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Los Feliz Improvement Association
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August 10, 2010

The Honorable Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
200 North Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Dear Mr. Mayor:

The Los Feliz Improvement Association, representing over 1000 households in the Los Feliz district of Los Angeles, appreciates your well publicized position that the recent reduction in city revenues will not result in a reduction in essential public safety services.

In this spirit, we strongly request that you to reconsider recent and proposed future staff reductions and task reassignments in the Park Ranger division.

The Los Feliz neighborhood is bordered by 4218 acre Griffith Park, and its 10,000,000 yearly visitors have a sizable impact on our lives. Increased levels of traffic, noise and crime due to the popularity of Griffith Park's numerous attractions are negative impacts that we have learned to tolerate. Any diminution of these consequential disturbances to our community's well-being has historically been managed by the rangers.

The number of Rangers for all the city's parks was budget-approved at 37 just two years ago. Currently, there remain only 21 rangers, which combined with changes in management style including redefinition of historic job descriptions have partly resulted in a recent spike in crime in the park that spills over into our neighborhood.

Park Rangers have historic and institutional knowledge of the idiosyncrasies of security and preventive/proactive park policing, including trail security and management. This knowledge cannot be supplanted by a traditional security operation, like that at the Office of Public Safety, which is also incurring reduction in personnel.



Park Rangers
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If one considers the size of Griffith Park, the challenges of its unique wilderness terrain and the significant influx of visitors on any given day, it is highly risky and not in the public's best interest to reduce ranger personnel, nor should ranger duties be reassigned to non-patrol duties as has been occurring in recent months.

We thank you for your advocating the maintenance of essential public safety services in the city, but we implore you to reconsider the Ranger situation in Griffith Park as well as all the regional parks accordingly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donald A. Seligman".

Donald A. Seligman, D.D.S.
President

cc: Los Angeles City Council
Barry Sanders, President, Board of Recreation and Parks
Jon Kirk Mukri, General Manager Recreation and Parks