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December 18, 2023

BPC #23-242

The Honorable City Council
City of Los Angeles, Room 395
c/o City Clerk's Office

Dear Honorable Members:

RE: ENFORCEMENT OF LAMC 80.36.1 AND TOUR BUS OPERATIONS IN THE
HOLLYWOOD HILLS.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held Tuesday, December 12, 2023, the Board APPROVED the Department's report relative to the above matter.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Munoz".

REBECCA MUNOZ
Commission Executive Assistant

Attachment

c: Chief of Police

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED

DEC 09 2023

POLICE COMMISSION

November 28, 2023
8.1

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

REVIEWED BY:

FROM: Chief of Police

RICHARD M. TEFANK **DATE**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO CITY COUNCIL'S REQUEST REGARDING
ENFORCEMENT OF LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 80.36.1
AND TOUR BUS OPERATIONS IN THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS

RECOMMENDED ACTION


1. It is recommended that the Board of Police Commissioners (Board) REVIEW and APPROVE the attached Los Angeles Police Department's (Department) Report relative to the proposed enforcement of Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 80.36.1, *Restricted Use of Certain Streets*, in the Hollywood Hills (Council File No. 17-1115-S1).
2. That the Board TRANSMIT this attached report to the Los Angeles City Council.

DISCUSSION

The Los Angeles City Council instructed the Department to report on the proposed enforcement of LAMC Section 80.36.1 in Council District 4 and the specific resources needed to enforce tour bus operations in the Hollywood Hills on routes leading to the Hollywood Sign/Hollywood Sign views and Mulholland Drive, west of the US 101 Freeway, and on Mulholland Drive itself during summer weekends and major holidays. This report includes the names and position titles of the personnel that were contacted, an action plan, the proposed timeline for posting signs, and the initiation of enforcement for this section.

Should you require additional information, please contact Commander Craig Valenzuela, Traffic Group, at (213) 486-0680.

Respectfully,



MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police

BOARD OF
POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Approved December 12, 2023
Secretary Rebecca May

Attachment

FACT SHEET

RESPONSE TO COUNCIL REQUEST REGARDING TOUR BUS OPERATIONS

November 14, 2023

BACKGROUND

On August 30, 2023, the City Council approved the Transportation Committee's report relative to tour bus operations on routes leading to the Hollywood Sign (Council File No. 17-1115-S1). The City Council instructed the Los Angeles Police Department (Department or LAPD), with the assistance of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), to report in regard to all of the streets in Council District (CD) 4 with existing 6,000 pounds restrictions per Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 80.36.1, as well as the resources needed to enforce in the Hollywood Hills on routes leading to the Hollywood Sign/Hollywood Sign views and Mulholland Drive, west of the United States (US) 101 Freeway, and on Mulholland Drive itself during summer weekends and major holidays.

SUMMARY

Throughout its history, visitors from around the world have flocked to Hollywood in hopes of catching a glimpse of their favorite star, and today, tour buses have been the preferred method of transportation for tourists. In 2014, a YouTube video was posted explaining the routes to the areas with the best views of the Hollywood Sign and supposed stars' homes, which created a plethora of traffic congestion in the Hollywood area, especially in the Hollywood Hills. This traffic problem has been exacerbated by tour buses that continuously navigate the narrow streets of Hollywood.

FINDINGS

Since 2015, Traffic Group, West Traffic Division (WTD), Hollywood Area, and CD 4 have been working with each other to combat the traffic congestion resulting from tour bus operations in the Hollywood Hills—specifically during summer weekends and major holidays on routes leading to the Hollywood Sign/Hollywood Sign views; routes leading to Mulholland Drive, west of the United States 101 Freeway; and, Mulholland Drive itself. Council District 4 has funded overtime details to staff LAPD motor officers, patrol officers, and private security officers during the summer weekends and major holidays.

The most common deployment for the LAPD motor officers were as follows:

Watch 2 (0600-1600 hours)	Watch 4 (1100-2100 hours)
Friday through Sunday	Friday through Sunday
1 Motor Sergeant + 2 Motor Officers	1 Motor Sergeant + 2 Motor Officers

This deployment strategy proved to be effective and sufficient, as Watch 2 motor officers deployed early in the day for high visibility, traffic congestion prevention, and traffic enforcement, when necessary. The Watch 4 motor officers would supplement Watch 2 as activities in the affected areas increased and would ensure the continuance of high visibility and traffic enforcement throughout the evening hours. Community members, especially the affected

FACT SHEET

RESPONSE TO COUNCIL REQUEST REGARDING TOUR BUS OPERATIONS

November 6, 2023

residents in the Hollywood Hills, were pleased to see the presence of motor officers and relayed their appreciation.

The Department reached out to LADOT's Principal Transportation Engineer, Mr. Brian Gallagher, who stated that he discussed LAMC Section 80.36.1 with the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. Their combined recommendation is that the ordinance be amended to comply with California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 35701, *Size, Weight, and Load*. The CVC Section 35701 allows for local ordinances such as LAMC Section 80.36.1 to be enforced in residential districts, only. However, there are numerous non-residential streets which have posted signs within the City of Los Angeles, including many of the street segments indicated in LAMC Section 80.36.1(d) and in the original motion, dated February 22, 1984. An amendment to LAMC Section 80.36.1 is necessary to specify "residential districts, only" and to comply with CVC Section 35701. Mr. Gallagher advised that LADOT should not post future signage nor should any enforcement of the ordinance be conducted until LAMC Section 80.36.1 has been amended.

