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May 25, 2022

Matthew Rudnick
Assistant General Manager &
Chief Sustainability Officer
Department of Recreations and Parks
221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 350
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Rudnick:

The Department of Animal Services issues permits to animal related businesses within the City of Los Angeles and performs yearly inspections to verify compliance with state and local ordinance. The Department of Animal Services has routinely conducted yearly inspections of the Griffith Park Pony Rides located at 4730 Crystal Springs within Griffith Park. The Griffith Park Pony Rides is a children's attraction to provide affordable access to ponies for riding and farm animals for petting. In addition to the yearly permit inspections conducted, the Department of Animal Services will also conduct inspections when complaints are received regarding handling or maintenance of the animals at any animal related business with a permit issued by the Department of Animal Services.

The Griffith Park Pony Rides has been issued two animal related business permits by the Department of Animal Services: a Petting Zoo Permit which expires in July 2022 and a Pony Ride Permit which expires in March 2023. Prior to the issuance of the Pony Ride and Petting Zoo Permits, inspections were conducted and all local and state ordinances enforced by Animal Services were in compliance.

The Department has received complaints from an animal advocacy group and similar complaints from individuals. In response the Department has conducted numerous inspections and requested an inspection by two Certified Equine Animal Cruelty Investigators: a Veterinarian and an Animal Control Officer. The Veterinarian stated: "In conclusion, at the time of my inspection of the Griffith Park Pony Rides, the ponies appeared healthy, well-kept and cared for, and appropriately utilized in the riding program; there was no evidence of neglect or abuse." The Department of Animal Services has found no grounds for a permit revocation or any further action at this time and will continue to evaluate any further complaints.

Sincerely,

Annette G. Ramirez
Interim General Manager

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