



HDCA Meeting Notes
August 12, 2020
Zoom / Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

David Brewer
Deborah Brosseau
Bruce Bermudez
Pamela Clay Magathan
Brandi D'Amore
Debra DeCordova
Stephen De Cordova
Linda Deutsch
Judy Dowden
Jodi Ehrlich

Annah Feinberg
Rachel Fox (CD4)
Beverly Freeman
Annie Gagan
Scott Grodner
Leslie Hendry
Jan Hohenstein
Wendi Horowitz
Alexa Iles Skarpelos
Pamela Kalmus

Stephen Krawchuk
Mary Ledding
Cynthia Martinez
George Skarpelos
Robert Silverstein
Jacqui Tager
Officer Tim Talman
Ethan Weaver (City Atty)
Kelly Ziegler

I. Welcomes & Introductions

Alexa Iles Skarpelos HDCA President
Email: alexah@hollywooddell.com

II. Special Guest Robert Silverstein

Robert Silverstein is an attorney with the Silverstein Law Firm. He specializes in land use and environmental litigation. He often represents community members or groups going up against developers and government.

Proposed Development Around The Historic Capitol Records Building

In 2013 the Hollywood Millennium Project was proposed on the site around the historic Capitol Records building. Mr. Silverstein successfully litigated against that project on behalf of "Stop the Millennium Hollywood, a group of community members who organized to fight the massive project. <https://stopthemillenniumhollywood.com/>

On April 16, 2020, the LA City Planning Department released the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DIER) for the proposed Hollywood Center Project (HCP). This HCP is virtually the exact same development, by the same developers as the prior Millennium Hollywood, re-branded.

The DEIR was 13,000+ pages, released during a global pandemic, and required public comments by a June 1, 2020 deadline. Under the law, the City must respond to all public comments received by the deadline in writing. Comments received after that time will still be part of the record as long as they are received prior to the LA City Council final vote.

There was an outpouring of requests from the public (including from the HDCA) to the City asking for an extension of the public comment period due to the unusual circumstances of the pandemic. To his credit, CM David Ryu also submitted a letter requesting an extension of the public comment period. The majority of the residents who will suffer the impacts of this project

live in Ryu's district (CD4), despite the project being located within CD13. All requests for extension, including the request from CM Ryu were denied.

Mr. Silverstein's Law Firm submitted a public comment document of about 90 pages of objections with several thousand pages of exhibits by the June 1, 2020 deadline.

Multiple Earthquake Faults

On May 8, 2020 the U.S. Geological Study published a study using data collected in 2018 that identified four additional faults (along with the already identified 7.0 magnitude Hollywood Earthquake Fault) that cross through the HCP project site.

USGS Report: <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr20201049>

Why is the City allowing skyscrapers over active earthquake faults? Why is the City is accepting the assessment of the developer's paid geological consultant over the (impartial) U.S. Geological Survey?

Two of the three votes on the powerful PLUM Committee (Planning & Land Use Management) when this project was originally approved were Mitch Englander and Jose Huizar.

Mitch Englander, former LA City Council Member (CD12), pleaded guilty to felony corruption in July of 2020. He admitted to lying to the FBI investigators about cash payments, gifts and trips he received from people with real estate projects in Los Angeles.

Jose Huizar, LA City Council Member (CD14) was arrested on a Federal RICO charge on June 23, 2020. The case alleges he operated a massive "pay-to-play" scheme with real estate developers who had projects before the City.

Raymond Chan, Ex-Deputy Mayor who as the head of Los Angeles' building department testified that there were no issues with seismic studies on the project site, is himself involved in a City Hall corruption probe.

Mr. Silverstein has asked the Mayor, the LA City Council and the Planning Department to put this project on hold until the FBI investigations into corruption have been completed.

