

Communication from Public

Name: MARICA & MARK J SMITH

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Council File No: 20-1101

Comments for Public Posting: September 14, 2020 Honorable Chair Harris-Dawson and Councilmembers: We urge you to protect our hillside neighborhood by including the area from the western edge of the Bird Streets to the western border of CD4 in the Hillside Construction Regulation Ordinance (HCR) (Ordinance No. 184827, Council File No. 16-1472-S1 and 16-1472-S-2). We understand that the HCR rollout is a pilot program and was initially applied selectively to specific neighborhoods. Unfortunately, the unintended consequence is that by applying the HCR to only some neighborhoods, you did not just leave us out -- you encouraged unprincipled developers to rush projects through City Hall that would otherwise have been restricted by the HCR. It has been a windfall for them. The HCR works. Our friends in Bel Air, Laurel Canyon and the Bird Streets are grateful. By protecting homeowners from overdevelopment, massive construction sites, weekend construction and congested roads, the Council made a difference. That is all we are asking: help us preserve the character of our community and our quality of life. Time is the enemy. The longer Planning and City Council wait to act, the more likely it is that the undeveloped, unprotected hills will be destroyed. The hillside is being disfigured, habitats ruined, and the environment further degraded. The substandard roads are being choked with trucks and cars all day. These issues pose a life-safety challenge in the canyons. If there is a fire up here, the LAFD will not be able to get through. Ambulances will be blocked. Carving up the hills for new roads, burying infrastructure underground, and destroying the landscape undermines the stability of the hillside. It is a crisis waiting to happen. Please help keep us safe by including this area our neighborhood in the Hillside Construction Regulation Ordinance. It exists. It works. And it is the right thing to do. Sincerely, Marcia & Mark J. Smith
9004 Meredith Place Beverly Hills, Ca 90210 CC:
Councilmember David Ryu david.ryu@lacity.org;
Councilmember Paul Koretz paul.koretz@lacity.org; Nicolas Grief nicholas.greif@lacity.org