

Petition to Restrict Oversize Vehicles from Parking on Topham Street

To: City of Los Angeles, Transportation Committee Re: Council File #15-0088

From: Topham Business owners and Homeowners

The undersigned business owners and residents of Topham Street are in support of installing parking restrictions for oversized vehicles that are in excess of 22 feet in length or over 84 inches in height, during the hours of 7 am – 7 pm on both sides of Topham Street between Yolanda Avenue and Wilbur Avenue. Topham has become a popular location for large vehicles to park routinely, which results in fewer parking spaces for residents and businesses, as well as limited visibility for drivers. Additionally, Discovery preschool, as well as numerous homes and businesses, are experiencing public safety issues associated with these large vehicles.

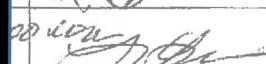
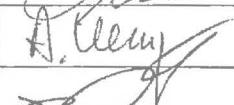
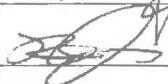
Print Name	Address	Email/Phone Number	Signature
1. Luis Farias			J. Luis Farias
2. Harold Akerson			Harold Akerson
3. Yoram Kesta			Yoram Kesta
4. Kelly Dufresne			Kelly Dufresne
5. Heinrich Ganz			Heinrich Ganz
6. William J. Greene			William J. Greene
7. Euro-Body Corp			Euro-Body Corp
8. Bob's Engine			Bob's Engine
9. Frederick Koshishian			Frederick Koshishian
10. Repuables			Repuables
11. Len Tovsihegyi			Len Tovsihegyi
12. Joe Lundsten			Joe Lundsten
13. M. NADERI			M. NADERI
14. RAZ HARI			RAZ HARI
15. Judy Bowerman			Judy Bowerman

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Print Name	Address	Email/Phone Number	Signature
1. Moacir Filho			
2. Lisa Lawrence			
3. Alex Nemz			
4. Brian Jacobs			
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Print Name	Address	Email/Phone Number	Signature
1. Bertha Pérez			Bertha Perez
2. Sarah Bruni			S. Bruni
3. Horacio Argana			73
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Arielle Bernard <arielle.bernard@lacity.org>

Council File #15-0088

Natalie Astrahan <arielle.bernard@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 10, 2015 at 12:23 PM

To: arielle.bernard@lacity.org

Cc: councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, Discovery School <eyde@discoveryschooltarzana.com>

Dear Arielle,

I am writing to you in regards to Council File #15-0088.

I am a parent at Discovery School in Tarzana and am concerned about the safety of the kids that attend the school. I usually run into the campers every morning (9am) and afternoon (4pm) when I drop off and pick up my daughter.

I have had a few situations that have been uncomfortable. I have parked on Topham before and one of the campers was out of his RV yelling inappropriate comments. I walked briskly with my child into the school as to not have an encounter with him. Another time I parked on the otherside of the RV and a camper came out to yell at me that I can not park there. I proceeded to move my car and find another parking spot on Yolanda. I should not have to feel uncomfortable parking in front of my daughter's school for drop off or pick up. It is also extremely uncomfortable knowing that these campers just sit out in front of a preschool all day with toddlers and young kids there. We don't know who is in the camper, they could be a registered sex offender. I do not feel that my child or the other children are safe.

We are urging you as concerned parents to put into effect one or a combination of the following:

- Weight restriction on the types of vehicles that can park on the street. A No Parking sign for vehicles over X weight.
- No overnight parking on Topham extending west of Yolanda to the end of the block Sunday - Friday
- School parking only Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm on Topham extending from Yolanda west

Please make every effort to mediate this issue immediately and ensure the safety of our children and parents.

Thank you,

Natalie Astrahan
Concerned Parent



Arielle Bernard <arielle.bernard@lacity.org>

council file number 15-0088

1 message

Rebekah Tolin <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Feb 9, 2015 at 4:03 PM

To: "arielle.bernard@lacity.org" <arielle.bernard@lacity.org>, "councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org" <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, Eyde McAllister Discovery School <eyde@discoveryschooltarzana.com>, Lauren Johnson Ashamalla <laurenraej78@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Bernard,

I am writing in support of new parking restrictions on Topham street in front of Discovery Preschool. I have heard shouting several times from the long-time residents of the campers on our block that has made me worry for the safety of myself and my child. The people I have seen coming in and out of the campers appear to be homeless and unfriendly. I purposely do not park anywhere near these campers because I am worried about the volatility of the people who live inside. I have seen trash in bags placed on the street outside of these campers, goats tied to the fence next to the Orange line, chickens in cages, and other unsanitary items outside these campers.

