

Communication from Public

Name: Lake Hollywood Homeowners Association (LHHA)
Date Submitted: 08/21/2022 11:02 AM
Council File No: 14-0518
Comments for Public Posting: Comments from Lake Hollywood Homeowners Association (LHHA), with regards to the Proposed Wildlife District Ordinance (CPC-2022-3413-CA and CPC-2022-3712-ZC)



LAKE HOLLYWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

VIA EMAIL: ourla2040@lacity.org

August 19, 2022

Department of City Planning

City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

RE: Proposed Wildlife District Ordinance (CPC-2022-3413-CA and CPC-2022-3712-ZC)

To Whom It May Concern:

The **Lake Hollywood Homeowners Association (LHHA)**, has reviewed the proposed Wildlife District Ordinance and comments from stakeholders within that proposed supplemental use district pilot study area. Even though Lake Hollywood Estates is not within the proposed supplemental use district pilot study area, we wish to convey our concerns for various sections of this ordinance. Our area of Lake Hollywood Estates is adjacent to Griffith Park, Hollywood Reservoir and Lake Hollywood Park, a place where wildlife abounds and moves freely around a fenced lake, and park as well as down our streets, and that includes P22, deer, bobcats, coyote, raccoons, snakes, skunks, and rabbits. Neither chain link, nor 6 foot walls have stopped the coyotes or deer from entering our yards. These same fences, however, have prevented multiple robberies, burglaries and the thousands of tourists and visitors who come to our area to photograph the world famous Hollywood sign from entering our properties or use the park and lakeside late at night to shoot off fireworks, smoke and toss their lit butts into the 80 year old dry brush that surrounds our area. It seems to be a valuable

insight that we have integrated into the fencing adopted in our area to leave 8 in to 1 foot open on the bottom of our fencing for our smaller furry neighbors. The deer and coyote are not perturbed in the least to climb or leap over our regulation height fences. Rarely is there a bird flying into the E rated windows that allow us light so that we don't have to use power, but still provide insulation in keeping our homes cool. Most all windows have screens in any case which make it clear to most birds it isn't clear air. Asking homeowners to give up their view of city lights, or majestic landscapes found in Los Angeles for the rare instance of a bird flying into a window seems like a major overreach.

In general, we are concerned that some of the misguided regulatory overreach will have an adverse effect on homeowners and property owners by reducing residents' safety and privacy. It will increase permitting delays, costs and limit housing in a city that already has a massive housing shortage and a homelessness crisis. Despite these substantial negative effects, there is no convincing evidence that the ordinance will accomplish its stated purposes which include combating climate change and promoting fire safety, mental health, and educational opportunities (Fact Sheet p. 3). Additionally, alternative, less costly, and less onerous methods of promoting biodiversity and "mixing wildlife genes and DNA" are not even considered (Fact Sheet p. 3).

Our experience as residents in the Hollywood Hills:

We have seen first-hand that it takes seconds for LAFD to cut through chain link to access areas that are burning, therefore fences are not slowing down the response to firefighting by any significant amount of time, they do however protect our wildlife corridors from ignorant human who desperately need to smoke away from Rangers' eyes or use the area as their latrine. We have also seen that humans make holes in the chain link or dig under, beyond the 8 inches of open space at the bottom of park fences around the Vista, to access protected wildlife corridors for partying, smoking, "sleeping" on mattresses they bring for their joyful merry making.

Specific aspects of the proposed ordinance that are the most objectionable are:

1. The prohibition on rebuilding a home destroyed by fire or earthquake to its original height and size, which is grossly unfair and further victimizes the owner who has already lost their home to circumstances beyond their control. This portion of the ordinance would disproportionately impact lower income, including senior citizens whose homes may be their largest retirement asset (Ordinance p.8) (Fact Sheet p.6).
2. The fencing restrictions that limit perimeter privacy fences, ban chain link fences, and limit solid walls to 3.5 feet which will adversely affect security (Ordinance pp. 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12) and allow for those seeking to do harm to access wildlife corridors easier and set brush on fire. This height, 3.5 feet, is far too short. Deer and coyote regularly access areas that have 6 foot high fencing. What is the reason behind choosing 3.5 feet?
3. The restrictions on hedges that we rely on to protect our privacy and safety that mandate 1 ft. x 1 ft. openings all along ground level (Ordinance p. 11). One foot is enough to allow humans to access our private property. Eight inches is sufficient for small animals, and too small for humans, we suggest changing the 12 inches to 8 inches.
4. The costly, burdensome, and time-consuming requirements of an additional new permitting process in a city already known for permitting delays (Ordinance p. 4).
5. The sweeping and discriminatory taking of private property for public use (wildlife corridors) without fair compensation that may violate constitutional rights (e.g., Why should the property of one homeowner be taken or encumbered because they abut an "open space" while a homeowner across the street that does not abut an "open space" be expected to contribute less or even nothing?).
6. The creation of backyard wildlife corridors and connectivity without lighting or security fencing will allow for greater criminal activity. (Ordinance pp. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 17). LAPD regularly advises to add cameras and motion detection lights around our property to fight the 200 percent increase in property crime in 2022.

7. The "Wildlife Lot Coverage" that can encumber up to 50% of the total lot area, which will disproportionately affect smaller lots and less affluent homeowners (Ordinance p. 13).
8. The ban on clear glass windows larger than 24 sq. ft. (4 x 6) such as picture windows and sliding glass doors that is unnecessary (Ordinance pp. 17, 18).
9. The landscaping requirements that require 75% native species that would prevent or severely limit the planting of gardens, fruit trees, and perimeter privacy hedges and which would increase fire risks (Ordinance p. 16).

For the above reasons, the LHHHA Board of Directors hopes that our recommendations and/or criticisms will be archived and adopted, should the Wildlife Ordinance pilot area be expanded to include the Hollywood Hills specifically around the Hollywood sign.

Sincerely,

Kristina O'Neil

Kristina O'Neil
President - LHHHA

Cc: D. Benz, C. Cobb, A. Conant, A. Corrigan, S. Irani, N. Raman, K. Kork