024, has agreed to DWP's use, in coordination with BOE and RAP, of RAP properties for these integrated opportunities **to enhance recreational space, provide social, economic, and environmental benefits,** increase stormwater capture for water supply reliability, and improve water quality," Memorandum of Agreement By and Among the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering, and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for the Implementation of the Stormwater Capture Parks Program, January 21, 2025, p. 3, emphasis added.

LADWP, owner of Program assets together with specified real property interests, will "Reimburse RAP up to three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for additional staff costs and lost permit revenue during construction. Any increase in reimbursement to RAP shall be agreed upon by LADWP and RAP through an amendment, Memorandum of Agreement By and Among the Los Angeles Department of Water

and Power, the Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering, and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for the Implementation of the Stormwater Capture Parks Program, January 21, 2025.

.A \$300,000 Reimbursement Fund --- one tenth of 1 percent of Program budget--
-apparently leaves nothing for Valley Plaza North, Valley Plaza South and Valley
Plaza Sports Complex (Whitsett Fields) (3 of the 7 Program sites near the orphan
branch of the Tujunga Wash) located in a park-poor neighborhood of the East
San Fernando Valley.

Phase One of the Program, the David Gonzales Park, reportedly begins construction in February 2026, with staffing and storage costs subject to “RAP Compensation” Memorandum of Agreement By and Among the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering, and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for the Implementation of the Stormwater Capture Parks Program, January 21, 2025, pp. 23-25 (Compensation Amount per Project.

Remaining Opportunities for the Department of Recreation and Parks

Specifically, the MOU calls for the City Department of Recreation and Parks to “**Obtain approval from the Board of Recreation and Parks** of the final plans and specifications for all portions of each project within the Program to be constructed on RAP property prior to the advertisement and award of a project by the Board of Public Works,” Memorandum of Agreement By and Among the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering, and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for the Implementation of the Stormwater Capture Parks Program, January 21, 2025, p. 10, emphasis added.

The rebuilding of then Palisades Recreation Center as a \$30 million public-private partnership has already encouraged a major private contributor to say

“.... it would be in better hands if a community foundation took it (the Rec Center) over from the government,” “Some in Palisades have lost trust in fire rebuild,” Los Angeles Times, October 12, 2025, p. A11.

In fact, RAP may have a role in fund raising for the 7 park North Hollywood Program; the MOU states “LADWP will continue to pursue other eligible grants

.... with assistance from BOE and RAP, as appropriate, Memorandum of Agreement By and Among the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Los Angeles Department of

Public Works Bureau of Engineering, and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for the Implementation of the Stormwater Capture Parks Program, January 21, 2025, p. 2.

The community served by Valley Plaza could become a test model for partnerships advancing longer-term interests of safe, clean water in neighborhoods built on one of the largest aquifers in the county.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commission Continuance Letter for 2/5/2026 (FAB Park Lease)

1 message

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

Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 8:44 AM

Good morning,

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

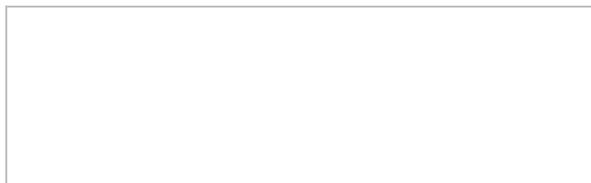
On Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 8:01 AM Jens Midthun
Commissioners and Mr. Kim, wrote:

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council ("DLANC") requests a **60-day continuance for Item 26-030**, currently scheduled for consideration on February 5, 2026, to ensure that the proposed lease of 1st and Broadway (FAB Park) involves meaningful community engagement with the various stakeholders of the Downtown Los Angeles community.

Please see the attached letter for details.

Thank you,

--
Jens Midthun
President
Area Wide Director



--
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

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OFFICERS

JENS MIDTHUN
PRESIDENT

TERESA Y. HILLERY
VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATION

DAMION WAGNER
VICE PRESIDENT OF
OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS

TERIN NGO
SECRETARY

TATHEER ADNAN
TREASURER



February 2, 2026

Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners

Jimmy Kim
General Manager,
Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

VIA EMAIL

RE: Item 26-030 | Proposed Agreement for 1st and Broadway Park (FAB Park): Request for Continuance

Commissioners and Mr. Kim:

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) requests a **60-day continuance for Item 26-030**, currently scheduled for consideration on [February 5, 2026](#), to ensure that the proposed lease of 1st and Broadway (FAB Park) involves meaningful community engagement with the various stakeholders of the Downtown Los Angeles community..

This location was specifically designated as park space to address the extreme scarcity of green and open space in DTLA, where recreation amenities are challenging to access and are a vital resource for our high-density community. The history of this site is marked by a deep sense of frustration for our community, particularly following the 2023 decision by city officials to reallocate approximately \$14.4 million in existing funding away from FAB Park to other projects; this diversion of funds left a void in our civic center and has significantly impacted the local quality of life for years.¹ Because a lease of this nature represents a major shift in the City’s management of public land, we believe it is a significant step that carries long-term consequences for the entire DTLA community.

¹ See Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners, Report No. 23-043 (Feb. 16, 2023), suspending the 1st and Broadway Civic Center Park development and reallocating \$14,375,248.83 in Quimby fees, available at <https://recreation.parks.lacity.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/commissioner/2023/feb16/23-043.pdf>

We believe that the use of public land by non-governmental parties must be rooted in transparent and robust community engagement to ensure the use and services rendered meet the needs of the public. While DLANC is excited and welcomes investments in cultural and arts programming that can enrich the neighborhood, such investments must be balanced against the primary need for accessible open space through a process of broader engagement with all affected stakeholders.

We are requesting this **60-day continuance** to allow the proponents to meet directly with **DLANC** and **Council District 14**, as this would allow for additional opportunity for engagement with the community that the land is meant to serve.

We urge the Commission to grant this continuance to ensure that the park's original purpose for public assembly and green and open space is preserved through the collaborative process that this historic site and our stakeholders deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jens Midthun". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jens" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Midthun".

Jens Midthun
President,
DLANC

JM:RR

Cc: Council District 14 (via email)
Office of the Mayor (via email)



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pickleball at Westwood Recreation Center

1 message

Westwood Pickleball

Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 10:51 AM

To: Juan Aynat <juan.aynat@lacity.org>

Cc: RAP.PUBLICINFO@lacity.org, WESTWOOD.RECREATIONCENTER@lacity.org, chinyere.stoneham@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org, sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org, leslie.richter@lacity.org, juan.guzman@lacity.org, elaine.piha@lacity.org, Anthony Gallo <anthony.gallo@lacity.org>, mark.stipanovich@lacity.org, Rich.Kraveitz@lacity.org

Thank you very much Juan for this important update. It really puts us at ease, at least for now. Yes, please let us know if there's any new development. We will try our best to be patient and understanding. Have a great week.



A Self-proclaimed "**Recreational**" Pickleball Ambassador of LA



On Mon, Feb 2, 2026 at 3:58 PM Juan Aynat <juan.aynat@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello Mr. Pong,

Thank you for your follow-up, and I apologize for the delay in responding.

I have met and spoken with members of our Concessions and Park Services staff. The Department is still gathering and reviewing relevant information regarding the Pickleball courts at Westwood Recreation Center. I want to assure you that a decision has NOT been made regarding the future of the eight courts, and all inquiries remain on hold until this review is complete.

Once additional information becomes available, or if there are actionable next steps for community input, I will be sure to share updates accordingly. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

On Mon, Feb 2, 2026 at 11:47 AM Westwood Pickleball

wrote:

Hello again Mr. Aynat et al.

We have yet to hear back from you since our last email conversation over 2 weeks ago. Ignoring this problem will not make it go away. Please let us know what else we can do to help convince the City of LA RAP that we, the Westwood Pickleball Community, belong here in Westwood.

