

Pacific Palisades Community Council

COMMUNITY INTEREST STATEMENT FOR PACIFIC PALISADES

August 12, 2021

- We like the CURRENT BOUNDARIES for CD11. Our key reasons are:
 - We share the same Community Plan area as Brentwood.
 - We are entirely in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, as is much of Brentwood, and share public safety concerns related to fires and evacuations.
 - We are a beach community and identify with other beach communities in CD 11.
 - We are a community west of the 405 and share regional interests and concerns with other communities in West L.A./the area west of the 405.
- BRENTWOOD: We want to continue to be closely associated with Brentwood because:
 - We are tied to the same Community Plan – the Brentwood-Pacific Palisades Community Plan.
 - We send our children to common public and private schools
 - We are tied together by the Palisades Charter Complex of LAUSD schools, from several elementary charters in both communities (plus Topanga Elementary), to Paul Revere Charter Middle School (on Allenford, in the middle between both communities), and to Palisades Charter High School.
 - ⊖ Socially and economically, we are one community.
 - ⊖ We share a major artery for ingress & egress – Sunset Blvd.
 - We both share the canyons and ridges of the Santa Monica Mountains, south slope, for housing, wildfire and evacuation concerns and recreation.
 - Our Community Councils work closely together, often taking the same position on issues in one voice or document.
- We are a BEACH COMMUNITY, with Pacific Coast Highway and Will Rogers State Beach on our west. We identify with the other beach communities in CD11 – Venice and Playa del Rey – who like us are in a Tsunami zone. We are subject to beach erosion, runoff/water pollution as well as air quality issues. Part of our area is subject to the Coastal Act and the Mello Act.
- We are part of WEST L.A. - WEST OF THE 405 FREEWAY, including the Sawtelle/West L.A. area, Mar Vista, Del Rey, Westchester and Playa Vista. We are also happy to be associated with the portions of Mar Vista and Ladera Heights east of the 405 that are within the current CD 11 boundaries. Our Community Council often collaborates with Neighborhood Councils in these areas on issues of regional interest and concern. We are more likely to be impacted by homeless migration spillover from Brentwood, Venice and Santa Monica than from neighborhoods east of the 405.
- We do not want our district boundaries moved further east (Westwood, UCLA, Bel Air, Century City, Palms, Hollywood, and so on). The 405 Freeway is the Great Wall dividing CD11 from the communities to the east. There are very few east/west streets that punch

through that freeway, creating major traffic congestion at the pinch points. This discourages travel to points east of the 405. Further, many of the communities east of the 405 are home to large commercial centers or academic campuses and are not comparable to most communities in CD 11, which for the most part are quieter and predominantly residential.

- We do not want our district boundaries to span the Santa Monica Mountains into the San Fernando Valley. We are too distant and too different. There is no street directly connecting the Palisades community with the San Fernando Valley.
- PACIFIC PALISADES IS:
 - Isolated by geography: We are on several mesas and in several canyons and ridges, between Malibu and Santa Monica, and west of Brentwood. Our eastern border is Allenford and Paul Revere Charter Middle School. Our western border is the Pacific Ocean. Our northern border includes much of the Santa Monica Mountains south slope, almost to Malibu and Topanga. Our southern border is the City of Santa Monica line, but note that Pacific Palisades includes Santa Monica Canyon and Rustic Canyon (even though parts may have Santa Monica city addresses or post offices or zip codes) because they are in the City of Los Angeles. The only access through the Palisades is Sunset Blvd., with two other roads connecting PCH and Sunset (Temescal Canyon Rd. and Chautauqua) and to the east Allenford connecting Sunset to Santa Monica.
 - Isolated from city services: We do have two L.A. Fire Department stations on Sunset, but we have no LAPD station and no hospital. Our one fire station ambulance is a vital lifeline for us. We have one U.S. Post Office, one Lifeguard headquarters building and one L.A. Public Library (the Palisades branch), which are the only other government buildings. The normally heavily used Library is still closed due to the pandemic and a fire (still unrepaired).
 - Primarily a quiet residential suburb of L.A., with almost all single-family residences, but with some apartments mostly along Sunset Blvd.
 - We have a small central business “village” reached by Sunset Blvd. and several satellite business strips (Santa Monica Canyon & PCH, Sunset & PCH, Marquez Ave. and the Palisades Highlands).
 - In danger of wildfires: All of Pacific Palisades is in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Our Santa Monica Mountains wildlands have not seen a major burn since 1978. But we frequently experience fires, from those set by homeless campers (for cooking, warmth) and arsonists, to fires set by careless workers, teens and others. In the last couple of years, we have been threatened by the Getty fire (Brentwood), the Palisades fire (north of Sunset between the Highlands and Marquez), and the Palisades-Topanga fire (in the Highlands residential area of the Palisades). The Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness (volunteers and outreach workers, privately funded), working with LAPD Beach Detail and LAFD, have helped to prevent many fires in the coastal beach, bluff and canyon areas.