He suggests we all write our own letters to the following:

Eric Garcetti, LA City Mayor (mayor.garcetti@lacity.org)

Mike Feuer, LA City Attorney (mike.n.feuer@lacity.org)

Mitch O'Farrell, LA City Council Member District 13 (councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org)

David Ryu, LA City Council Member District 4 (david.ryu@lacity.org)

Vince Bertoni, Director of City Planning (vince.bertoni@lacity.org)

How could they resubmit after the City rejected this project the last go around?

1. They changed the name of the project (from Hollywood Millennium to Hollywood Center)
2. They slightly adjusted the design – but still plan for massive skyscrapers
3. They submitted a new Draft Environmental Impact Report

Upcoming August 26, 2020 (9:30 am) Dept. of City Planning Hearing

The hearing will be held telephonically via Zoom (NOT in-person) due to the pandemic

Dial in: (213) 338-8477 then enter the Meeting # of 924-8586 5202, then the # sign.

The public will be able to make verbal comments, but expect that they will allow maybe 1 – 2 minutes max so be concise and plan your comments ahead of time.

If you submit your comments in writing, there are no limits in length. Written materials may be submitted in advance of the hearing via email, in-person or by U.S. mail. Address written comments to:

Mindy Nguyen
City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1350
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Email: mindy.nguyen@lacity.org

Re: Hollywood Center Project
Located at 1720-1770 N Vine Street; 1746 – 1764 N Ivar Avenue; 1733 – 1741 Argyle Avenue and 6236, 6270, 6334 W Yucca Street.

What are the next steps?

These are the events in the order they must occur before the final decision:

1. Dept. of City Planning (virtual) Hearing on August 26, 2020 9:30 am
2. Hearing in front of the LA City Planning Commission (not yet scheduled)
3. Hearing in front of the LA City Council Planning & Land Use Committee (not yet scheduled)
4. LA City Council Meeting (not yet scheduled)

Note: Mr. Silverstein thinks that this will occur at an accelerated pace (possibly within a couple of months) because he feels there is pressure to rush it through.

III. Updates From Local Officials & Reps

Rachel Fox Field Deputy, CD4 – Council Member David Ryu's Office
Email: rachel.fox@lacity.org

Hollywood Temporary Corrosion Control Station Status

There are two 12,000-gallon storage tanks located below the Hollywood Dam where San Marco and Holly converge. These tanks were installed by LADWP in July of 2015. There were regular tanker truck deliveries through our neighborhood of Zinc Orthophosphate (ZOP), which is used as an additive to the water supply to inhibit corrosion and the leaching of harmful chemicals like lead, copper and iron into the water supply from aging pipes. We were told it would be used temporarily (3 – 5 years) until two new corrosion control stations were constructed and brought online (at another location).

Rachel has confirmed that they are no longer making ZOP deliveries, but is waiting to hear what the future plans are for the site as well as a new contact at LADWP for additional issues / questions.

Party Houses / Enhanced Enforcement on Large Unpermitted Gatherings:

- Mayor Garcetti announced that starting Friday, August 7, 2020 large gatherings with people outside your immediate household are not permitted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. LA Public Health officials reiterated this restriction due to the transmission risk to the community at large.
- Council Member Ryu introduced a motion last week to increase penalties to property owners who are putting the community at risk by allowing large parties on their property. The idea of cutting the water and power to problem locations came up when they were looking at shutting down illegal cannabis operations. They are also considering withholding certificates of occupancy.

Encampment Cleanups

Because of the pandemic, the City was following CDC guidelines on how to limit the spread of the virus amongst the homeless population. They relaxed enforcement of the tents down (LAMC 56.11) during the day because it was determined to be safer to have people shelter in place than to move them into congregate settings.

They have recently resumed Special Enforcement Zones around the Bridge Home sites. CD4 has also offered up funds to assist CD13 in helping with cleanups at Gower and Franklin & Argyle, but they still can't force people to move their things out of the way for cleaning. There has to be voluntary compliance.

There are no hotels in CD4 that were willing to participate in the Project Room Key program. There are some in Hollywood, but they are in CD13.

Hollywood Hills Community Town Hall

August 17, 2020 (5:30 pm) CM Ryu will be holding a town hall for the Hollywood Hills neighborhoods.