Some of our ideas are as followed:

1. Find a media source like local news to tell them our story.
2. Online petition to include Council Women of District 5, Katy Yaroslavsky, followed with hardcopy petition with signatures.
3. Hire a lawyer to file a lawsuit against the City of LA RAP for limited public access to park amenities like pickleball due to a private concessionaire takeover.

I urge you to give us some kind of updates and not keep us in the dark. Thank you very much again for your support and staying true to your motto of building healthy communities through people, parks and

programs (not through profit) as can be found here on your website at:
<https://recreation.parks.lacity.gov/department/mission-statement>

p.s. All of our 150+ taxpaying Westwood's residents are Bcc on this email.



A Self-proclaimed "**Recreational**" Pickleball Ambassador of LA
Vora **PONG** Nimnual



On Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 2:37 PM Juan Aynat <juan.aynat@lacity.org> wrote:
Hi Mr. Pong, thank you for reaching out and sharing your concerns.

I want to let you know that this is the first time I am personally hearing about the issues you've raised regarding the Westwood Recreation Center pickleball courts. The Citywide Pickleball Committee was not directly involved in this matter. However, I will connect with committee members on this thread who may be more familiar with the history and context so I can gain a better understanding of what has been discussed to date.

We truly appreciate your passion for pickleball and your continued advocacy within your local community. Once we review the information, a member of our team will provide you with a response.

Thank you for your patience.

On Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 1:14 PM Westwood Pickleball wrote:
To the City of LA Dept of Recreation & Park - Attn: Citywide Pickleball Committee,

First and foremost, Happy New 2026 Year. Now, let's start the New Year with a mutual collaboration!

I'm sure that some of you have received either phone calls and/emails from our Westwood Pickleball Community about your plan to privatize pickleball at Westwood Rec.

If not then you're all welcome to read them here:

<https://recreation.parks.lacity.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/commissioner/2025/apr17/information-report-log-vc-numbers-4-17-2025.pdf>

<https://recreation.parks.lacity.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/commissioner/2025/dec18/information-report-log-vc-numbers-12-04-2025.pdf>

I've sent emails to some of you here proposing a mutual collaboration with the City of LA RAP but have yet to get any reply. This will be my 3rd attempt.

According to your Mission Statement & Objective of the Citywide Pickleball Community on your website found at the link here, <https://recreation.parks.lacity.gov/pickleball>:

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Department is dedicated to **promote the growth, accessibility, and enjoyment of Pickleball** by helping create inclusive opportunities, developing quality facilities, and **fostering community engagement** for players of all ages and skill levels, while adhering to the best practices in sustainability, rules, safety, and equitable access.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CITYWIDE PICKLEBALL COMMITTEE

A. To identify potential areas and underused tennis courts in the city for the development of new standalone complexes or the creation of hybrid Pickleball court opportunities.

B. To help promote the sport of Pickleball within RAP communities by **collaborating with local ambassadors** to highlight the benefits of pickleball.

I AM that **local ambassador** who has been **promoting the growth, accessibility, and enjoyment of Pickleball** here at Westwood Rec for the last 2 years now. Why don't you just let me continue?

If we can't come to some kind of a mutual agreement then we, the Westwood Pickleball Community representing 150+ members strong, will just have to keep bugging you all with more phone calls and/or emails. What do you think? The ball is in your court and I hope that you will make the right move. Thank you and I'd appreciate any reply.

p.s. All of our 150+ taxpaying members are Bcc on this email.



A Self-proclaimed "**Recreational**" Pickleball Ambassador of LA
Vora **PONG** Nimnual



--

Juan A. Aynat

Principal Recreation Supervisor II - Valley Region
City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks

[6335 Woodley Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91406](#)

Phone: (818) 756-8060 Stop #641

PARK PROUD - LA

--

Juan A. Aynat

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City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks

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Phone: (818) 756-8060 Stop #641

PARK PROUD - LA



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Rustic Canyon Park complaint

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 7:46 AM

To: Guy Smith

Cc: "sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org" <sonya.young-jimenez@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, Feb 2, 2026 at 12:23 PM Guy Smith

wrote:

Oh look (attached photo), Monday noon and here she is doing it again. Parking in the red zone instead of in the empty staff parking slots. Breaking the law daily. And what have her supervisors done about it? Nothing. Sonya sounded so professional when she said she would have to ask the employees about instances but I guess those words are empty. So the LA parks dept encourages your employees to break the law and do whatever they want. The residents will remember this.



On Friday, January 30, 2026, 8:55 AM, Guy Smith

wrote:

Attached are two photos one of the park director's car in the red zone as usual instead of in the empty slotted staff parking spaces. The other of the woman who told me loitering in a park is illegal, loitering in the park. These people have no respect for the residents.





On Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 8:13 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 and staff.

On Sat, Jan 24, 2026 at 6:52 PM Guy Smith wrote:

Today, Jan 24, 2026, I wanted to use the restroom in the rec center at Rustic Canyon park. It was somewhere between 430pm and 445pm. The park was open, but the rec center lights were off and the door locked. The door to the outside was open. Someone was in the office. I don't know her name. An old woman with dyed platinum blonde hair.

I called into the office and asked if they were still open. They were supposed to be open till 5. She said the manager told her to close at 4 if it was slow.

Is that how it goes? Close early? Are they a retail store with an owner who wants to go home early? No. And even though she closed early, she was waiting till 5 so she could keep getting paid. Is that how it's supposed to work? Close up early but still get paid?

That's not the bad part.

I asked to use the restroom and she told me to go use the one down the hill near the tennis courts. (We wouldn't want her to be open to the public). Then she looked at the bandages on my legs and didn't change her mind. God forbid she unlock the door while she is still getting paid.

This is not the first caustic interaction I've had with her. A week or two ago I plugged my phone into the wall and she chastised me for it, said costs the city money to charge a phone (yeah 2 cents), added "what if everyone did that." This all seems petty but if it's a rule, fine. But then she said it could be considered loitering and she could call the police and have me arrested. Imagine telling the police that she called them because someone was charging his phone. Imagine claiming someone was loitering in a park. Does she think the park is only there for activities like basketball tournaments and play rehearsals? Many people go there just to sit in a quiet place and relax. It's even called a "park."

I calmed her down and while talking to her she started talking about a homeless guy (Felix) who she claims she got banished from the park because he was trying help with

things and he dared quote rules to someone when that was her job. I know who Felix is and while he had his problems in life obviously, he kept the place clean and even safe at times. He even reported things to the police that could have been illegal activity. This woman has delusions of grandeur.

A week later I walking near the office and I could hear her talking to the new park director about rules and laws and legal issues. I think she thinks she's part security camera and part judge over everyone in the land.

Something is wrong with this woman. To say she makes going there unpleasant is an understatement. I brought this up to a guy I know who walks his dog there and he noticed her aggressive domineering attitude too. I think it's time she work somewhere else. If nothing else move her to a park in another part of Los Angeles.

Going back to the beginning of the story, I really don't appreciate her telling me to walk down to the tennis courts when she was still getting paid to have the rec center open, not to mention after noticing bandages on my legs. And I don't appreciate the manager arranging for her to specifically not to work but yet get paid and tell citizens and taxpayers to go away.

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Request for Delay on Alcohol Policy Decision from Griffith Park Advisory Board

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 7:45 AM

To: Alex Crow

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 4:52 PM Alex Crow

wrote:

Good afternoon, commissioners. Please find the Griffith Park Advisory Board's letter attached requesting a delay until March for the decision regarding the RAP Alcohol Policy to allow feedback from the community. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Alex Crow

Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

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Griffith Park Advisory Board

Community Stewards of LA's Largest Park & Great Urban Wilderness

Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles

www.laparks.org/griffithpark/advisory

February 3rd, 2026

Los Angeles Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners

RE: Alcohol Policy – request for one-month delay in adoption of Board report 26-029

Dear Commissioners:

As you know, the Griffith Park Advisory Board was formed by your predecessors, who saw the value in meaningful community input on substantive matters affecting our City's great urban park. I am therefore writing to you today to request a delay in the adoption of the Rec and Parks Alcoholic Beverage Policy (Board Report 26-029), currently agendized for your upcoming meeting this Thursday, February 5th. We respectfully request a one-month delay – to your March 5th meeting– for the reasons outlined below.