There are usually 3 or 4 campers outside of the school, and 4-8 cars could park where these campers are. I often park 1-2 blocks away due to the lack of parking on the street outside of the school.

It would make life easier, and make us all feel more at ease, if these campers were not allowed to permanently reside on the block where our preschool is located.

Thank you,

Rebekah Tolin, OTR/L
pediatric occupational therapist



Arielle Bernard <arielle.bernard@lacity.org>

Council File #15-0088

1 message

Lauren Johnson Ashamalla <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Feb 9, 2015 at 12:46 PM

To: arielle.bernard@lacity.org

Cc: councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, Discovery School <eyde@discoveryschooltarzana.com>

Dear Arielle,

I am writing to you in regards to Council File #15-0088.

I am a parent at Discovery School on Topham St in Tarzana. I am very concerned about the safety of not only my children and the children that attend the school but also my personal safety.

I have had a few uncomfortable encounters with an owner (or two) of one of the campers. I was followed to the school from about the middle of the street (on Topham in between Yolanda and Wilbur). I had been carrying my infant, holding my toddlers hand, carrying her bag and mine. The man followed me while aggressively telling me I can't park on the street, he doesn't like my kids or any young kids. (Not great since there's a preschool on the street!!) I felt helpless. I had my hands full with my kids and then this guy following me. I didn't feel I could have protected anyone. It was a bit frightening.

At any given time there are about 3 campers/RVs parked on Topham west of Yolanda. Most recently they were parked directly in front of the school. Not only do these vehicles take up MUCH needed parking spaces for the parents to drop off and pick up their children, they pose a danger. It's flat out creepy. We don't know who is in the camper, they could be a registered sex offender. I am urging you to put into effect one or a combination of the following:

- Weight restriction on the types of vehicles that can park on the street. A No Parking sign for vehicles over X weight.
- No overnight parking on Topham extending west of Yolanda to the end of the block Sunday - Friday
- School parking only Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm on Topham extending from Yolanda west

I am sure that this issue has been brought to your attention already by many concerned parents of Discovery School and perhaps by some concerned business owners and residents. I urge you to implement some family-friendly changes immediately given the very close proximity to the school.

Thank you,

Lauren Ashamalla



Arielle Bernard <arielle.bernard@lacity.org>

Council File Number 15-0088: Parking on Topham Street

Alan <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Feb 9, 2015 at 10:46 AM

To: Arielle.bernard@lacity.org

Cc: councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, eyde@discoveryschooltarzana.com, irinamankovitz@gmail.com

To Councilmember Blumenfield:

I am writing in reference to my family's support for Council File Number 15-0088, which proposes to restrict vehicles that are in excess of 22 feet in length or over 84 inches in height from parking on Topham Street.

As I know you are aware, Topham Street, between Wilbur and Yolanda, is a heavily traveled area due to Discovery School traffic. Because the school includes children so young, it is often necessary for parents to park and accompany their child inside, instead of driving through for a drop off.

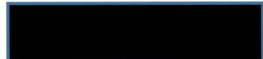
Currently there are multiple campers that park daily on Tomham in very close proximity to Discovery School. This not only takes up excessive parking space, but also, due to the vehicles' width, often restricts the flow of traffic traveling in each direction on the street.

Our daughter has been in Discovery School for 3 years, and we have seen these campers as permanent fixtures on the street, so that the space is not available for any parents in the morning or the afternoon.

What is also troublesome, is that the campers seem to be occupied as residences, not just parked vehicles, and it is common to see trash, including broken glass, very nearby them.

Thank you for taking this issue to the City Council and I hope it will be met with support. Best,

Alan Mankovitz





Arielle Bernard <arielle.bernard@lacity.org>

councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, eyde@discoveryschooltarzana.com

Andrea Shapiro <[REDACTED]>
To: Arielle.bernard@lacity.org

Mon, Feb 9, 2015 at 11:54 AM

RE: Council File Number 15-0088.

To Whom it May Concern,

I write in regard to the parking situation at my son's preschool, Discovery School, located on Topham Street, in Tarzana, CA. I have been attending this preschool for many years, with each of my three children. This year parking has become a great difficulty, causing me to walk great lengths in the street with my toddler to get to school. It is also a danger to drive the street because I am avoiding all the other little students too.

