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Via Email Michael.a.shull@lacity.org

Michael A. Shull
General Manager
City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks
221 N Figueroa Street Suite 350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Pony Ride Concession in Griffith Park

Dear Mr. Shull:

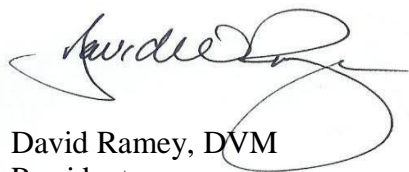
The Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee strongly supports the operation of a pony ride concession in Griffith Park. There are many reasons why this furthers the public interest and the goals of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Pony rides allow children of all ages to interact with large animals, an opportunity that is increasingly rare in modern urban settings. The ponies benefit from the care and compassion that they receive and the public benefits from the opportunity to interact with gentle, patient animals. In addition, research has shown that horses in urban settings adapt easily to their surroundings.

After the receipt of public comments about alleged mistreatment of the ponies at the Griffith Park pony rides, your department wisely conducted an investigation to determine whether these public comments had merit. On December 8, 2021, Rachael Sachar DVM submitted the written results of her investigation. She found the allegations to be baseless. She found the ponies were in general good health and observed no material shortcomings in their care and maintenance at the concession. She made several minor recommendations for improving the care of the ponies which the concessionaire, Mr. Steven Weeks has accepted. A member of our committee has subsequently visited the facilities and concurs with Dr. Sachar's findings. Mr. Weeks has implemented Dr. Sachar's recommendations and the ponies are sheltered, alert, well-nourished and well-groomed.

In view of the foregoing, we urge you to renew the concession agreement with Mr. Weeks.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Ramey", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

David Ramey, DVM
President