Three years ago, when the then-new alcohol policy was proposed, our board weighed in with substantive concerns related to Griffith Park (see attached). When the commission then made the new policy a two-year pilot, we rested assured that we would have an opportunity to provide feedback before any such policy would be made permanent.

As it turns out, however, our board was not informed about the policy before it was placed on the agenda, and only found out – late last Friday night – thanks to the eyes-and-ears of one of our members. It seems to us that a brief delay of just one month is a small price to pay for the benefit of meaningful community input – particularly on a policy that has an outsized impact on Griffith Park, and given the role that has been entrusted to our board.

Again, we respectfully ask for a brief delay in your consideration of this weighty issue, so that our board, which is subject to the Brown Act, has an opportunity to give our considered response to this important policy proposal.

Thank you for thoughtfully considering our position on this issue.

Sincerely,

Alex Crow

Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board



Griffith Park Advisory Board
Community Stewards of LA's Largest Park & Great Urban Wilderness
Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles
www.laparks.org/griffithpark/advisory

Los Angeles Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners

Re: Alcohol Beverage Policy Board Report 23-085

Dear Commissioners:

The proposed change to the alcohol beverage policy would be a major policy decision with significant ramifications. We are therefore grateful that you have delayed action in order to hear from stakeholder groups such as ours. After carefully considering the policy that is now before you, we must oppose it in its present form. We would, however, be willing to consider a revision that addresses the concerns detailed below.

As drafted, this policy would allow for an unlimited number of outdoor events at Griffith Park and other sensitive locations, with no restrictions on the type of alcohol served, and with no built-in accountability measures to allow for appropriate revisions. We do not believe RAP leadership intends such a significant departure from current practice; as such, we propose the following revisions to bring written policy in line with both policy-maker intent and the wishes of numerous park stakeholders.

1. Griffith Park and the city's other regional parks deserve special consideration. After all, the prospect of unlimited alcoholic events does not suit a large urban wilderness area and recreational destination for families across Los Angeles. We urge you to work with stakeholder groups and RAP's urban ecologist to set parameters appropriate for the regional parks, either individually or collectively, before approving any new policy.
2. Currently, outdoor events with alcohol are limited to one event per park per year. The new policy would abolish these limits. That means any park or recreation center, large or small, could host outdoor parties without restriction as to number or frequency. We believe there ought to be a reasonable limit somewhere between one and unlimited.
3. Changing the frequency, location and type of alcohol allowed (cocktails vs. beer & wine) is a significant policy decision that may have unforeseen impacts. We would therefore recommend that any such policy change be enacted on a pilot basis, so that you can gather data and input from staff and stakeholders. We suggest a pilot of 1 – 2 years, with commission approval required before making any such policy permanent.
4. In line with our pilot recommendation, we also believe regular reporting is essential to ensure both transparency and trust in the new policy. Therefore, we request regular (not

BOARD MEMBERS: Chair – Michelle Crames; Vice Chair – Karen Thornton; Secretary – Chris Laib; Jane Carlson; Aaron Chung; Alex Crow; Jason Greenwald; Alex Phillips

less than once per year) reporting on revenue figures, safety incidents and number of events per park. This request applies both to the venues that would be subject to the new policy as well as those that are treated separately from the policy, such as the Griffith Park Visitor Center and Friendship Auditorium.

Once again, we believe any new policy requires the changes described above in order to balance the revenue-generating intent with important safety concerns and the needs of existing user-groups, not to mention the potential for additional car-trips in and around our parks. Griffith Park and other regional parks – not to mention smaller parks and recreation centers across the city – deserve a policy that is worthy of RAP’s mission statement:

“Our mission is to enrich the lives of the residents of Los Angeles by providing safe, welcoming parks and recreation facilities and affordable, diverse recreation and human services activities for people of all ages to play, learn, contemplate, build community and be good stewards of our environment.”

Thank you for considering our comments on the proposed alcohol beverage policy.

Sincerely,



Michelle Crames
Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

cc: RAP: Jimmy Kim; Matthew Rudnick; Brenda Aguirre; Stefanie Smith; Tracy James; CD4:
Mehmet Berker, Jennifer Hull



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Proposed Adoption of the Department of Recreation and Parks Alcoholic Beverage Policy

1 message

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

Wed, Feb 4, 2026 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, Feb 3, 2026 at 5:29 PM LFIA President

wrote:

Please see attached letter.
Thank you.

--

Debra Matlock
President, LFIA
Advocacy and Action for Los Feliz
LFIA.org

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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advocacy and action
for Los Feliz

2025

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Deanne Paul

Joel Rochlin

Tiger Schenkman

Riley Schmidt

Karen Stetler

*Past President

February 3, 2026

RE: 26-029 Proposed Adoption of the Department of Recreation and Parks Alcoholic Beverage Policy

Dear Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners,

The Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA), representing thousands of residents who live adjacent to Griffith Park, strongly opposes the allowance of alcohol service at special events within the park.

Griffith Park is a uniquely designated urban wilderness and fundamentally different from other parks in the City's park system. As such, it warrants heightened protections from the well-documented risks associated with alcohol service at large outdoor events. While we recognize that the Department of Recreation and Parks may intend to mitigate these risks through planning and enforcement, certain hazards—such as discarded cigarettes, impaired driving, or unsafe behavior by intoxicated attendees—cannot be fully controlled or contained in a wilderness setting.

Recent history underscores these concerns. A catastrophic wildfire threatened surrounding neighborhoods, and a resident lost their life in an alcohol-related bicycle incident within the park. These are not abstract risks; they are real and unacceptable dangers in Griffith Park's environment. Unlike most city parks, Griffith Park is largely unlit at night, and many event and circulation areas directly abut dense brush and wooded terrain, significantly increasing fire and public safety risks.

LFIA does not oppose alcohol service at fully controlled park venues elsewhere in the city. However, we strongly urge the City Council to recognize Griffith Park's exceptional character and to establish a clear exception for the park within any citywide special-event alcohol policy.

Sincerely,
The Board of Directors of LFIA

Debra Matlock
President

CC: Jimmy Kim
Stefanie Smith
Nithya Raman



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Alcohol Policy, Board Report 26-029

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Feb 5, 2026 at 11:38 AM

To: Gerry Hans

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 3:25 PM Gerry Hans

wrote:

Dear President Simril and Commissioners,

This email contains three attachments:

1. February 4, 2026 letter from Friends of Griffith Park (FoGP)
2. February 4, 2006 letter from legal counsel Carstens, Black, Minter LLP on FoGP's behalf
3. Compilation of previous FoGP letters on this matter: Nov 7, 2025; March 5, 2024; May 5, 2023; April 18, 2023

Sincerely,

Gerry Hans
President<https://www.friendsofgriffithpark.org/>

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Friends of Griffith Park

P.O. Box 27573
Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573
friendsofgriffithpark.org

February 4, 2026

Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Re: Alcohol Policy; Board Report 26-029

Dear President Renata Simril and Commissioners,

As our previously stated concerns have not been addressed, we respectfully request postponement for any action on Board Report 26-029. Prior to this proposed Policy returning to the Board, we implore further outreach to park patrons, nearby residents, Griffith Park Advisory Board, and ourselves as stewards of Griffith Park. Our most immediate unease is process related: rushing this incredibly sensitive matter without the considerate input and ideas from the public.

