

The Hollywood Heights View

Special Summer Issue

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Neighborhood Watch vs. the Car Break-ins

Over the last several months, numerous car break-ins have occurred on Camrose, Glencoe, Hillcrest, and Sycamore. Some garages have also been broken into. The most important thing to remember is to report the crime to the police, *even if they don't want to take the report*. Some officers will be much more supportive and helpful than others. However, we need to change the crime statistics and perceptions at the LAPD if we are going to receive more police investment in our community.

Then, please let the HHA know, so that we can follow up as well.

The second thing to remember is that *Neighborhood Watch works*. It also takes time and effort. However, a period of diligence will bear results. Stay tuned for a call or visit from your Block Captain, who will invite you to a Neighborhood watch meeting. We are handling this on a block-by-block basis as it seems to be most effective that way.

The Hollywood Bowl and Hollywood Heights

Over the last few weeks, members of several neighborhood associations, including ours, have been meeting with the Hollywood Bowl over their current expanded schedule (which includes concerts by Paul Simon and Sting this fall), and all the perennial issues of parking, traffic, noise, etc. As the *View* reported in its last issue, the forum for these discussions has been the new Community Advisory Committee set up by Supervisor Edelman in April. Your Board has taken a strong stand regarding this schedule, and after the Jimmy Buffet concert, sent the letter excerpted below. While there are many problems when a large business such as the Philharmonic, comes into a neighborhood like ours, the meetings have also produced some results which we hope will help our community.

Perhaps the most important result so far has been that for the very first time, all the various City and County departments responsible for the Bowl have met at one time in one place. This includes representatives from the LAPD, Traffic enforcement (DOT), the Council Office, County Parks and Recreation, the Philharmonic and Bowl staff, and the Supervisor's office. Planning is now taking place around a table that includes these agencies, four community groups, potential concert promoters and staff for other venues, such as the Greek Theater, who have expertise in these areas. The upshot has been a series of measures designed to apply not only to possible special events (which we are still not supporting), but to the regular season as well.

- Due to our urging, Councilman Woo last week went before the Police Commission to ask for the assignment of regular uniformed police to all weekend Bowl events, all sold-out events, and all special concerts, to assist with crowd control. He got his request and seven police officers will join in crowd control starting immediately.
- Fourteen parking spaces were set aside by the Bowl in their lots for the residents of Alta Loma Terrace, whose parking otherwise is nonexistent.
- The importing of alcohol to special events has been banned, and sales on site curtailed.
- Rather than clocking out at midnight, Bowl staff must now stay until all concert goers have left the Bowl property and the streets are cleared.
- Proposed concerts by Planet Live and INXS were cancelled.

Much more needs to be done, and will be. The underlying position is that the Community organizations will not approve *any* extra-season events until the Hollywood Bowl becomes a better neighbor during the regular season.

Excerpts from a letter sent to Supervisor Ed Edelman on June 30, 1991 by the HHA and other neighborhood organizations.

Dear Ed:

As you know, the various communities surrounding the Hollywood Bowl have been very apprehensive about the expanded schedule of Special Events and Rock Concerts planned this year at the Bowl. Events have borne out the concerns. We now find ourselves in the position of asking you for a serious and absolute cutoff of any more special events at the Bowl. We believe that this should mean no more musical events other than those in the regular Season, except for non-musical civic events with an anticipated audience under 5,000. We understand full well that this is a strong position to take. The Hollywood Heights Association comes to it reluctantly, and only after serious internal discussion and consensus with Whitley Heights, Outpost and Hollywood Terrace Homeowners Associations.

Twice in the last decade, fires have started in our neighborhood because of negligence by Bowl patrons. Two other fires, only coincidentally occurring during a Bowl night, caused the loss of houses on Pinehurst due to traffic blocking fire trucks. On the Saturday evening of the Playboy Jazz Festival, a fire engine was stuck in the traffic on Highland Avenue, sirens blaring, going nowhere. After the Jimmy Buffet Concert, the slopes at the top of the Bowl were littered with cigarette butts, some from concert goers, some from Bowl staff.

There is no way to mitigate this situation. The traffic is getting worse all the time. The intersection of Highland and Sunset is now tied for top hon-

ors as busiest in the city, and Highland and Franklin is number 6. On weekend nights when both Sunset and Hollywood Boulevards are closed in an attempt to prevent cruising and the gang banging which has now hit the area, there is simply no place for traffic to go. It may take two hours each side of an event to move cars in and out of the Bowl. During that time, there is no way we can get a response to a police or fire emergency. When we have separately tried to work with DOT to station more traffic officers at these intersections, the officers end up hiding on the sidewalk because the traffic is so heavy, and the drivers so volatile.

Now add alcohol. After a three or four hour rock concert with beer and margaritas at the Bowl, put people in a car, late at night, and make them sit for a half hour in traffic outside our homes. Now try to make them move for emergency vehicles. Try to get them to stop honking until 1 am, when traffic thins down (only to start again when the bars close). . . .

For the last ten years, the neighboring communities have been meeting with the Bowl to try to figure out ways to make the regular season work. So far, we have come about half way. The Bowl has posted Explorer scouts, but the scouts don't stop people. DOT does not enforce illegal parking, except (it sometimes seems) to ticket the residents who are forced to park in their driveways, etc., because legal street parking has been taken. . . . The residents of Alta Loma Terrace, who years ago had street parking, now consumed by Bowl parking lots, can not even come home till after the Bowl has cleared at midnight because their only chance of parking is in empty Bowl lots. . . .