There are no sidewalks on much of the street, and not enough parking near enough the school due to the great amount of space being taken up by large RVs. It seems a safety hazard to allow these vehicles such close proximity to a school entrance.

I hope the situation can be remedied, as a school needs to be a safe place.

Thank you for listening,

Andrea R. Shapiro
[REDACTED]



Arielle Bernard <arielle.bernard@lacity.org>

Council File Number 15-0088 - Discovery School

Susan Nadell <[REDACTED]>

Sun, Feb 8, 2015 at 9:51 PM

To: Arielle.bernard@lacity.org

Cc: councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, edye@discoveryschooltarzana.com

February 8, 2015

Council File Number 15-0088

Dear Ms. Arielle Bernard,

My four-year old daughter attends Discovery School. It is a wonderful and yes, even magical place where little ones get to enjoy their childhood and parents such as myself, get to enjoy the peace of mind that comes with knowing our kids are safe and sound while away from us.

But lately I've noticed something disturbing just outside of this preschools haven and I strongly feel the need to bring this to your attention. I am concerned about the growing number of motor homes and campers parked outside of the school and along Topham Street. I drive past them every morning as I drop my daughter off and I wonder whose living inside and if their presence poses a threat to my child and other children who attend Discovery.

I'm sure that you can appreciate why this issue would make me, or any parent for that matter, extremely uneasy. That said, I respectfully request that the city put into place and promptly enforce parking restrictions that would remove these campers from the vicinity of the school.

Time is of the essence.

Thank you so much.

Susan Nadell



Hello,

My name is Mark Marinaccio and I have two young children that attend the Discovery School on Topham Street.

My wife and I pride ourselves on the lengths that we go to protect our children. We buy the safest car that we can afford and the safest car seat. We moved to an area with less crime and better public works and emergency responders and we put our children in a school with an excellent record for teaching and caring for them while they are out of our sight.

The parking situation at the school has gotten to become a safety concern for us.

Many young children like to have us parents bring them inside and settle them in for the day. In order to do this we must often park on the street, which has no speed bumps, a blind curve and rush hour traffic. Walking our children on the street, where there is no sidewalk, is dangerous enough with the passing cars but being able to park close to the school makes it a bit safer.

This is where the first issue with the motorhomes comes into play.

These vehicles average in size from 32' to 45' and the average car length is 13.5 ft. That means for every motorhome on the street up to three sets of children have to walk further to safety than they should.

When I first noticed the motorhome issue there were six of them taking up the spaces in front of the school.

That is up to 18 spaces being taken up or up to 18 children walking down the non-sidewalk, busy street.

I'm sure that most of us are very careful when walking with our children, after all that is something that we can control.

What about what we cannot control? Who is living inside these motorhomes?

When my wife and I moved our family into our current home we checked the sex offender registry to make sure we weren't putting our children at any unnecessary risk. That's something in our control since sex offenders are required to register and you can see if they were charged with any crimes against children.

What I cannot control as a parent is who now may be living in a motorhome directly in front of my children's school with the access and ability to watch their patterns routines and points of access. The police are not allowed to knock on their doors and ask if they are registered sex offenders and they may not even be on the title of the vehicle. All this leads to the potential for a dangerous loophole in the law that leaves our children unprotected.

I cannot control this but you can. You have the ability to enforce the law that governs what is parked on that street in front of the school and I am asking for your help in this matter.

I am asking for your help in keeping our children safe.

Thank you for your time,

Mark Marinaccio





Arielle Bernard <arielle.bernard@lacity.org>

Motor Homes parked outside of Discovery School on Topham Street, Tarzana.

Louise Dunn <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Feb 6, 2015 at 11:23 AM

To: arielle.bernard@lacity.org

Cc: Discovery School <eyde@discoveryschooltarzana.com>

Dear Arielle,

As parents of Discovery School, my husband (Chris Dunn) and I are fully behind the school's petition to restrict motor homes and campers from parking outside the school on Topham Street, Tarzana.

Not only do these larger vehicles take up parking space in an area which is not designed to cater for motor homes, but the owners of these vehicles break a current law which states that vehicles can't park more than three days in one spot on a city street.

I also wish to attend, that I have been approached twice by one of the occupants of the motors homes as I have attempted to put my two year old son into my car. The man, who appears to have some mental issues, yelled at me and my son. What he said didn't make sense, but his angry tone was not something I wish my son (or any student) to be exposed to on his way to or from the school.