The alarm since our previous four unanswered letters has only been heightened. It is our understanding that the RAP Urban Ecologist has not had input into the proposed Policy. Nor is there a provision for review by a qualified staff member for potential environmental impacts prior to an open area alcohol event being approved.

Surely it is not the intention of the Board to allow the General Manager the singular authority for Alcohol Events, without location limitations (e.g., oak woodland or riparian) or to approve/enact the proposed Policy short of environmental review.

As a point of fact, per the Board Report Summary, the “pilot program’s implementation did not result in an increase of events where alcohol was served.” However, by our count, there were approximately 15 nights versus zero nights prior to the pilot when alcohol was served in open areas of Griffith Park.

Please do not rush this important policy decision.

Sincerely,

Gerry Hans
President

About Friends of Griffith Park:

Friends of Griffith Park is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable group that promotes the enlightened stewardship of Griffith Park so it can survive and thrive well beyond the 21st century. FoGP is committed to ensuring that Griffith Park, a public park and Los Angeles’ largest Historic-Cultural Monument, remain open, natural, and free to all citizens of Los Angeles.



Main Office Phone:

Carstens, Black & Minter LLP
700 North Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 200
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
www.cbcearthlaw.com

Michelle N. Black

February 4, 2026

Via email RAP.COMMISSIONERS@LACITY.ORG

Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
City of Los Angeles
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Alcohol Policy; Board Report 26-029, “Open Area” Events

Dear President Renata Simril and Commissioners,

We submit these comments on behalf of Friends of Griffith Park concerning the Board’s consideration of Board Report 26-029, which proposes to change the existing alcohol policy to allow unlimited events in “open areas.” As outlined in the four previous letters submitted by Friends of Griffith Park, the new policy has the potential to cause significant and adverse environmental impacts in Griffith Park, in particular on wildlife and in areas of the Park known to host sensitive animal and plant species. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the City to disclose, analyze, and mitigate the environmental impacts of its actions.

Events permitted in open areas under the new policy could result in the introduction of new sources of light, glare, noise, and trash in Griffith Park. Temporary barriers may trample plants without proper controls and limits on where they may be placed. The allowance of alcohol, itself, may induce more events to be held within the Park. The new policy appears to allow an unlimited number of events, a drastic change from the single event permitted per park, per year, in the existing 1986 policy. Friends of Griffith Park has requested that the City delineate wilderness areas or otherwise limit the geographic reach of this policy to avoid potentially significant environmental impacts on sensitive wildlife and plants in Griffith Park. As currently drafted, the only limitation on events appears to be the existence of cellular service. This will not protect sensitive wildlife or plant species.

Instead of conducting environmental review, the Board Report points to an existing pilot program, cursorily noting that no environmental impacts occurred during

that pilot program. While CEQA authorizes the City to implement pilot programs, the City's alcohol policy pilot program was largely unpublicized and unknown to the public. The Board Report fails to provide substantial evidence – or any evidence – supporting the conclusion that environmental impacts did not occur. The Board Report includes a chart listing events and their profits, but this chart does not disclose whether the events occurred in areas of sensitive habitat or in areas where wildlife could be affected. It contains zero discussion of the potential environmental impacts or conditions required to avoid impacts before, during, or after those events. The chart is limited to location name and gross receipts. Further, nothing in the Report suggests that the events listed in the chart are representative of the events or number of that would occur in the future once the change in policy is publicized. Finally, nothing links the limited information about the pilot program disclosed in the Board Report to potential impacts on “open areas” in Griffith Park.

As currently proposed, the policy proposed in Board Report 26-029 has the potential to cause significant and adverse impacts on biological and recreational resources in “open areas” of Griffith Park. Approval of the policy at this time may violate CEQA.

We respectfully request that the City postpone action on this item until Recreation and Parks has received input from the RAP Urban Ecologist and has engaged further with the Griffith Park Advisory Board and other stewards so that the policy may be tailored to protect wilderness, wildlife, rare plants, and the public treasure that is Griffith Park.

Sincerely,

Michelle N. Black



Friends of Griffith Park

P.O. Box 27573

Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573

friendsofgriffithpark.org

November 7, 2025

Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

Re: Alcohol Policy (Board Reports 23-085; 24-059) and Haunted Hayride

Dear President Renata Simril and Commissioners,

Friends of Griffith Park (FoGP) provided written and oral comments when the first draft of the Revised Alcohol Policy was presented in 2023. In 2024, a slightly modified policy was adopted. Again, FoGP provided in-depth comments with urgent apprehension. Our previous three letters are embedded below this current letter.

Board Report [23-085](#), April 20, 2023

The baseline **level of security personnel** provided under the proposed policy was a concern strongly voiced during the Board discussion. The Commissioners seated at the time decided to continue the item without approval due to the raised security concern.

Board Report [24-059](#), March 7, 2024

The amended proposed policy had a few, but important, changes versus the 2023 version:

- 1) it was declared a 2-year pilot,
- 2) it gave authority solely to the General Manager for declaring “open area events “ (not Superintendent level as in the 2023 version), and
- 3) it shifted the **decision on the level of security** to either the Chief Ranger and/or LAPD (versus only the baseline two security officers, with one extra for each additional 100 attendees per the 2023 proposed policy).

The topic of security in the two above Board Reports is extremely critical especially since FoGP learned - after the fact - that alcohol sales were initiated at the Griffith Park Haunted Hayride event the nights of Oct 17-19. This took place without prior knowledge by the public. There was zero outreach for public input, including Griffith Park Advisory Board and FoGP, which is particularly jarring given the clear sensitivity and importance of the issue of alcohol in the park.

Most shocking of all, Park Rangers and the Park Superintendent were not aware alcohol would be poured, nights which are already chaotic without adding liquor. Since the Policy provides that the Chief Ranger and/or LAPD decide the level of security, there

seems to have been an obvious failure of communication and failure to follow the approved policy.

Alcohol was served at the Haunted Hayride the following two weeks, as well. Advertisements from the official Instagram page suggest that alcohol was approved to freely flow for the entire duration of the season from October 24, onwards, making for 14 total nights of alcohol,

This lack of clarity and transparency is profoundly worrisome. We question:

- Were there sufficient qualified security officers or peace officers present at the event site itself?
- Were there enough officers present outside the venue when Halloweeners disperse to parking lots and beyond?

We Also Ask

Can the income generated by alcohol sales at the Haunted Hayride event be worth the liability the City owns by allowing and promoting its consumption? Attendees walk quite a distance to their cars in parking lots adjacent to dry habitat, especially in the fall. Imagine if someone, under impaired judgement, lights up a cigarette?

Just as horrific, an impaired driver could cause an accident on a park road or in a dark parking lot, which may not be up to design and engineering standards which would otherwise avert or mitigate City liability. Such was the fate of bicyclist Andrew Jelmert, hit by an intoxicated driver on curvy Crystal Springs Drive in the park, which resulted in a large settlement amount made by the City to the victim's family recently.

An area of arguably even higher risk for alcohol service is the location of Independent Shakespeare Company (ISC) performances, completely surrounded by oak woodland, riparian, and chaparral habitat. Only one alcohol event evening took place this past season. However, this sounds the alarm, not because serving a glass of only wine during intermission on one night is risky, but that it may set a false precedent for alcohol service for this multiple-months series in 2026, perhaps beyond just wine. Worse, non-ISC events may be held in the future with less well-mannered attendees.

Annual Review?

Has the mandated annual report been given by RAP staff per the Policy? If so, we missed it. Perhaps right now, even though overdue, is a good time to discuss the two-year pilot and the problems already apparent.

FoGP's Previously Stated Convictions Reiterated

1. An unlimited number of "open-area events" is far too many. Prior to 2024, the Alcohol Policy allowed one event annually per park.