The following streets are mentioned in LAMC Section 80.36.1(d), wherein the LADOT is authorized to erect signs prohibiting vehicles over 6,000 pounds gross weight upon those major or secondary highways or portions thereof, and include the requested boundaries from the City Council for comparison:

LAMC Section 80.36.1

- No mention of Barham Boulevard;
- Avenue of the Stars between Santa Monica Boulevard and Wilshire Boulevard;
- Manning Avenue between Santa Monica Boulevard and Wilshire Boulevard;
- Manning Avenue between the Santa Monica Freeway on-ramp south of Manning Court and National Boulevard;
- Overland Avenue between Pico Boulevard and Santa Monica Boulevard;
- Veteran Avenue between Santa Monica Boulevard and Wilshire Boulevard;
- No mention of Western Canyon Road;
- No mention of Franklin Avenue; and,
- No mention of the US 101 Freeway.

Requested Boundaries by City Council

- Barham Boulevard;
- Santa Monica Mountain Ridgelines;
- Western Canyon Road;
- Franklin Avenue; and,
- US 101 Freeway.

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The City Council further directed the Department, with the assistance of the LADOT, to report back on the streets with existing 6,000 pounds restrictions per LAMC Section 80.36.1, within CD 4. They are as follows:

LAMC Section 80.36.1

- Beverly Glen Boulevard between Mulholland Drive and Ventura Boulevard;
- Coldwater Canyon Avenue between Ventura Boulevard and Mulholland Drive;
- Colfax Avenue from Victory Boulevard to Ventura Boulevard;
- Moorpark Street between Vineland Avenue and Tyrone Avenue; and,
- Tyrone Avenue between Moorpark Street and Ventura Boulevard.

Requested Boundaries by City Council

- All streets within CD 4 with existing 6,000 pounds restrictions per LAMC Section 80.36.1.

Officers assigned to Traffic Group's Specialized Enforcement Section (SES) and WTD's Community Traffic Services Unit (CTSU), who have consistently worked the affected areas, stated that they no longer issue citations for violations of LAMC Section 80.36.1(a) due to the numerous posted signage at streets that are not listed in LAMC Section 80.36.1(d). Presiding judges are dismissing cases where the streets are not listed as required by LAMC Section 80.36.1(d), which states, "The [LADOT] is hereby authorized to erect signs prohibiting vehicles over 6,000 pounds gross weight upon those major or secondary highways or portions thereof, specified in this subsection." In lieu of enforcing LAMC Section 80.36.1(a), officers assigned to the SES and WTD's CTSU are issuing citations for violations of CVC Section 21461(a), *Traffic Signs, Signals, and Markings*, which is a failure to obey a posted sign.

The most commonly affected streets, based on the community's complaints are as follows:

- Beachwood Drive, north of Franklin Avenue until the dead-end;
- Outpost Drive, north of Franklin Avenue, and south of Mulholland Drive;
- Wonder View Drive, north of Cahuenga Boulevard, and south of Lake Hollywood Drive;
- Argyle Avenue, north of Franklin Avenue, and south of Holly Mont Drive; and,
- Lake Hollywood Drive, east of Barham Boulevard, and west of Tahoe Drive.

The SES also contacted Mr. Gallagher, LADOT, to obtain a list of all the affected streets. He advised that LADOT does not keep a list of streets filed by sign type, and that signs can only be obtained by searching location by location. However, he emphasized that the most important task is to amend LAMC Section 80.36.1 to align with the CVC, instead of having an ordinance directing LADOT to install and enforce signs that do not comply with state law.

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RESPONSE TO COUNCIL REQUEST REGARDING TOUR BUS OPERATIONS

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CONCLUSION

The LAMC Section 80.36.1 does not comply with CVC Section 35701 and should be amended prior to any additional enforcement efforts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the City Council request that the City Attorney's Office, with the assistance of the LAPD and LADOT, amend LAMC Section 80.36.1 in order to comply with CVC Section 35701. LAPD officers will continue to issue citations for CVC Section 21461(a) in lieu of LAMC Section 80.36.1 until the aforementioned issues have been resolved.

It is further recommended that LADOT provide the necessary information to the City Council in order to amend LAMC Section 80.36.1 to include all posted streets not currently listed in the ordinance, as required by LAMC Section 80.36.1(d).

Resources contacted:

Mr. Brian Gallagher
Principal Transportation Engineer
District Operations Bureau
Los Angeles Department of Transportation

Captain II Benedict Fernandes
Commanding Officer
West Traffic Division

Detective III David Sun
Government Liaison Section
Office of the Chief of Staff

Police Officer II+3 Mario Ontiveros
Specialized Enforcement Section
Traffic Group

Police Officer II+2 Mark Buck
Community Traffic Safety Unit
West Traffic Division

Police Officer III+1 Ralph Sanchez
Community Relations Office
Hollywood Area

Prepared by:
Sergeant II Damon Aoki
SES
Traffic Group