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April 28, 2015

Dear Los Angeles City Council:

At a special meeting of April 27, 2015, the East Hollywood Neighborhood (EHNC) Council considered the Department of Recreation & Parks (RAP) decision to self-operate the Greek Theatre as a so-called "open venue." The EHNC is familiar with this issue having heard testimony and issued a CIS regarding the 2014 request for proposal process that was subsequently canceled, subject to a City Council request for additional community input. The EHNC, the second closest neighborhood council to the Greek Theatre after the Los Feliz neighborhood council, did not receive any outreach from RAP for additional community input. EHNC has, however, had the benefit of reviewing motions by the City's Greek Theatre Advisory Committee, the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council, the Los Angeles Budget Advocates, the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition, and the Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council.

What is clear from the public record is that respected community organizations, some with decades of specific knowledge of the Greek Theatre, have not been heard on this matter, and have expressed serious concerns about RAP's plans for the future of the Greek Theatre. The changing priorities of RAP on this are concerning, with the only apparent consistency being a tendency to ignore community input. In addition, it appears that RAP has rapidly decided to conduct an experiment at the Greek Theatre in 2016 and 2017, risking guaranteed RAP funding and major disturbances to the surrounding neighborhoods. Considering that the current operator of the Greek Theatre wins national industry awards while also operating in harmony and partnership with the community, this experiment is at best unjustified, and at worst irresponsible. In addition, the current operator has offered a guaranteed \$3,500,000 in rent while RAP complies with the council request of a new RFP, presenting a potentially risk-free community supported option.

For these reasons, EHNC concurs with the advice of the Greek Theatre Advisory Committee and others, to extend the current operator of the Greek Theatre and conduct a new RFP per the 11-3 vote of the full City Council.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tereza Yerimyan
President