2. Alcohol “open-area events” should be prohibited within the defined “wilderness area” of Griffith Park where adverse environmental impacts and fire risks are heightened. The Alcohol Policy should not be one-size-fits-all. Griffith Park and other regional parks are unique.

3. Alcohol “open-area events” should not displace regular park patrons. *A Vision for Griffith Park*, adopted by the Commission in January, 2014 states, “Avoid Evicting or Displacing Established Park Users.” Currently, the Haunted Hayride effectively evicts picnickers for a quarter of the year, as inequitable as it is.

Summary

The pilot-nature of this program necessitates some degree of community outreach and feedback about the duration and number of events in Griffith Park. This has not happened. We respectfully request further discussion on ways to better inform the public, keep park patrons safe, and protect the great urban wilderness of Griffith Park.

Sincerely,



Gerry Hans
President

Cc: Councilmember Nithya Raman, Jimmy Kim, Mehmet Berker, Matt Rudnick, Brenda Aguirre, Stefanie Smith, Tracy James, Hannah Jaeger

About Friends of Griffith Park:

Friends of Griffith Park (FoGP) is a California non-profit 501(c) (3) dedicated to preserving and protecting Griffith Park’s natural habitat, biodiversity, and historic features, for current and future generations. FoGP is committed to ensuring that Griffith Park, a public park and Los Angeles’ largest Historic-Cultural Monument, remain open, natural, and free to all citizens of Los Angeles.



Friends of Griffith Park

P.O. Box 27573
Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573
friendsofgriffithpark.org

April 18, 2023

Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

Re: Alcoholic Beverage Policy revision, Board Report 23-085

Dear Commissioners,

Friends of Griffith Park respectfully requests for a postponement and more public discussion of the revised Alcoholic Beverage Policy that is currently before the Board. Because of the short notice about this proposal, Friends of Griffith Park – along with other groups – would like additional time to consider the ramifications of this policy change more thoroughly; informing our members and volunteers will help us make appropriate comments about this policy change.

Please consider the obvious: alcohol is a sensitive trigger for the public. To approve a revision that, on the surface, expands sales to hard liquor at an unlimited number of open space events, without a full conversation with the public, could be misunderstood.

We fully understand that approvals for any open space event will continue to be highly scrutinized. Yet, every City park is different. A discussion of alcohol policy for open space events that potentially displaces existing park users or has possible adverse impacts in a defined wilderness area is worth the conversation.

Let's have that discussion, please.

Gratefully,

Gerry Hans, President

About Friends of Griffith Park:

Friends of Griffith Park (FoGP) is a California non-profit 501(c) (3) dedicated to preserving and protecting Griffith Park's natural habitat, biodiversity, and historic features, for current and future generations. FoGP is committed to ensuring that Griffith Park, a public park and Los Angeles' largest Historic-Cultural Monument, remain open, natural, and free to all citizens of Los Angeles.



Friends of Griffith Park

P.O. Box 27573

Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573

friendsofgriffithpark.org

May 5, 2023

Jimmy Kim, General Manager
City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
(email)

Re: Alcohol Beverage Policy Revision, Board Report 23-085

Dear Mr. Kim,

During the April 20th Commission meeting, Commissioners generously granted Friends of Griffith Park's (FoGP) request to postpone the approval of the Alcohol Beverage Policy Revision. Our verbal and written pleas for community outreach and transparency relating to the proposed policy changes are much appreciated. We thank the Commissioners for granting the postponement, a request also made by the Griffith Park Advisory Board.

FoGP has now closely considered the details of the policy revision, taking into account input from our constituency which holds Griffith Park in high esteem and recognizes the Park's value to people from across the City who enjoy it in many different ways.

Most provisions of the proposed Revision are acceptable to us; however, alcohol consumption can be a sensitive and volatile issue since it relates to public safety. This sensitivity is heightened when alcohol sales take place **on public property**. The provisions for security, insurance, containment, and licensing show that RAP considers the sale of alcohol in City Parks an extremely significant matter.

We respectfully seek a modification to proposed Section 1, pertaining to the **unlimited** number of public open area event approvals. We believe this provision is too broad to be applied to Griffith Park, despite the high level of scrutiny we'd expect from our Superintendent, the single person who would have complete responsibility for approvals.

Requests for approvals in Griffith Park could become more frequent should word circulate of a more liberal attitude toward open-air gatherings, conventions or celebrations. Why not have a wedding outdoors rather than inside at Friendship Auditorium? Companies might find it exciting to host their regional employee jamboree in a park setting.

Our concern for special events in open areas, particularly picnic grounds, is deep-rooted in FoGP's commitment to prevent existing Park patrons and historic user groups from being displaced, whether temporarily or not. This principle was upheld by the Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group, and distilled into text of *A Vision for Griffith Park*, adopted by the

Commission in January, 2014: *“Avoid Evicting or Displacing Established Park Users,”* where there is particular reference made about picnickers, since they have no advocacy group speaking specifically for them in Griffith Park.

Our Recommendation:

1. For Griffith Park, retain the limit on approved “public open area events” at the current level, one approved event per year, rather than having no number limitation.
2. No “public open area events” should occur within the “Wilderness Area,” as defined by Griffith Park Historic-Cultural Monument #942.

For clarity purposes, the Alcohol Beverage Policy would also be improved: 1) by defining an approved event as only a one-day event, 2) by specifying that open area events are allowed only during official Park visitation hours, and 3) by counting any event that spills over into open areas from a “special event venue” as an open area event.

The changes FoGP recommends are specific to Griffith Park, but may also be well-advised for other regional Parks, such as Elysian or Debs. RAP may consider listing other Regional Parks as exemptions to the revised provision regarding the number of open area events, as well, and retain the current limit of one per year.

As alcohol sales and revenue streams increase with more expanded event venues, a commensurate level of protections must be provided to ensure a safe recreational experience in our Parks. Equally important, preventing unintentional displacement to loyal Park users should be considered a top priority.

Sincerely,



Gerry Hans
President

Cc: Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners, Councilmember Nithya Raman, Matt Rudnick, Brenda Aguirre, Stefanie Smith, Mehmet Berker, Jennifer Hull.

About Friends of Griffith Park:

Friends of Griffith Park (FoGP) is a California non-profit 501(c) (3) dedicated to preserving and protecting Griffith Park’s natural habitat, biodiversity, and historic features, for current and future generations. FoGP is committed to ensuring that Griffith Park, a public park and Los Angeles’ largest Historic-Cultural Monument, remain open, natural, and free to all citizens of Los Angeles.



Friends of Griffith Park

P.O. Box 27573

Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573

friendsofgriffithpark.org

March 5, 2024

Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

Re: Alcoholic Beverage Policy revision, Board Report 24-059

Dear President Renata Simril and Commissioners,

Friends of Griffith Park again respectfully requests postponement of the approval of these tremendously significant and radical changes to the Department's Alcoholic Beverage Policy.

Previously on April 20, 2023 we asked that the public be granted an active role in the acceptance of Alcohol Policy revisions. ([Board Report 23-085](#)),

After the former Commissioners agreed to postpone the approval from last April, FoGP submitted comments to the General Manager and Commissioners. **Our May 5, 2023 letter which follows below was an attempt to begin a dialogue.** Yet, ten months later, there has been no response to, or acknowledgement of our comments. Nor are we aware of any further outreach to Griffith Park Advisory Board or other organizations. The revised policy for open area events is an enormous step that may adversely affect the Park experience, with respect to not only recreation, but also safety and ecology.

We recognize the changes made versus the April 2023 version. However, the two main edits are relatively minor, and offer no solace to our concerns:

1. Included in the new version, only the General Manager can authorize an **unlimited number** of "open-area events" instead of assigning this role to another authority, namely Park Superintendents. This change in decision makers is not something that was requested, and will matter little.

2. Making the policy a "two-year Pilot Program," does not alter the fact that conditions for responsible use of Park land have not been defined within the Policy. We are especially concerned about wildlands, and would like to remind the commissioners that 800 acres burned in 2007, and Griffith Park sees an average of about a dozen fires per year.

