

Office of the City Engineer

Los Angeles, California

To the Public Works Committee

Of the Honorable Council

Of the City of Los Angeles

April 15, 2022

Honorable Members:

C. D. No. 3

SUBJECT:

Temporary Closure of Vanalden Avenue South of Gleneagles Drive to its southwesterly terminus – Council File No. 21-0906

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. That the street 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 alley recommended for temporary closure.
  - 2. The temporary closure of the street will reduce the criminal activity in the area.
  - 3. The street 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 street proposed to be temporarily closed.

5. Vehicular and pedestrian traffic on the street contributes to the criminal activities.
  6. The street 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. Eli Dvorkin  
3631 Gleneagles Drive  
Tarzana, CA 91356
  2. City of Los Angeles  
111 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, #201  
Los Angeles, CA 90012
  3. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Attn: Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director  
570 W. Avenue 26, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, CA 90065

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 No. 3, dated August 11, 2021
4. Official Action of the Los Angeles City Council, dated September 15, 2021
5. Consent Petition
6. Council District 3 consent exception letter, dated March 24, 2022
7. Letter from the Los Angeles Police Department, dated March 3, 2022

CONDITIONS:

1. That any gates to be installed to effectuate a physical closure of the street 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 keys to any gates to be installed be provided to all affected City Departments and Public Utility Companies.
3. That the closed area be physically closed within 6 months of Council approval of the temporary closure or the approval be rescinded.
4. That the petitioners remove any installed gates/fences upon termination of the allowed closure period at no cost to the City.

DISCUSSION:

On September 15, 2021, under Council File No. 21-0906, a motion from Council District No. 3 (Transmittal no. 3) was adopted by the City Council directing the City Engineer to initiate proceedings to close Vanalden Avenue south of Gleneagles Drive to its southwesterly terminus.

The Council motion stated that "The stub end of Vanalden Avenue south of Gleneagles Drive in Tarzana has become a public nuisance. Nearby residents and the Los Angeles Police Department have expressed support for this temporary closure because the area has a problem with nighttime drinking, automotive stunts, speeding, and other illegal vehicular displays, and use of illegal fireworks. This activity is a particular problem because it is adjacent to open space in the fire-prone hillsides. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority has indicated a willingness to work with the City to install and maintain gates at this location."

Commanding Officer, Captain Paul M. Espinosa, of the Los Angeles Police Department, in a letter dated March 3, 2022 stated "From January 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022 there have been 65 radio calls for service, three traffic collisions, one shooting investigation, and one vandalism. A high percentage of the radio calls for service were for street racing."

On March 24, 2022, Council District 3 submitted a letter stating that “the Councilmember for the Third District is satisfied with the signed consent of the two of the three adjacent property owners and would like the closure to move forward.” (Transmittal no. 6).

CONCLUSION:

The temporary closure of Vanalden Avenue south of Gleneagles Drive to its southwesterly terminus is feasible subject to the conditions of this report.

Report prepared by:  
Permit Case Management Division

Armenia Aguilar  
Civil Engineering Associate II

Respectfully submitted,



Bertram Moklebust, P.E.  
Principal Civil Engineer  
Permit Case Management Division  
Bureau of Engineering

BM/AA