

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the person holding the office of the President of the United States owes sole allegiance to the constitution of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2017, Donald J. Trump took the oath of office and became President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2021, pursuant to the Twelfth Amendment of the United States Constitution, the Vice President of the United States, the House of Representatives, and the Senate met at the United States Capitol for a Joint Session of Congress to count the votes of the Electoral College; and

WHEREAS, shortly before the Joint Session commenced, President Trump addressed a crowd of his political supporters nearby, where he reiterated false claims about the results of the 2020 presidential election, as well as encouraged – and foreseeably resulted in – imminent lawless action at the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, President Trump’s conduct on January 6, 2021 was consistent with his prior efforts to subvert and obstruct the certification of the results of the 2020 presidential election; and

WHEREAS, President Trump has gravely endangered the security of the United States and its institutions of government, threatened the integrity of the democratic system, interfered with the peaceful transition of power, and imperiled a coordinate branch of government; and

WHEREAS, President Trump has demonstrated that he will remain a threat to national security, democracy, and the Constitution if allowed to remain in office, and has acted in a manner grossly incompatible with self-governance and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, President Trump’s incitement resulted in the desecration of the U.S. Capitol, seditious acts, the endangerment of the Nation’s elected leaders, and the deaths of five Americans, including Brian D. Sicknick, a Capitol police officer; and

WHEREAS, President Trump encouraged violent mobs to disrupt or destroy the government; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-2022 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for a House Resolution to call on Vice President Michael R. Pence to convene and mobilize the principal officers of the Executive Departments of the Cabinet to Activate Section 4 of the 25th Amendment to declare President Donald J. Trump incapable of executing the duties of his office and to immediately exercise powers as acting President; and SUPPORT for a House Resolution to impeach President Donald J. Trump.

RECEIVED
MAR 10 2023

BY: CR

JAN 12 2021

Bob Blumenfeld

PRESENTED BY: _____
BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, District Three

Mark Ridley-Thomas

SECONDED BY: _____
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Councilmember, District Ten

Above the Law at the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce

The Hollywood Walk of Fame is a widely-visited attraction that many L.A. residents pay little attention to—a vast Hollywood spectacle on our sidewalk rife with selfies from adoring fans, posing alongside their favorite artists of today and relics of the past. It may come as a surprise for some, however, that the Walk of Fame, despite its PR-oriented existence as a glitzy platform for mega celebrities and pop legends, is a city-sanctioned monument that requires the approval of the Los Angeles City Council for every additional star added, under Council File 78-3949.

So when the most recent honorees including the likes of Michael Strahan, Billy Idol, Billy Porter, Octavia Spencer, and the Jonas Brothers recently attended their ceremonies for the unveiling of “their” brass and terrazzo star panels on Hollywood Blvd., unbeknownst to them, they were in fact celebrating an illegal process. The stars were cemented and cured and polished prior to any L.A. City Council vote—confirmed to me by the Office of the City Clerk through a Public Records Act request.

The reason it should concern you that private entities (the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and the Hollywood Historic Trust) are usurping longstanding government speech for this landmark is not because the honorees are not worthy of the honor, but because the process for final approval rests with L.A. elected officials, and not with 501(c)(3) nonprofits. That distinction holds implications for controversy.

One need only look to *Schurtleff v. Boston*, the most recent Supreme Court case surrounding government speech, to recognize that if local government willingly concedes control of expression on public land to private citizens or organizations, there is a potential for those entities to espouse hateful or undesirable messages on that land, which can then be easily construed as city endorsements or city-sponsored speech. And, while Octavia Spencer and Billy Porter are undoubtedly inspiring, groundbreaking artists of esteemed merit and “outstanding member[s] of the entertainment industry” (a prerequisite under the council file), the same cannot seriously be said of Dr. Oz or Donald J. Trump, who were both unanimously approved by L.A. City Councilmembers in attendance, in 2022 and 2006, respectively. Any decision for deaccessioning/removal of any names from the Walk of Fame also ultimately resides with the L.A. City Council.

It's here where I'd like to bluntly correct the record that, counter to claims from other outlets and even former L.A. City officials, a star "cannot be removed," as they most certainly can, even with considerations of the monument's "national landmark" status. Two officials from the California State Office of Historic Preservation (SOHP), in addition to a federal preservation officer with the U.S. Department of the Interior, put this claim of historical immunity from the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and former Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell's office to rest.

When asked about any hypothetical change to naming or renaming of star installations on the Walk of Fame, a supervisor with the SOHP stated, "Local government holds all land use authority over property under its jurisdiction, despite historical designation." The preservation officer at the U.S. Department of the Interior reinforced this position from SOHP and the federal landmark parameters by simply affirming that "They're correct." In addition, they went on to say that any minimal change to the Walk of Fame, such as removal of a name or replacement of one name for another, wouldn't compel any federal response at all, and that "There would be no federal requirements or control or protection, review, or process that is automatically triggered."

At the local level, as it pertains to the future existence of Donald Trump's name, Councilmember Blumenfield wrote to me months ago that he would "[...] be supportive should the issue come before the Council [...]". Indications from two other sitting Councilmembers, in communications with their offices, lead on that they'll likely be holding this discussion at L.A. City Hall very soon. The Bureau of Engineering is also currently re-evaluating its process for the issuance of Walk of Fame permits after the matter of preemptive permitting was brought to their attention, according to Mayor Bass' Director of Infrastructure, Ryan Jackson.

The Hollywood Walk of Fame is a reflection of our city as the entertainment capital of the world. Los Angeles shouldn't shirk its duty to uphold the values it chooses to honor on our streets.

Bio: Andrew Rudick is a former casting associate and works in entertainment. His FOIA lawsuit with the U.S. Treasury in 2020 corroborated reporting from Alan Rappeport of the New York Times that Economic Impact Payments were delayed to millions of Americans because of then-President Trump's signature. He also broke the story with Emily Alpert Reyes of the L.A. Times that the City of Los Angeles cited zero businesses for defying COVID vaccination rules.