- A recreation-rich area: We have Will Rogers State Beach, the trails of the Santa Monica Mountains (state and federal parkland), several city and state parks, and two city Recreation Centers (Palisades and Rustic Canyon). The new George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon will be a native habitat restoration and set of trails, connecting the Palisades Recreation Center with Will Rogers State Beach, when the landscaping contract is completed next year and when the now State budget-funded PCH pedestrian overcrossing is built. Our July 4th celebrations bring people from all over L.A. to the 10K Run, the Parade, and the Concert & Fireworks. The famous Riviera Country Club hosts an annual PGA golf tournament. We are also the northern terminus of the Marvin Braude Bike Trail that stretches 22 miles south through Santa Monica, Venice, Marina del Rey all the way to Torrance.

- History and culture-rich: Will Rogers State Park has Will's historic home, his horse barn and his polo field, where polo is played in season. The Grove of mostly Eucalyptus and other exotic trees in Rustic Canyon Park was started in 1887 as the nation's first experimental tree station. The chautauquas of the early 1900's brought downtown L.A. residents to the wild coastal canyons of the Palisades for education and religion. The Palisades was founded by Methodists and land developers. We have many religious faiths with active congregants and adherents. Mr. Huntington brought his railroad line along the beach to his mile-long Long Wharf pier in the Palisades, which he unsuccessfully tried to establish as L.A.'s main commercial port. Three California Governors have lived in the Palisades: Earl Warren (also Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court), Ronald Reagan (also U.S. President), and Arnold Schwarzenegger. The world famous Getty Villa museum is in Pacific Palisades (not Malibu). The hit TV show Bay Watch was filmed in the Palisades on Will Rogers State Beach, drawing tourists from the world over. We are surfing and skateboarding. The real-life Gidget, who was the inspiration for her father to write the best-selling novel about the coming of age of a surfer girl, grew up and has long lived in Pacific Palisades. Famous artists and literary emigrants escaping Nazi Germany found a home in the Palisades, which became a local intellectual and musical salon. In the 1910's-1930's, the Uplifters social club in Rustic Canyon (now a Recreation Center building) drew Hollywood and downtown business elites for the cool coastal climate and festive gatherings, which included Walt Disney, Will Rogers, Spencer Tracy, Clark Gable, Busby Berkeley, Leo Carrillo, Harold Lloyd, Darryl Zanuck and L. Frank Baum. Entertainment, sports and business leaders continue to live in the Palisades to escape the glare of their work life and raise a family.

- Community-minded: Pacific Palisades Community Council was founded in 1973 and was a model for the city's Neighborhood Councils. The community strongly advocates for appropriate land use, regulations and development that takes into account community views. The Palisades successfully protected our beach and coastline with the NO OIL campaign, keeping Occidental Petroleum from drilling next to Will Rogers State Beach. We fought for sign regulations in our Specific Plan which greatly reduced the grossly oversized and way too abundant signage that obscured the businesses themselves and junked the beauty of our community. Our Village Green was once a gas station but that was purchased by civic-minded

Palisadians and turned into a small private park – fully open for public use – on Sunset Blvd. in the heart of our village business district. Additionally, local residents and organizations, working with State Parks personnel, put in thousands of hours of hands-on labor turning Los Liones Canyon from a dumping ground for construction waste into a thriving, riparian gateway into Topanga State Park, now a hugely popular destination for hikers and nature lovers from all over the city.

- The Palisades is the small town in the big city.

Statement approved unanimously

by the PPCC Board, 8/12/21

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