

Office of the City Engineer

Los Angeles, California

To the Public Works Committee

Of the Honorable Council

July 17, 2024

Of the City of Los Angeles

Honorable Members:

C. D. No. 5

SUBJECT:

Temporary Closure of Walkway Southerly of Richland Avenue between Sepulveda Boulevard and Bentley Avenue – Council File No. 23-0946

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. That the walkway as shown on the attached Exhibit “A”, subject to the conditions contained herein, be temporarily closed pursuant to State Vehicle Code Section 21101.4 for a period of eighteen (18) months upon Council approval.
- B. That the City Council find that this is categorically exempt under Article III, Class 5, of the Los Angeles City Guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970.
- C. That the City Council adopts the accompanying Resolution signed by the City Attorney.
- D. That the City Council adopts the following findings:
 - 1. There is substantial evidence of serious and continual criminal activities in the walkway recommended for temporary closure.
 - 2. The temporary closure of the walkway will reduce criminal activity in the area.
 - 3. The walkway does not provide necessary vehicular or pedestrian access to adjacent properties.
 - 4. The closure will not substantially adversely affect traffic flow, safety on adjacent streets or in the surrounding neighborhoods, the operation of

emergency vehicles or the performance of municipal or public utility services in the walkway proposed to be temporarily closed.

5. Vehicular and pedestrian traffic on the walkway contributes to criminal activities.
 6. The walkway has not been designated as a through highway or arterial street.
- E. That notification of the time and place on the Public Works Committee meeting to consider this request be sent to:

1. Justin Lau
2647 S. Bentley Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90064
2. Hideitsu Honda
222 N. Pacific Coast Hwy, Ste 1770
El Segundo, CA 90245
3. State of California
Right-of-Way Engineering, District 7
Atten: Fatima Choudhury
100 Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The Bureau of Engineering is absorbing the cost of processing the request in the approximate amount of \$5,000.00. Maintenance of the public easement by City forces will be eliminated.

TRANSMITTALS:

1. Sketch indicating the area to be temporarily closed, Exhibit "A".
2. Draft of Resolution for Temporary Street Closure.
3. Motion from Council District 5 dated September 6, 2023.
4. Council District 5 consent exception letter dated April 17, 2024.
5. Letter from the Los Angeles Police Department dated July 16, 2024.

CONDITIONS:

1. That any gates to be installed to effectuate a physical closure of the walkway area, together with the gate locations:

- a. be approved by the Fire Department, the Department of Water and Power, the Department of Transportation, and the Bureau of Sanitation's Wastewater Collection Systems Division and Wastewater Engineering Services Division,
 - b. be done under appropriate permits issued by the City Engineer; and,
 - c. be installed by the petitioner at no cost to the city.
2. That the key to the gate to be installed be provided to all affected City Departments and Public Utility Companies. No access will be granted, or keys provided to the adjoining property owners.
3. That the closure area be physically closed within 6 months of Council approval of the temporary closure, or the approval be rescinded.
4. That the petitioners agree to remove any installed gates/fences upon termination of the allowed closure period at no cost to the City.
5. The routine clean-up of the closed area be provided by the adjoining property owners/residents.

DISCUSSION:

On December 1, 2023, under Council File No. 23-0946, a motion from Council District No. 5 (Transmittal no. 3) was adopted by the City Council directing the City Engineer to initiate proceedings to close the walkway southerly of Richland Avenue between Sepulveda Boulevard and Bentley Avenue.

The Council motion stated that "The public walkway connecting Brookhaven Avenue with Sepulveda Boulevard has become a public safety hazard for the surrounding community with area residents reporting numerous complaints and issues, including criminal activity".

Commanding Officer, Richard E. Gabaldon, of the Los Angeles Police Department, in a letter dated December 21, 2023, stated "The Los Angeles Police Department, West Los Angeles Community Police Station, has received numerous public complaints regarding an increase in criminal activities related to home burglaries, observed drug use, public urination, defecation, and theft, to name a few. These incidents have caused a deterioration in the quality of life due to an increase in the homeless population and activities related to homelessness."

On April 17, 2024, Council District 5 submitted a letter stating that they are "satisfied with the signed consent of one of the three adjacent property owners." (Transmittal no. 4).

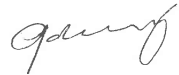
CONCLUSION:

The temporary closure of the walkway southerly of Richland Avenue between Sepulveda Boulevard and Bentley Avenue is feasible subject to the conditions of this report.

Report prepared by:
Permit Case Management Division

Armenia Aguilar
Civil Engineering Associate II

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hui M. Huang', followed by the word 'for' in a small font.

Hui M. Huang, P.E.
Principal Civil Engineer
Permit Case Management Division
Bureau of Engineering

HMH/BG:aa