There are also no conditions to discourage displacement of existing park users during "Open-area Events." Although no alcohol is permitted at the Griffith Park Haunted Hayride, this venue highlights one such example of an event that has grown dramatically, affecting picnickers in the historic Crystal Springs Picnic Area for four months out of the year.

In Section 2 (Location), while the General Manager can approve “events small gatherings,” within buildings that “cannot interfere with or disrupt the public’s normal use or enjoyment of the Department facilities,” the size of “open-space events” is totally undefined, as long as it is completely contained. Also, nothing in the language regarding disrupting of the public’s normal use or enjoyment in the “open-area event” is stipulated.

Relinquishing areas for commercial use cannot continue to occur on this free (and limited) public open space, especially in a Park that was gifted to the City with intentions set by Col. Griffith J. Griffith. We note the stated Goal #6 is to “Build Financial Strength and Innovative Partnerships,” yet there are no parameters defined for balancing income against the value of free open space for recreation.

Every City Park is different. For Regional Parks, in particular, each needs to have its own set of guidelines for open-space events.

A large portion of Griffith Park is delineated as “Wilderness Area.” If wilderness areas are not restricted from Alcohol Open-area Events, surely an environmental review is required in order to disclose and mitigate potential adverse impacts. While we have trust in the current RAP management, we stand with other Park advocates against sweeping policy changes that put the ecological health of wildlands at risk well into future decades.

As mentioned above, the following letter expresses our reasoning and the recommendations made on page 2. Above all, we request further review and discussion with the public.

Sincerely,



Gerry Hans, President

About Friends of Griffith Park:

Friends of Griffith Park (FoGP) is a California non-profit 501(c) (3) dedicated to preserving and protecting Griffith Park’s natural habitat, biodiversity, and historic features, for current and future generations. FoGP is committed to ensuring that Griffith Park, a public park and Los Angeles’ largest Historic-Cultural Monument, remain open, natural, and free to all citizens of Los Angeles.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Council District 4 Comments for 26-028 and 26-029

1 message

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

Thu, Feb 5, 2026 at 11:38 AM

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 4:08 PM Hannah Jaeger

wrote:

Dear Commissioner Simril and Honorable Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners,

I hope you are well. My name is Hannah Jaeger, and I am the Field Deputy for Los Feliz and Silver Lake in Council District 4. I am reaching out on behalf of Councilmember Raman to share our position on two items you will be considering at the February 5th, 2026 meeting.

South Griffith Park Master Plan

We are thrilled to support the contract for the South Griffith Park Master Plan.

In 2023, Councilmember Raman introduced [legislation](#) to launch a community-driven master plan focused on southern Griffith Park — the area south of Los Feliz Boulevard along Riverside Drive. That set in motion a comprehensive planning and visioning effort to determine new recreational, cultural, and educational uses for this portion of our park and the best sites for them.

Local residents have a deep connection to the South Griffith Park area, and they deserve a space that reflects their vision. This includes a permanent senior center with multigenerational opportunities and more unique recreational programming that will benefit not only the Los Feliz community, but surrounding neighborhoods as well.

The acceptance of the BID and Award contract for this Master Plan would bring us one step closer to making this community-driven vision a reality. Thank you to the Commissioners for your ongoing partnership in moving this forward.

Proposed Adoption of the Department of Recreation and Parks Alcoholic Beverage Policy

Our office wanted to take this opportunity to write to you regarding Agenda Item 26-029, the proposed adoption of the Department of Recreation and Parks Alcoholic Beverage Policy, for the upcoming RAP Commission meeting. We know that the proposed amendments to the RAP Alcohol Policy have been a topic of discussion that has drawn a lot of community attention, particularly from stakeholders in Griffith Park, and we appreciate your consideration as it comes back to the Commission, finally adopting the amendments after a two-year pilot policy.

Council District 4 supports the adoption of a final Alcohol Policy by the RAP Commission, as it would create opportunities and allow for more community-oriented events in our parks, as well as a more streamlined process for such events. That being said, we have received several process questions from stakeholder groups regarding this item and believe it is important to ensure that individuals and communities have ample time to submit public comments and suggestions in response to the report on the two-year pilot ahead of the policy's adoption.

For this reason, our office is respectfully asking you to consider continuing this item to the February 19th, 2026 meeting. This would give a chance for stakeholders who would like to review things in more detail and give meaningful input to the policy to do so. The Commission carefully adopted a two-year alcohol policy pilot and we aim to ensure that all community groups who wish to comment on this policy have the opportunity to do so.

As this item is under your final purview, we appreciate your attention to this and your ongoing partnership in ensuring that our parks remain beautiful, safe, and open and accessible to all.

Thank you for your ongoing work as leaders of the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. Please reach out should you have any further questions.

--

Warmly,

--

Hannah Jaeger (she/her)
Field Deputy

[HERE](#) is our CD4 District Map!



Connect With Us:

- Sign Up For Our Newsletter [Here](#).

DISCLOSURE: All emails sent to or from this account are subject to the California Public Records Act and may be released upon request.

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Venice Flying Carousel in Centennial Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 10:43 AM

To: Lydia Hallett

Cc: Councilmember.park@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, Feb 3, 2026 at 10:13 AM Lydia Hallett

wrote:

Hi Venice representatives,

I'm writing to inquire about the timeline for the Venice Flying Carousel to be put in Centennial Park.

As an avid library goer and art supporter, I'd love to see more daily foot traffic and whimsy being sparked in Centennial Park. I think the Carousel is a perfect way to draw people of all ages, tourists and shoppers from Abbott Kinney and local neighbors, to enjoy the Park. Venice has such a vibrant history that should be celebrated with playful remembrance — it was in Centennial park with neighbors that I learned about Venice's Pacific Electric Trolley and carnival history. Art pieces help us connect with neighbors, our city's history, and feel welcomed in our own parks to create new memories.

As a local Venice resident without kids, I am a strong supporter of more interactive, public art projects around our community especially the Venice Flying Carousel in Centennial Park.

Thank you.

All the best,
Lydia Hallett
Venice, CA resident

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Venice Centennial Park - PLEASE REPLY

2 messages

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 2:41 PM

To: robin murez

Cc: "matthew.rudnick@lacity.org" <matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Cathie Santo Domingo <cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org>, "darryl.ford@lacity.org" <darryl.ford@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>

Good afternoon,

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

On Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 2:28 PM robin murez

wrote:

Dear Commissioners and Executive Staff of Rec & Parks,

We know that you are aware of the community proposal for the Venice Flying Carousel to be installed in Centennial Park. Several Commissioners and staff have supported it over the years. We're eager to realize the project.

What does RAP need to move the proposal forward?

The Carousel and its ongoing operation and maintenance are fully funded, insured, permitted by Cal/OSHA, owner-operated by its Cal/OSHA trained staff, ADA accessible and operates completely free to the public. It is fully constructed and has been operating for over 2-1/2 years. We are seeking approval to install on a temporary basis within our secure pavilion in Centennial Park.

Please see attached Cal/OSHA Permit, Insurance, Site Plan and Description; All architectural, engineering, financial, operations, Cal/Osha approved training, and maintenance manuals, schedules and inspection reports and all supporting documents are available.* The Carousel is mobile so temporary installation in the park will be simple. We've selected an experienced, pre-permitted fabricator to install the pavilion. We hope to make this simple and cost free to RAP.

Like Centennial Park, the Carousel is Venice themed. It is hand carved, public art, visible 24/7. Its ride schedule will coordinate and defer to RAP, the City, the Venice Public Library, and community interest.

