

September 13, 2017

Email To: Monica Rodriguez, Eve Sinclair, Isaiah Muhammad

Subject: Lane Reduction Program on Foothill/Sunland Blvds.

Dear Council District 7:

I hope you will agree with much of what I've included here. We need to submit this to you given there's been no public input process leading up to the lane reduction program. I've just returned from the ST Neighborhood Council meeting and the thorough discussion about the lane reduction plan and program....a discussion that should have occurred several years ago, prior to decisions being made to implement the program. The Shadow Hills Property Owners Assn. commends the STNC for its actions and transparency tonight. And, we are very upset and frustrated by this situation.

We'd ask that copies of this email be shared with whomever else is warranted or considered relevant by those who have received it so that the position of our organization, the Shadow Hills Property Owners Assn., receives consideration and is coupled with that of the STNC and others.

Since we were allotted only one minute to speak, which was understandable given the crowd and limited time, I'd like to summarize what I was able to fit in tonight and what I did not have time to state. I have to use this medium/email as there was no public review or comment process prior to the project's implementation. The Shadow Hills Property Owners Assn. (SHPOA), and many others, would like answers provided to each of the questions posed below in writing and we ask that they be communicated to ALL residents and community organizations in the region, including SHPOA, through a series of community meetings, briefings, mailings, etc.

As I stated tonight, the Shadow Hills Property Owners Assn. does not support the manner in which the entire program was planned, decisions made, and decisions implemented. We are very unhappy with the final product. Our Association was not communicated with during this multi-year process leading to the current state of affairs. It was stated tonight that a meeting was held on April 1, 2017, prior to the program rollout. SHPOA, which is a major community organization and its board, which includes numerous long-time community leaders, which represents more than 2,200 households, and which

is independent of local Neighborhood Councils, was not invited to that meeting or any other.

- **May we now, 5 months later, receive a copy of whatever invitation existed for the April 1 meeting?**
- **Who officially sponsored that meeting?**
- **While we have not read the Motion which Pat Kramer read at tonight's meeting, it seems very similar to our Board's feelings going into tonight's meeting. Would you please forward us a copy of the Motion so our Board can consider supporting or not supporting it?**

The intersection of Sunland and Foothill is crucial to Shadow Hills as it is the gateway for our residents to take children to school, shop for food, medicine, gasoline and more, and it's crucial for access to banks, doctors, insurance agencies and other professional services. As we learned during the recent fire crisis, Foothill Blvd. is a critical artery for horse trailers and trucks to depart Shadow Hills to access emergency equestrian housing/services at Hansen Dam Equestrian Center.

- **We ask if the use of Foothill Blvd. by equestrians seeking to exit Shadow Hills, La Tuna Canyon or Sun Valley, to access emergency quarters at the Equestrian Center, was ever considered by those who planned the current, confusing and dangerous design?**

Further, following up on the inadequate April 1 outreach, it must be stated that this project was clearly fast-tracked, received preferential treatment, obtained unknown and non-transparent approvals FOR YEARS, and was implemented at a time where our District lacked representation and a strong working relationship with an elected council member. Clearly, Council President Wesson's oversight following the departure of CM Fuentes did not cover this issue. Since it takes many months to fix a pothole in Los Angeles, so we are surmising that this project was under review, under wraps, and was a done deal for several years before it was massively mobilized and forced upon our communities with completely inadequate advance notice and transparency. I've never seen anything happen faster in this part of the City than the nearly overnight installation of the new striping, bollards, etc.

- **If a private business or resident were to seek to implement the amount of changes included in this lane reduction program at their property, they would have needed to complete several years of**

environmental studies such as an EIR or MND, public hearings, planning commission review and city council review. What written authorizations to proceed exist? What approvals were required and obtained? What were all cost and expense totals (labor and materials)? We also request a thorough explanation of the nexus between political/elected official involvement in this matter vs. city staff/department involvement. Since we had no councilmember at the time, who gave this misguided project the obviously needed political approvals and on what dates - was it CM Fuentes? CM Wesson? Mayor Garcetti?

We do not understand the underlying philosophy behind the project's rationale, namely what facts, figures, cost/benefit analysis. We will need to be convinced that this is not a case of the conclusion to do this project being made first, followed by everyone working backwards.

- **Thus, we would like to know if hard data and comparative data exists which show why this location was chosen compared to others? If so, we'd like all community leaders and organizations be provided that information.**
- **Finally, we would like to know, given what a failure this initiative has been across the City, who is going to be held accountable for the waste of taxpayer dollars, the time residents across the city have had to sacrifice to correct this mistake, the lack of transparency, the danger/risk to public safety caused by this boondoggle, and the costs of undoing the present mess?**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dave DePinto
President, Shadow Hills Property Owners Assn.