To register go to: bit.ly/cd4townhall

Participants are invited to submit questions in advance. Be sure and sign up before 2:30 pm on August 17th.

Interest Free Loans

CM David Ryu has partnered with the Jewish Federation Los Angeles to offer emergency loans interest-free to members of his district.

There is a portal for CD4 residents on the JFLA website: <https://www.jfla.org/>
Individuals can get up to \$5K and small businesses can get up to \$10K.

Anti-Corruption Efforts By CM Ryu

The City Council approved CM Ryu's motion for an Inspector General and creating an office of anti-corruption and transparency in the City. Click here to read his motion:
http://davidryu.lacity.org/councilmember_ryu_introduces_anti_corruption_legislation

Self-Quarantine Wage Replacement

The City Council has also approved a motion by CM Ryu for \$25 million in funding to pay people who test positive for COVID-19 to stay home if they can't afford to do so otherwise. This is to address the communities of color, low-income and immigrants who are more likely to become infected with COVID-19 because they work on the frontlines in essential jobs that can't be done from home.

Ethan Weaver Neighborhood Prosecutor, Hollywood Division
Email: ethan.weaver@lacity.org

New Restrictions for Party Houses

Following a shooting (3 injured, 1 killed) at a massive house party on Mulholland Drive on August 4th, the mayor modified the "Safer At Home" order to include the restriction prohibiting large gatherings at private residences. Since bars and nightclubs have been closed due to the pandemic, party house problems have been on the rise, especially in the Hollywood Hills neighborhoods.

When LAPD arrives on the scene and issues a citation (yellow) for a Loud Or Unruly gathering they can now post another notice (white) regarding gatherings of non-household members. If they return to the location and the occupants haven't dispersed, they give a second notice and it is photographed and sent to the deputy mayor of public safety, who will then make a determination of whether to turn off the water and power.

Once turned off, it will stay off until the pandemic is over or the mayor lifts that particular emergency order, or the emergency order expires.

Residents can assist by reporting Loud Or Unruly gatherings to the LAPD non-emergency number: (877) 275-5273

Officer Tim Talman LAPD Hollywood
Email: 41183@lapd.online

Officer Talman is covering our area until August 25th while SLO Mata is on vacation.

Feel free to email him any issues. If you have information of parties – let him know. He's been working the party patrol / party house enforcement.

Traffic Issues / Street Racing

Residents have noticed an increase in speeding and street racing. He recommended reporting it to the LAPD non-emergency number (or call 9-1-1 if it's a dangerous emergency).

At a recent Community-Police Advisory Board meeting it was noted that they are seeing an increase in street racing and speeding incidents.

Many residents have reported a Yellow Lamborghini in the Dell speeding in the neighborhood.

If you are seeing ongoing traffic issues (speeding, running stop signs), contact Officer Mark Buck, who is the LAPD Hollywood Traffic Officer. Email: 33215@lapd.online

George Skarpelos President – Hollywood United Neighborhood Council
Email: george@myhunc.com

Proposed Projects Yucca / Argyle / Vine

In addition to the Hollywood Center Project there is another large development proposed in the same area (Yucca & Argyle).

So much of the ability of the public to get together and discuss things has been impacted by the pandemic and the recent civil unrest (protests, rioting, curfews etc.).

HUNC has gone on record asking for a postponement for the hearings.

There will be a special HUNC meeting dedicated to this specific topic next week. If you can't attend, you should send in your comments to George.

Proposed Project at the south west corner of Western and Franklin

There is a plan to develop the corner (currently a Rite Aid) with a Lazy Acres Natural Market.

One of the buildings on the project site (dry cleaners) was formerly the studio of Sister Corita Kent who was an artist, educator and advocate for social justice and there are community members who want to preserve the historical aspect of the site.

IV. HDCA Business & Announcements

Request for Action - Hillside Federation

July 21, 2020 the HDCA & Argyle Civic Association co-sponsored a Request for Action asking the Federation (who represent 44 neighborhood groups) to oppose the Hollywood Center Project.

