



September 8, 2015

VIA EMAIL (councilmember.huizar@lacity.org)

Councilmember Jose Huizar
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street, Room 465
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Huizar,

Further to our letter to you dated June 9, 2015 (“the June Letter”), we write to first thank you for submitting Council File 14-1411-S1 (“the Motion”) requesting the establishment of a new appropriation account titled Friends of Spring Street Park within the TFAR Trust Fund No. 552, requesting the transfer of \$250,000 to the Friends of Spring Street Park Account, and requesting the disbursement of \$250,000 from the Friends of Spring Street Park Account to Community Partners for Friends of Spring Street Park (“FSSP”). We further thank you and the Council, as well as Mayor Garcetti, for approving the Motion.

We understand that despite the approval, funds have not been disbursed to FSSP and as a result, a full-time ranger or security guard has yet to be hired to monitor the park. Unfortunately, the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) continues to receive numerous complaints from its stakeholders regarding the degradation of Spring Street Park.

The lack of rangers, security, LAPD or any sort of enforcement presence has resulted in an unmitigated disaster in terms of human behavior in the Park. None of the posted rules are obeyed, but that is the least concern. Not only is public urination and defecation and sexual activity a common, daily sight, but alcohol and drug use is an almost hourly occurrence . . . very often in the area adjacent to the children’s playground. Needless to say, few children are allowed to utilize the facility.

Violence has also erupted on occasion. On August 17, 2015, a woman who had apparently laid claim to the Park drinking fountain engaged in a loud verbal dispute with another party. She subsequently departed the Park for the middle of Spring Street, where she narrowly avoided being hit but also caused a collision between two vehicles. She became extremely agitated and violent when LAPD arrived on the scene, and ultimately six LAPD units were called to the scene along with an ambulance and a fire truck. It is now a matter of when, not if, serious injuries or fatalities will begin to occur in this area given the general atmosphere of lawlessness.

This situation is completely unacceptable and cannot continue. Accordingly, we respectfully

request the following actions be immediately taken:

1. Per the approved Motion disburse the funds to FSSP so that it can begin to hire and train security personnel to maintain order in the facility.
2. Until funds are disbursed and a security guard is dispatched, require LAPD to make hourly walk-throughs of the Park and rangers from the Department of Parks and Recreation to do the same twice daily.

Sincerely,

Russell Chan
DLANC Vice-President of Administration

Sincerely,

Eric R. Garcia
DLANC Community Impact Committee Chair

CC Paul Habib (Paul.Habib@lacity.org)
Sara Hernandez (Sara.Hernandez@lacity.org)
Diana Yedoyan (Diana.Yedoyan@lacity.org)
Anika Ostin (Anika.Ostin@lacity.org)