But all this only happens from July to September--or used to. Now events happen from May to October. (We fortunately need not count the Easter Sunrise Service.) And where they used to be held 3 or 4 days a week, now they are held 6. Where the residents used to hear only Classical at 50 dBa, now there is also rock at 80 dBa.

One of the points we have tried to make, and has been repeatedly echoed by City staff, is that Hollywood is simply not the place to do what the Philharmonic wants to do. We are not like downtown, where several freeways and a deserted street grid stand ready to take the people away from the Music Center. We are not even like Los Feliz, where traffic is less of a problem because the surrounding residential community has by and large retired for the evening. Rather, downtown Hollywood is a dangerous, volatile, crowded area, which gets more so late at night. It is all the city can do to control the situation that exists. To add thousands of drunken teenagers to that mess is asking for trouble. Pat Moore will say that he tried to get police for the Jimmy Buffet Concert. He found that they were simply not available--what was going on elsewhere was even worse. Despite all our warnings and Pat's prior promises, there were no uniformed officers at the event, or at the traffic barricades. . . .

The County should not be running a large facility for underage drinking in Hollywood. The County should not be adding traffic, urination, trash, threatening behavior by drunks, bashed cars and other nuisances to the neighborhood. These prob-

lems are intractable. Ban alcohol in the Bowl, and they drink it outside, in our front yards. . . .

We have a long, unfortunate history of misunderstandings and broken promises between the Bowl and the community. For instance, last August, when the community met with the Bowl to complain about the last Jimmy Buffet concert, and other such events, we were told that nothing was scheduled for this year, and would not be. This was a direct lie, as Jimmy Buffet was already scheduled. . . .

Ed, I think both the County and the neighborhoods have been had. We support the Philharmonic, we care about the Bowl. We love the regular concerts. We have been willing to work things out. . . . They just do not understand the collective sacrifices that thousands of families make on an ongoing basis for the Bowl to have a regular season. They do not understand the threat to public safety the rock concerts constitute. We cannot be made the sacrificial lambs for their budget deficits, as unfortunate as they may be. . . .

Please pull the plug as you did at the Ford. . . . Not until the regular season problems of traffic, trash, parking and emergency access are resolved, do we even want to talk about special events. And please do not let the Philharmonic make the communities surrounding the Bowl the bad guys because they have to take a stand to protect themselves and their homes. . .

Sincerely,
Hollywood Heights, Whitley Heights,
Hollywood Terrace and Outpost Associations

Garbage Cans

Are we having fun yet playing slalom with the new garbage cans on Friday mornings? Well, you do *not* need to put them in the street. After discussion with the city, they have agreed that placing them on the sidewalk (where we have sidewalks) is acceptable. So please, if you do not need to put the cans in the street, don't. Its just too dangerous.

Meanwhile, due to various problems in the hillside areas, a smaller version of the can (perhaps less top-heavy) is being planned for the fall. Hopefully this can be

accompanied by a smaller truck so that we don't have some of our streets being served by one vehicle on one schedule, and others served later by a smaller truck using hand crews.

The Hillcrest Bungalow Fire

Unfortunately, as many of us witnessed, the charming redwood Bungalow in the Pinehurst Park was largely gutted by a fire started by transients. The HHA Board, Council Office, and Pinehurst Park Committee had been spending a great

deal of time and energy attempting to find a way to save the building, while trying to eliminate the problems caused by homeless people moving in.

Many of the immediate neighbors had feared just such an event as occurred. Fortunately, a fast response by the Fire Department prevented the blaze from spreading. Now, the city is working to expedite the demolition of the property so that the empty shell is no longer an 'attractive nuisance.' We hope to have the site cleared, and the park restored, by the end of the summer.

The next step, of course, still remains the transfer of the property from the City to the Community. The current plan up for discussion would have the park site given to the Methodist Church in exchange for the Highland Avenue frontage the Church is giving up to street widening. At the same time, the Church would sign a Covenant on the property promising the community perpetual access to the site, which would forever remain a public-use park. We are trying to persuade the City that this exchange fulfills the Charter requirement that land not be given away for less than its purchase price.

General Community Meeting in September!

Please join us at our next general neighborhood meeting in September. Announcements will come from your block captains soon. If you have any items you wish to see added to the agenda, let us know!

And . . . have you become a member of the HHA yet? Remember, members get free tickets to the Bowl, as well as helping the organization that helps you.

Senator Roberti in Support of the Bungalow Village

State Senator David Roberti has come to our aid in the fight to save the Highland-Camrose Bungalow Village. Having previously written several letters in support of local and national historical status, he has now asked for a meeting to review the possibilities for changing the park proposed for the area to a less damaging scheme. Thank you Senator Roberti!

June 30, 1991

Hon. Ed Edelman:

Dear Ed:

Thank you very much for discussing the Highland-Camrose Bungalow Village with David Commons [a staff-person in Roberti's office]. As you can see from the attached, I have long been interested in preserving Highland-Camrose Bungalow Village, especially since it's a very special place historically and culturally. It also can become a valuable tourist attraction since it's one of the few remaining areas of "old" Hollywood.

Your agreeing not to proceed with demolition until you, Assemblyman Margolin, Councilman Woo and I can meet is very much appreciated. Hopefully, that can be as soon as the Legislature completes its State Budget responsibility, at which time I will call you.

Sincerely,

David Roberti

An article about the Bungalow Village also appeared on the front page of the Newspaper of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It detailed the rich history of the site, and our battles to preserve the complex through the years.

If you wish to help with letter writing or other political action, please let us know!