



## PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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October 11, 2020

*Via email*

Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair, Council PLUM Committee  
Hon. David Ryu, Councilmember, CD4  
Hon. Paul Koretz, Councilmember, CD5

**Re: Council File 20-1170 (Ryu-Koretz); motion regarding suspending ongoing construction / hillside / Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones; set for hearing 10/15/20; OPPOSE, unless amended.**

Dear Councilmembers:

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) is the most broad-based community organization and has served as the voice of the Palisades since 1973. PPCC opposes the above-referenced motion by Councilmembers Ryu and Koretz, unless amended.

Congested streets are the enemy of safety in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) because it means people trying to evacuate during emergencies on already crowded and obstructed streets. Pacific Palisades is entirely located in the VHFHSZ; all of our streets, whether in hillside, coastal bluff or “flat” areas, are within the VHFHSZ. Pacific Palisades has only two main routes of evacuation: Sunset Blvd. and Temescal Canyon Rd. (to Pacific Coast Highway). We have numerous substandard streets in our flats as well as our hills, including those with only one way in and out. This presents severe evacuation challenges during wildfire events, which we experienced recently with the Palisades and the Getty fires. We support efforts to make wildfire evacuation routes safe.

However, PPCC opposes the motion as written, for the following reason: The focus of the motion should be on congestion, rather than construction.

**During Red Flag days and high wind days, streets that are substandard or have only one way in and out should be subject to the following measures that keep the streets clear, such as:**

- Require all vendors and workers at construction sites to park only on-site.
- Off-loading of materials that cannot be accomplished without blocking or parking in the street should not be permitted, including cement trucks.
- All dumpsters removed from street, or placed on-site if possible.
- Require residents/guests to park on-site or on one side of street only (or neither side if posted as a Red Flag street).
- Require all contractors to have protocols in place for immediate, swift evacuation if required or ordered by authorities.
- No dirt hauling on Red Flag days.

Exceptions to the ICO would include:

- City utility repairs or property owners completing emergency work to restore utilities;
- Property owners utilizing commercial vehicles to move in/out of a home;
- Health-care related services;
- Construction in progress on a primary residence wherein service vehicles can be parked on private property;
- Normal and customary delivery services, such as pharmacies, dry cleaners, Amazon, US Postal Service, etc.

**While we oppose the motion as written, we would support an amended motion that addresses evacuation congestion during Red Flag and high wind days, with a focus on substandard streets and those with only one way in and out.**

Thank you for addressing these serious public safety issues on behalf of your constituents.

Sincerely,

**Executive Committee, PPCC:**

David Card, Chair

David Kaplan, Vice Chair

Richard Cohen, Treasurer

Christina Spitz, Secretary

Maryam Zar, Chair Emeritus

John Padden, Organization Representative (PRIDE)

Joanna Spak, Area Representative (Area 1, Castellammare, Paseo Miramar)

*cc (via email):*

Hon. Mike Bonin, Councilmember, CD11

Vincent P. Bertoni, Director, Los Angeles Dept. of City Planning

Aram Sahakian, General Manager, Los Angeles Emergency Management Dept.

Ralph M. Terrazas, Chief, Los Angeles Fire Dept.

Armando Hogan, Deputy Chief, Operations West Bureau, Los Angeles Fire Dept.