



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

November 10, 2022

Hon. Mike Bonin

Los Angeles City Councilmember representing Council District 11

200 North Main Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

mike.bonin@lacity.org

Councilmember.bonin@lacity.org

Dear Mike,

The Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC), representing the most broad-based voice of the Pacific Palisades community since 1973, voted unanimously on November 10, 2022, at our regularly scheduled board meeting which is noticed and open to the public, to support the following set of rules and signage to be conspicuously installed at the George Wolfberg Park and Potrero Canyon, prior to its opening.

We understand that the City of LA has already approved and printed signs that largely incorporate all the LAMC sections we mention below, but the park hours are being adjusted from the currently accurate “sunrise to sunset”, to an extended open time of 10:30pm. This represents a departure from what this community has consistently been told in the planning, reporting and lead-up to the opening of this long-awaited park, in our community.

As such, PPCC voted *unanimously* to urge the city to keep the long-promised arrangement of installing trilogy gates which automatically unlock at dawn, giving access to the park, and lock at dusk, ending access to the park. There should be no change in this timing, and it should be accurately reflected on any park signage.

Further, the following is the unanimous voice of PPCC on the matter of legal signage at the George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon:

Signage – George Wolfberg Park in Potrero Canyon (motion unanimously passed)

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) urges the City of Los Angeles (City) and the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to expedite preparation and installation of signs in George Wolfberg Park in Potrero Canyon (GW Park) containing the following rules and regulations:

- No smoking
- No open flames
- No fireworks
- No camping, no campfires
- No tents or other bulky items
- Specific reference to applicable Code section/s (including LAMC Sec. 63.44)
- Hours of park operation to be specified from sunrise to sunset (i.e., closed from dusk to dawn)

The preparation and installation of such signs should be expedited in order for the signs to be in place *at all park entrances and in other potential strategic locations*, in time for the publicly-announced GW Park opening on December 3, 2022.

PPCC further urges City and RAP officials to meet and confer on site as soon as possible with LAPD officers who are thoroughly familiar with conditions in our bluff and canyon areas, to determine the most strategic and effective locations for placement of such signs within GW Park (*in addition to* locating signs at all park entrances) in order to deter camping, fires and other real and potential risks to community safety. These officers should include Senior Lead Officer Brian Espin and lead Beach Detail Officer Jose Bermudez.

This motion is made with reference to the following facts and concerns:

- LAMC Sec. 63.44 prohibits the above-referenced unsafe and dangerous activities in all City parks, including GW Park, and expressly requires “No smoking” and “No open flames” signs to be posted in “conspicuous” locations.
- The Coastal Commission permit for GW Park also specifically requires signage to be posted at the “Friends St. Trailhead,” indicating "hours of operation of the park, park rules and regulations, and amenities available."
- GW Park – as is the entirety of Pacific Palisades – is located in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ).
- Based on long community experience, PPCC reasonably expects that illegal, unsafe and dangerous activities (including lighting fires and homeless camping/erecting tents or makeshift

shelters in brush areas) will occur or be attempted in GW Park, just as such activities often occur in other nearby *restricted* bluff and canyon areas of Pacific Palisades.

- Posting of park rules and regulations is not only required but is necessary for LAPD and LAFD enforcement and thus is critical for the safety and security of park users, of the residential neighborhoods surrounding the canyon, and of the entire Palisades community.

In the interest of public safety and city liability, we urge you to ensure that proper signage is posted throughout the park, with proper locations determined with the input of our Senior Lead Officer and his team from LAPD, prior to its opening to the public. We also ask that you immediately inform the City's Department of Recreation and Parks that the operating hours currently reflected on the approved sign (attached) are correctly cited from "sunrise to sunset" and should not be changed or amended in any way.

Sincerely,
Maryam Zar
Maryam Zar, J.D.
PPCC Chair

CC:

Noah Fleishman, Council District 11 District Director
Jimmy Kim, General Manager, LA City Department of Recreation and Parks
Darryl Ford, Superintendent of Planning, LA City Department of Recreation and Parks
Rose Watson, Public Information Director & Media Relation, LA Parks
Joe Halper, Commissioner, Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Commission
Jasmine Dowlatshahi, Sr. Facilities Director, Palisades Recreation Center
David Card, PPCC Chair Emeritus and member of Potrero Canyon Advisory Committee
Rob Weber, PPCC Legal Advisor and member of the Potrero Canyon Advisory Committee
Gil Dembo, Resident and member of Potrero Canyon Advisory Committee
Randy Young, PPCC Treasurer
Chris Spitz, PPCC At-large Primary Representative
Cindi Simon, PPCC Area 6 Primary Representative
Cathje Santo Domingo, Assistant General Manger, Planning, Maintenance and Construction
Kristen Ly, Project Engineer, LA City Bureau of Engineering
Jenny Li, PPCC Vice President
Commander, Jonathan Tom, LAPD West Bureau: 32993@lapd.online
Captain Craig Heredia, Commanding Officer, LAPD West Division
Senior Lead Officer, Pacific Palisades, LAPD West Division, Brian Espin: 37430@lapd.online

Potrero Canyon Park
The Department of Recreation and Parks

For the safety of everyone

NO ALCOHOL, NO SMOKING
LAMC 41.27.C LAMC 64.44B24

NO DUMPING, NO LITTERING
LAMC 63.44D.19 LAMC 63.44B-19

NO INJURY TO PUBLIC PROPERTY
LAMC 63.44.B.13

NO BLOCKING PATHWAYS, FIRELANES
LAMC 63.44.B.22

NO TRESPASSING DURING HOURS OF CLOSURE
LAMC 63.44.B.14

NO STAGES, GENERATORS, OR SOUND AMPLIFICATION
LAMC 63.44.B.4

NO TENTS, STAKES, CAMPING, OPEN FLAMES OR COOKING
LAMC 63.44D.4 LAMC 63.44.B.17

NO WRITING, PAINTING, AFFIXING SIGNS, PROJECTIONS OR OTHER MATERIALS TO TREES, LANDSCAPING OR PUBLIC PROPERTY
LAMC 63.44.B.13

NO BICYCLES, NO SKATEBOARDS, NO SKATING, NO SHOPPING CARTS
LAMC 63.44(D)3 LAMC 63.44(B)7 LAMC41.45

NO EVENTS MAY EXTEND INTO TREE OR LANDSCAPED AREAS & PLANTERS
CCPR

DOGS MUST BE ON LEASH, DEFECTION MUST BE REMOVED IMMEDIATELY
LAMC 63.44.B2 LAMC 53.49

UMBRELLAS, SUN SHADES, OR CANOPIES MUST BE OPEN ON ALL SIDES AND MAY NOT EXCEED EIGHT (8) FEET IN HEIGHT AND TEN (10) FEET IN DIAMETER OR WIDTH. ALL UMBRELLAS OR SUN SHADES SHALL BE DISMANTLED AND REMOVED FROM THE PARK BEFORE THE PARK IS CLOSED. NO MOONBOUNCES OR JUMPERS.
LAMC 63.44D.4 LAMC41.57

VIOLATE NO LAW

PARK HOURS: SUNRISE TO SUNSET
FOR EMERGENCIES: CALL 911
OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY (213) 978-4670 or 311 / INFO (310) 548-7675