LA City Council Member Park tells us that she supports the Carousels installation in Centennial Park and "will work with RAP" on this. Her staff however believes that RAP will not permit the Carousel's installation due to it being a "concession." There must be a miscommunication, the Carousel is owner-operated and maintained by our trained staff per Cal/OSHA Amusement Rides Division permits, manuals and inspections and does not charge any fees nor sell any products. We do not see how it could be considered a "concession." And, we welcome any changes that we would need to meet RAP requirements. We sincerely apologize if our original, pre-operations Business Plan caused the misunderstandings.

The Cultural Affairs Commission expressed enthusiastic support for the project in our informational presentation to the Commission, December 2025.

LA Parks Foundation, the Venice Public Librarians, Venice Neighborhood Council, the Chamber of Commerce, Venice Heritage Foundation and over 1000 neighbors support the Carousels installation in Centennial Park.

ADOPT A PARK OPTION: Donations received by the Carousel 501c3 Corporation enable it to also offer to fund additional RAP approved amenities in Centennial Park, such as a playground and plantings. Let's make it wonderful!

What documents, information or adjustments need to be made to enable the Carousel project to be realized?

Please acknowledge your receipt of this email.

When may we have a meeting with you to review the proposal?

Sincerely,

Julie Milligan, Director



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urban Ecologist Courtney McCammon

1 message

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

Thu, Feb 5, 2026 at 11:39 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, Feb 5, 2026 at 10:25 AM Philip Murphy

wrote:

Dear Park Commissioners,

Please renew Urban Ecologist Courtney McCammon's contract with Rec and Parks. She is essential member of the Park's Department and real asset to our efforts to enhance Elysian Park.

Please read my attached letter to understand some of the things she has done for Elysian as well as Griffith Park.

Thank you,

Philip Murphy
Friends of Elysian Park

--

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To Whom it May Concern,

We, the Friends of Elysian Park, wholeheartedly endorse Courtney McCammon for another term as the Urban Ecologist for the Department of Recreation and Parks.

We have enjoyed getting to know Courtney during this past year, as she and Ranger Tom have led two highly informative Nature Hikes in Elysian Park at our request. Both hikes were well attended by our group as well as numerous members of the public.

Courtney is a fountain of information about native and non-native plants and trees, as well as birds and their calls, nesting habits, and migration patterns. She's also an excellent tracker, as she can identify all sorts of animal scat and footprints, plus insects that cross her path. She and Tom make a good team, as Tom has been a Park Ranger for thirty years and knows most of the history of the park system as well as of the city of Los Angeles.

Courtney has created a study of the native and invasive plants in Griffith Park. She plans to do so as well in Elysian Park, and we would very much like to see her complete that study. She is also helping us resurrect a burn area in Elysian that was recently hit by a brush fire. The upside of the fire is that it burned up all the invasive weeds, so we now have an opportunity, with Courtney's guidance, to re-plant this section with native plants.

Our hope is that we can continue to draw on Courtney's expertise in the future to revitalize other areas of Elysian Park that are sorely in need of her help.

Sincerely,

Philip Murphy
President
Friends of Elysian Park



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Crestwood Hills Park - Replacing Sand

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Feb 5, 2026 at 11:55 AM

To: Bryony Roberts

Good morning,

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

On Thu, Feb 5, 2026 at 10:51 AM Bryony Roberts

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I made a comment during the public meeting this morning in Venice and wanted to follow up with the spelling of the park I was referring to, since I was asked to repeat the name.

I live near **Crestwood Hills Park** with my two-year-old daughter. The park has a sand-based playground but the sand hasn't been replaced since the Palisades Fire, even though it's a mile from the burn area. It's a health hazard for all of the children in the neighborhood. Please replace the sand with new sand as soon as possible - thank you!

All the best,
Bryony

.....

Bryony Roberts

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: URGENT: Ongoing Safety Threat, Off-Leash Dogs, and Vandalism at Poinsettia Park – Immediate Ranger Support Requested

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 6, 2026 at 9:25 AM

To: Smock Me

Good morning,

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

On Fri, Feb 6, 2026 at 8:40 AM Smock Me

wrote:

Dear Park Ranger Communications Team,

I am writing to formally report an ongoing and escalating public safety issue at **Poinsettia Recreation Park** that has deeply impacted families, caregivers, and residents in the surrounding community. This email is being sent after multiple prior attempts to resolve the matter, including outreach to Ranger staff in past months that unfortunately did not result in sustained follow-up.

The situation involving large groups of off-leash dogs has now reached a critical point where many community members no longer feel safe using the park — particularly those with young children.

There have been **numerous dog attacks and dangerous close encounters**, including an incident in which I was personally attacked by a dog. I regularly walk through the park with my two young children — a three-year-old and a two-year-old — and there have been several frightening moments where dogs have sprinted toward us, barked aggressively, and nearly knocked my child over.

When parents or caregivers politely ask owners to leash their dogs, many respond with hostility. Owners have shouted at nannies and parents, created intimidating situations, and refused to comply even when their dogs are behaving erratically.

Compounding the danger is the fact that the children's playground is located inside the park, forcing families to walk directly through the unofficial off-leash dog area that has been created by these groups.

This problem has existed for years but has **significantly worsened over the past year**.

Additionally, the situation has now escalated to vandalism and deliberate rule-breaking:

- The sign stating that all dogs must be leashed has been spray-painted over.
- Another leash-requirement sign has been removed entirely.
- After Rangers previously secured the gate, an individual reportedly used cutters to break the lock and reopen it. A parent captured this on video and filed a police report.
- One particular individual frequently brings three large dogs that display aggressive behavior toward park users.

When I previously communicated with Ranger staff, it was mentioned that additional signage would be installed to clearly reinforce that Poinsettia is **not a dog park**. We respectfully request an update on this, as visible enforcement tools are urgently needed.

We fully understand that staffing resources can be limited; however, the community would greatly appreciate **periodic Ranger presence during peak violation hours**, which are typically:

- **Morning:** 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
- **Evening:** 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

During these times, dozens of dogs can be seen running off leash.

Our goal is not to create conflict — it is to prevent a serious injury before it happens. With so many small children nearby, the current conditions present a very real risk.

For awareness, members of the community have also contacted our City Council office regarding this matter. We are hopeful that, working together, we can restore Poinsettia Park to the safe, family-friendly environment it is meant to be.

We respectfully request the following immediate actions:

1. Replacement of vandalized and removed leash-law signage
2. Installation of additional, highly visible signs clarifying that this is not an off-leash dog park
3. Periodic Ranger patrol during peak hours
4. Enforcement of leash laws when violations are observed

We sincerely appreciate the work the Park Rangers do to protect our public spaces, and we thank you in advance for your attention to this urgent matter. The community is eager to partner with you to ensure the safety of all park visitors.

Please confirm receipt of this email and advise on next steps when possible.

Thank you for your time and support.

Michael Howard



--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Requested Report on Oakwood, Westminster, and Dog Parks

1 message

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

Thu, Feb 12, 2026 at 9:57 AM

Good morning,

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

On Sat, Feb 7, 2026 at 1:03 PM Zay Turner
Commissioners,

wrote:

I understand you've requested a report on Oakwood, Westminster, and dog park dynamics in the area. I wanted to offer observations that may be useful.

The relationship between Westminster and Oakwood:

Westminster Dog Park is the designated off-leash option within walking distance of Oakwood. In practice, site conditions at Westminster push usage to Oakwood:

- Sidewalk terminates before the entrance; access requires walking up a grassy slope through a parking area used for vehicle dwelling
- Single entrance/exit faces the beach with no egress toward the Oakwood neighborhood
- Only one of two dog areas has a double-gate system
- Significant erosion, overgrowth, and deferred maintenance
- Proximity to the beach brings heavy unhoued usage and associated safety issues—including a murder last year, dog attacks, and violent threats

When the nearby designated option is functionally inaccessible, pressure shifts to the nearest well-maintained open space. That's Oakwood.