We are unable to attend the meeting on Thursday January 22nd at the Tarzana Recreation Center, but I hope this email will be included in the council's decision to remove these vehicles from Topham Street.

If you require more information, please do not hesitate to contact us on 310 8047757.

Regards,

Louise & Chris Dunn





Arielle Bernard <arielle.bernard@lacity.org>

Re: Council File Number 15-0088

kasey@kspconsultingservices.com <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Feb 5, 2015 at 8:38 PM

To: Arielle.bernard@lacity.org

Cc: councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, eyde@discoveryschooltarzana.com

Dear Ms. Bernard, as a concerned and active parent, I am infuriated and incredibly troubled that large, unkempt and dilapidated RV's are parked directly outside the Discovery School pre-school where my two-year old daughter attends everyday. I not only fear my child's safety as well as the other children's safety (I am not sure who resides in these RV's) but I am also concerned for my own safety and the safety of my other baby who is always in tow with me when I drop off my toddler. Something must be done to eradicate this issue - it is truly frightening and disturbing. In addition to the incredible safety concern, these RV eyesores also make parking incredibly difficult and challenging as they take up almost an entire sidewalk. There have been countless times that I am forced to park at least 1/4 to 1/2 a mile away from the school because I can't find a space to park...and when you have a 15 month old and two-and a half year old, you can only imagine how challenging this can be. As a parent and a concerned citizen, I implore you to take immediate action and not allow these RV's to park themselves on Topham or anywhere near the Discovery School pre-school. I appreciate your understanding, support and swift action.

If you have any questions or require any additional testimony or information, please contact me anytime.

Sincerely,
Kasey Pitillo

Kasey Pitillo
KSP Consulting, Inc.
[REDACTED]



Arielle Bernard <arielle.bernard@lacity.org>

Parking on Topham St. in Tarzana, Council File Number 15-0088

Sara Elice <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Feb 5, 2015 at 6:19 PM

To: Arielle.bernard@lacity.org

Cc: councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, "eyde@discoveryschooltarzana.com"

<eyde@discoveryschooltarzana.com>

Dear Ms. Bernard,

I'm writing to you to discuss my concerns regarding the parking situation on the 18700 block of Topham St. in Tarzana, between Yolanda and Wilbur Streets. It is my understanding that this issue will be discussed further by the City Council on February 11, 2015 with the reference Council File Number 15-0088.

Parking on this segment of Topham Street has become a true safety concern for myself and other parents whose children attend Discovery School, located at 18719 Topham St. Over time, the street has become a home to several RVs, as well as other oversized vehicles, that are frankly too wide to fit the two-way street. This week driving into school, I have counted at least 5 RVs parked on this single block stretch, in addition to a mobile billboard truck, and on more than one occasion, a multi-level car transporter. All of these vehicles are wider than the average car, minivan, or passenger SUV, and when vehicles of any kind are parked on both sides of Topham St., the travel lanes become very narrow and cars going in opposite directions must pass with extreme care. Add the additional width of the oversized vehicles such as RVs and the street is simply impassable in both directions at the same time, creating a backup of vehicles, particularly at peak hours, when one direction must wait for the other direction to pass before continuing. Topham St. has several businesses along the road that receive deliveries from large trucks, as well as a site that features construction equipment that is occasionally driven on the road. When one of these large vehicles must use a travel lane, with the RVs parked along the side, the street becomes nearly impassable. This is a true safety and logistics issue that must be addressed.

I am also concerned for the safety of my children outside of my vehicle. I have observed men exiting and entering the RVs and leering at the families coming in and out of our school. It may be that they are simply observing the goings on, but I and the other parents know nothing about these individuals, and without permanent addresses, we have no knowledge of whether any of them might be on the registered sex offenders list or otherwise dangerous in some way. They are unfriendly, discourteous, and frankly scary. Some have made offhand crude and rude remarks to child caretakers and have used inappropriate language in front of children. They can, unseen, watch our children go in and out of the school, they know the precise times children are released, and though we are all very careful to hold hands and maintain eye contact with our children, we all know that children are not always predictable. They get upset, pull away, and run. Or they play games and hide cause they think it's fun and don't understand the dangers. It's scary and dangerous under any circumstances, but with the knowledge that there are unseen people just a quick open and close of a door away, in vehicles with no windows into a very sizable compartment, that could easily lure or ensnare a child that does one of these unpredictable things, the worry is certainly greater. There is no regular record of the movements of these RVs and a child could be gone before you have the chance to get a license plate or figure out how to proceed. Unlike a place of business or a fixed residence where you could knock on a door and investigate any problems that occur, with these RVs there is the concern that should something occur, there is no recourse whatsoever. It's truly frightening. Yes, other smaller vehicles might park on the street and pose a risk of sorts, but they are harder to hide behind, generally have windows into compartments, thus allowing a caretaker to see if there is someone inside, and presumably have not been sitting day in and day out aware of the comings and goings of these children.