Our motion / RFA was approved by the Federation.

Additionally, the Federation has agreed to accept tax-deductible donations to fund efforts to fight the project. You can pay via PayPal online by going to: <https://www.hillsidefederation.org/> be sure and click on the drop down menu on their PayPal page and select (b) "Stop the Hollywood Center Fund." Or you can send a check (be sure to note what it's for on the memo line) to:

Hillside Federation / Stop the Hollywood Center Fund
P.O. Box 27404
Los Angeles, CA 90027

The HDCA made a \$1,000 donation last month to the "Stop the Hollywood Center Project" fund to assist in the efforts to get the Geological studies released.

In accordance to our HDCA By-Laws, any contribution over that amount will need to be voted on by members.

Worsening Homelessness

HDCA has drafted a letter to Mayor Eric Garcetti regarding the deteriorating homelessness crisis in Los Angeles. It was sent out with today's meeting reminder email and will be made available on the HDCA website, for anyone who wishes to read it.

Residents who would like to write their own letters should cc: HDCA and send them to:

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Website: www.lamayor.org

Supporting the US Postal Service

The HDCA will draft a letter to US Congressman Adam Schiff in support of the US Postal Service. We also encourage Hollywood Dell residents to send their own letters of support AND support the Postal Service by purchasing stamps and sending mail!

Congressman Adam Schiff
US District 28
245 East Olive Avenue #200
Burbank, CA 91502
Email: <https://schiff.house.gov/contact>

Observe & Report Guide

The HDCA has updated the “Observe & Report” guide (lime green tri-fold). Be sure and dispose of the outdated guide to avoid confusion. The update version will have “updated 7/30/2020” on the front. A PDF of the update guide was sent out today with the meeting reminder email. HDCA will also be getting some printed for neighborhood watch captains to distribute to their blocks, and will post the PDF on our website.

Newest Pet Waste Station Location

The HDCA purchased a pet waste station as a “thank you” to Murray Hill Condominiums for allowing us to use their function room for our monthly neighborhood meetings (pre-Covid). It has recently been installed near the driveway to their parking garage!

Little Free Library Project

Years ago a group of neighbors raised funds and installed a Little Free Library on Holly Drive near La Granada. It's a great idea, especially now that more people are taking walks and reading! The HDCA would like to install multiple “branches” of little free libraries throughout the Dell. To do this we will need:

1. Locations. People willing to have one installed on their property in a spot that is accessible by passers by.
2. The HDCA will purchase them, but we prefer to shop local (and hopefully from someone in the Dell). If you know of a person or business that we should reach out to please let us know!
3. Books. Once we have them installed consider passing along any books you have read to share with your community!

Free Books

We have 15 Copies of “How To Be An Anti Racist” available FREE, contact alexa@hollywooddell.com (supplies are limited, first come, first served). Take one, read it, keep it or pass it along.

Virtual “Holly-ween In The Dell”

Discussions have already begun. This year we obviously can't plan our usual Holly-ween celebration / street party because of the COVID-19 crisis. The HDCA is working on plans for a “virtual” Halloween celebration. If you would like to participate in the planning or know of families who would like to join the party – let us know!

Welcoming New Neighbors

Judy is in charge of welcome baskets for new neighbors. The welcome baskets include a charming array of goodies and information.

New additions are a pair of facemasks with the HDCA logo. These are handmade by David Brewer and really beautiful. Judy personally delivers them using a list generated from recent home transactions.

Unfortunately this doesn't capture new neighbors to the Dell who are renters. We would like to welcome EVERYONE new to the Hollywood Dell. The HDCA is not a homeowner's association, we are a civic organization and inclusive of everyone who resides in our neighborhood. We are asking residents to let us know if you are aware of a new neighbor so we can be sure to welcome them!

Judy Kass Dowden – HDCA Outreach Chair

Email: judy@hollywoodell.com

Phone: (323) 464-1591

Next Meeting: WED September 9, 2020 (7:00 pm)