PNA context:

The 2025 Parks Needs Assessment documents 1 dog park per 100,000 residents citywide versus a national average of 3.6. It also ranks Oakwood (#478), Westminster (#401), and Penmar (#514) among the lowest-priority sites in the system—correctly so, given the equity-weighted criteria. This area has not been a priority for investment, which is why the service gap has persisted and de-facto usage patterns have emerged.

Current condition:

Park pressure has caused minimal wear on Oakwood's field that remains within a manageable scope for RAP to maintain through periodic reseeding. There are 300+ regular users with dogs. This pattern has persisted through multiple enforcement cycles over the past decade.

The data suggests this is a service gap issue, not an enforcement issue. Given the unsuitability of Westminster Dog Park, heavier enforcement at Oakwood will increase pressure on the park system by shifting usage to Penmar and Venice Beach, creating new enforcement challenges without resolving the unmet need in the park system.

I'm not requesting any specific action—just offering context for the report.

Available if useful.
Zay



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Council File Number: 24-0602

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Feb 11, 2026 at 7:50 AM

To:

Cc: clerk CIS <Clerk.CIS@lacity.org>, TJ Knight <tj.knight@lacity.org>, Elyse Matson <elyse.matson@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, Feb 10, 2026 at 6:40 PM LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com> wrote:

A Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) has been successfully submitted to your Commission or City Council. We provided information below about CISs and attached a copy of the CIS.

We encourage you to reach out to the Community Impact Statement Filer to acknowledge receipt and if this Community Impact Statement will be scheduled at a future meeting. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers and it would be helpful if they received confirmation that you received their CIS.

The CIS process was enable by the to Los Angeles Administrative Code §Section 22.819. It provides that, "a Neighborhood Council may take a formal position on a matter by way of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or written resolution." NCs representatives also testify before City Boards and Commissions on the item related to their CIS. If the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so, the Neighborhood Council representative must provide the Commission with a copy of the CIS or rResolution sufficiently in advance for review, possible inclusion on the agenda, and posting on the Commission's website.Any information you can provide related to your agenda setting schedule is helpful to share with the NC.

If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *listed on the Commission's agenda*, during the time the matter is heard, the designated Neighborhood Council representative should be given an opportunity to present the Neighborhood Council's formal position. We encourage becoming familiar with the City Councils rules on the subject. At the Chair's discretion, the Neighborhood Council representative may be asked to have a seat at the table (or equivalent for a virtual meeting) typically reserved for City staff and may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more time than allotted to members of the general public. They are also permitted up to five (5) minutes of time to address the legislative body. If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *not listed on the agenda*, the designated Neighborhood Council representative may speak during General Public Comments.

We share this information to assist you with the docketing neighborhood council items before your board/commission. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at empowerla@lacity.org.

***** This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. *****

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Sherman Oaks

Name: Howard Katchen

Email:

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(10) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(2) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 02/09/2026

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 02/11/2026

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees, Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners, Board of Public Works Commissioners

Council File Number: 24-0602

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council supports the staff recommendations in CF 24-0602 and supports a ban on artificial turf in both public and private spaces due to the significant environmental and public health impacts associated with artificial turf installations in Los Angeles. Since California's SB 676 was signed into law in October 2023—authorizing local agencies to prohibit the use of artificial turf—cities across the state have begun evaluating and, in some cases, advancing bans on its use. Artificial turf was originally promoted as a water-conservation solution by replacing natural grass in residential landscapes and athletic fields. However, evidence has demonstrated that artificial turf has failed to deliver these promised benefits and instead has created serious unintended consequences. Artificial turf exacerbates the urban heat island effect, significantly increasing surface temperatures; eliminates water permeability, worsening stormwater runoff and flooding risks; and releases toxic pollutants, including PFAS and other harmful chemicals, into drinking water and surrounding ecosystems. It also contributes to the spread of microplastics into lakes, rivers, and oceans. Additionally, studies show that athletes who play on artificial turf face a higher risk of injuries, and widespread turf installation contributes to the loss of urban habitat at a time when the planet is experiencing an unprecedented biodiversity crisis. Finally, artificial turf is a petroleum-based product, incompatible with climate goals that require reducing reliance on fossil fuels. It is not recyclable, ultimately contributing to landfill waste and long-term environmental harm. Prohibiting the installation of artificial turf and encourages sustainable, climate-resilient alternatives that protect public health, water quality, and urban ecosystems.

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: OFFICIAL NOTICE OF MATERIAL BREACH – Safety Violations, Building Code Non-Compliance, and Disparate Treatment (Encino Little League)

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Feb 12, 2026 at 10:15 AM

To: Max Young

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Feb 11, 2026 at 7:27 PM Max Young

wrote:

FORMAL NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTIVE KNOWLEDGE AND DEMAND FOR PERMIT REVOCATION

I. OFFICIAL NOTICE AND SHIFTING OF LIABILITY This correspondence serves as **Official Notice of Constructive Knowledge** to the City of Los Angeles. As a 30-year Department of Defense (DOD) Compliance Professional, I am formally placing the City "on notice" of systemic fraud, life-safety hazards, and civil rights violations occurring at Encino Little League (ELL) on City-owned land. **By receipt of this forensic audit, the burden of liability for any future injury, litigation, or catastrophic loss is now shifted directly to the City of Los Angeles.**

II. EXTERNAL NOTIFICATIONS The City is further advised that the following entities are now actively involved:

- **The NAACP (Legal Redress Committee):** Formally engaged regarding the documented **"Dual System of Justice"** where LLI has granted an "Administrative Pardon" for residency fraud to an affluent white league (ELL) while historically applying a "Death Penalty" to the all-Black Jackie Robinson West team.
- **Liability Insurance Carriers:** Formally notified of 21+ instances of **willful safety misconduct** (Regulation VI). Because these bypasses were intentional, the league's coverage is potentially voided, leaving the City's General Fund as the primary target for claims.

III. WHISTLEBLOWER STATUS AND PRETEXTUAL RETALIATION I am a **protected whistleblower** under California law. My status was triggered by my formal reporting of professional misconduct and life-safety violations **prior to my removal.**

- **The Pretext:** ELL leadership claims my removal was for "non-competitiveness" based on cherry-picked, undisclosed evaluations.
- **The Reality:** This is a textbook **pretextual removal** designed to silence oversight. Using arbitrary metrics to remove a compliance officer reporting objective safety defaults violates **California Corporations Code § 5341** (Fair Procedure).

IV. DOCUMENTED LIFE-SAFETY AND BUILDING CODE VIOLATIONS The City is permitting a **"Zone of Danger"** to persist on public land. The attached audit (Exhibit A) details:

- **Safety Negligence:** Documented manual overrides to bypass mandatory youth pitching rest requirements—a willful violation of child safety laws.
- **Building Code Violations:** Unauthorized structural, electrical, and plumbing modifications to City facilities performed without LADBS permits or inspections.

- **GPLA Non-Compliance:** ELL's operational culture directly contradicts the **Girls Play Los Angeles (GPLA)** mandate for gender equity.

V. FORMAL DEMAND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION To mitigate municipal liability, I demand the following:

1. **Immediate Revocation of Permit:** Suspension of ELL's "Right of Entry" until an item-by-item remediation of the audit is verified by City inspectors.
2. **Structural Oversight Reform:** Because LLI West Region and District 40 have proven **not capable** of objective governance, any future permit must mandate direct administration by LLI International (Williamsport).
3. **Audit Verification:** A City-led investigation into the "Administrative Pardon" to determine City exposure regarding civil rights claims.

VI. EXHIBITS ATTACHED * Exhibit A: Forensic Audit of Safety and Building Code Violations.

- **Exhibit B:** Evidence of Pre-Removal Reporting and Retaliatory Removal.
- **Exhibit C:** Documentation of Residency Fraud and LLI West Region Correspondence.

MAX YOUNG

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