In addition, I am concerned specifically from a health and safety point of view. I walked by one of the RVs today and observed the strong stench of urine. Human waste is being excreted onto the street and/or not being properly contained within some of these vehicles. My children do not differentiate between a puddle of urine and a puddle from a sprinkler and love to splash in them despite my protests. We are talking about children primarily ages 2-5 who cannot understand that there might be a health risk in this behavior. And while I do my best to avoid walking against these RVs, they have created such a parking problem along the street, that I often have



Arielle Bernard <arielle.bernard@lacity.org>

Re: Council File Number 15-0088

Margot Isfan <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Feb 4, 2015 at 2:45 PM

To: Arielle Bernard <arielle.bernard@lacity.org>

Cc: Discovery School <eyde@discoveryschooltarzana.com>

Dear Ms. Bernard—

I am writing to you in regards to my extreme concern with the amount of motor homes and campers that have been parked outside Discovery's Nursery school on Topham Street for the past couple of months, Council File 15-0888. As a parent of a 3 and 5 year old, there is no reason why people should be able to camp out and practically live outside of a children's school. This is an extreme safety issue in front of a nursery school. I do understand this is a residential area, and because of that we're constantly dealing with other problems but this is one I believe can be fixed and changed with your and the city's help.

Unfortunately, I'm unable to testify at the City's Transportation Committee as I am a full-time working mom but I'm hoping that we can all work together to address this manner. The most important thing is keeping our children safe and I will do whatever it takes to do so, especially when parents are not around to protect them.

Thank you,
Margot Isfan
(Discovery School Parent)



Arielle Bernard <arielle.bernard@lacity.org>

Concerned Parents - Parking Restrictions on Topham Street

1 message

Anne Q <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Feb 6, 2015 at 6:33 PM

To: Arielle Bernard <arielle.bernard@lacity.org>

Cc: councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, Discovery School <eyde@discoveryschooltarzana.com>

To: Transportation Committee

Re: Council File Number 15-0088.

February 6, 2015

Dear Committee Members,

I'd like to call to your attention a very serious matter and ask for your cooperation in finding a solution that is amicable to all parties. On Topham Street in Tarzana (between Yolanda Ave and Wilbur Ave) there is an increasing amount (approximately 5-7) of RV's parked in close proximity to Discovery School. These RV's appear to be barely operable and remain parked on the street 24/7. They currently move inches or feet to adhere to current laws. I am very sympathetic to the fact that these aren't just RV's, but are someone's homes, which is why, I'd like to find a long-term solution for all parties regarding the following.

Over the past few weeks the occupants of these RV's have made several of us parents extremely nervous and unsettling about the potential risks when we drop off our kids and we are no longer there to protect them. There have been a few instances that I'm aware of, that are red flags. Incident #1, a man is seen pushing a shopping cart and yelling about how much he hates children directly across a preschool is unacceptable and should not be tolerated. The second incident involves a man shaving his head with a knife; due to his close proximity to a preschool this is unacceptable.

Other parents have made statements that the occupants appear to be on drugs. Given today's society, we as parents take this situation extremely seriously. If drug use is involved, we don't know what could happen to our children and local residents and we certainly don't want to wait until it's too late to find out.

Lastly, on Topham Street there are no sidewalks. Due to the RV's close proximity to the school, we as parents are forced to park a significant distance from the school and must walk with infants and toddlers in the middle of the street. This is another safety concern that can be mitigated if more people are able to park in front of the school instead of hundreds of feet down the block.

At the very least, we're asking for your assistance by enlisting new parking restrictions that would provide the local police department more latitude in helping us ensure the safety of our children and community.

Thanks in advance for your time and cooperation.

Regards,

Mark and Anne Quest

(Parents to a Discovery School student)