



Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Fwd: rec and parks gardener alert!!!

Erika Pulst <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
To: Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Wed, Apr 26, 2017 at 8:04 AM

—— Forwarded message ——

From: Dee Paul <deepaulgo@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Apr 25, 2017 at 10:05 PM
Subject: rec and parks gardener alert!!!
To: erika.pulst@lacity.org

Hi Erika,

My name is Dee Paul, I'm co-chair of the Beautification Committee for the LFIA (Los Feliz Improvement Assoc).

At our meeting tonight the subject of Rec and Parks budget cuts came up, and the possible firing of many of the park's gardeners. PLEASE do not allow this to happen!

We recognize that it is a huge challenge for you to keep the parks going, and we know that your budget is stretched, but please avoid cutting the much needed garden maintenance staff - they are so necessary for the public's enjoyment of our recreational and park environments.

Friends of Griffith Park volunteers and the Urban Forestry Division just planted 150 new young saplings in the Fendell section last Saturday, we are all fighting to keep green spaces alive and healthy in this city of 4.3 million.

Please let the LFIA and Friends of Griffith Park know how we can help you in this good cause.

Good luck at your meeting Wednesday.

Best regards,
Dee Paul



Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Fwd: regarding Budget Cuts for RAP

Erika Pulst <erika.pulst@lacity.org>

Wed, Apr 26, 2017 at 8:13 AM

To: Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Erika Pulst
Council and Public Services
Office of the City Clerk
City of Los Angeles
(213) 978-1057



—— Forwarded message ——

From: **Matrushka Construction** <info@matrushka.com>

Date: Wed, Apr 26, 2017 at 8:11 AM

Subject: regarding Budget Cuts for RAP

To: erika.pulst@lacity.org

To Whom it May Concern

I am writing in regards to the 2017 Los Angeles budget and cuts. I am referring specifically to the Recreation and Parks budget cuts of 34 gardeners.

I believe this would be a huge mistake for they are essential to helping maintain our parks. I am the volunteer coordinator for Friends of Griffith Park. I see on a daily basis how hard it is for the gardeners to keep up and maintain Griffith Park. If anything they need more help. Our parks are over run with recreation and tourists yet they budgets for those who maintain them are to be cut? That seems incredible short sighted and reckless.

I urge you to not cut their positions for they are desperately needed. These gardeners are essential for the safety and well being of the public of Los Angeles.

Thank you

Laura Howe
Friends of Griffith Park
Volunteer Coordinator



Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Fwd: Budget Committee - Department of Recreation and Parks' Budget

Erika Pulst <erika.pulst@lacity.org>

Wed, Apr 26, 2017 at 8:38 AM

To: Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

—— Forwarded message ——

From: Mary Button <marybutton59@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Apr 26, 2017 at 8:29 AM

Subject: Fwd: Budget Committee - Department of Recreation and Parks' Budget

To: erika.pulst@lacity.org

—— Forwarded message ——

From: Mary Button <marybutton59@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Apr 26, 2017 at 8:24 AM

Subject: Budget Committee - Department of Recreation and Parks' Budget

To: councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.englisher@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org,
councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org

Cc: joe.salaices@lacity.org

Dear Budget Committee,

I am unable to attend the committee meeting this afternoon, so please accept my comments for the record.

I am on the board of Friends of Griffith Park and believe that our parks are a priority and are in dire need of funding. Please do not cut their budget. If anything, our parks deserve an increased budget.

Of particular concern are the rangers, who perform multitude tasks:

- Assist in medical emergencies
- Brush fire patrol and fighting
- Search & Rescue time and time again
- Animal emergencies
- Management of park signs and gates

All of this is on top of their Dispatch, Patrol and Security duties.

We can not afford to cut the maintenance budget of our parks, which serve millions of people each week.

Thank you,
Mary Button



Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Fwd: Budget Committee - Department of Recreation and Parks' Budget

Erika Pulst <erika.pulst@lacity.org>

Wed, Apr 26, 2017 at 9:11 AM

To: Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

—— Forwarded message ——

From: **Gerry Hans** <gerry@friendsofgriffithpark.org>

Date: Wed, Apr 26, 2017 at 8:59 AM

Subject: Re: Budget Committee - Department of Recreation and Parks' Budget

To: erika.pulst@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.english@lacity.org,
councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org

Cc: Joe Salices <joe.salices@lacity.org>, Michael Shull <Michael.A.Shull@lacity.org>

Dear Budget Committee,

Ten years ago on May 7th, eight hundred plus acres burned in Griffith Park, one of the most devastating brush fires it has ever had. I dread the inevitable repeat of this this event due to under-staffing.

While the increase in recruitment of new Park Rangers has been stepped up, their presence in our parks is largely to control tourists, security, and emergency response. And it is not nearly enough. Unlike our National and State Parks, Park Rangers have little time to concentrate on protecting sensitive habitat and to interact in a positive way with the tradition park users, the citizens of Los Angeles. Yet, at least Griffith Park stands up to our nation's favorite public parks in terms of the abundant, precious biodiversity.

I feel that a huge allotment of funds for more Park Rangers is justified by the huge increase in money coming in from tourism dollars! This is especially true for Griffith Park, the number one stop for tourists.

The regional parks, including Griffith Park, need extra help keeping tourists from flocking off-trail; they are currently uncontrolled. Habitat damage is not easily reversible.

Also, to cut the maintenance budget at a time when Griffith Park is being impacted by tourists, while our native trees are dying, and when an huge increase of park attendance is being seen, makes no sense.

Thanks you for taking issue with the proposed Parks budget.

Gerry Hans
VP, Science and Conservation
Friends of Griffith Park



Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Fwd: Proposed Rec & Parks Budget

Erika Pulst <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
To: Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Wed, Apr 26, 2017 at 10:37 AM

—— Forwarded message ——

From: Don Andres <andres2007@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Wed, Apr 26, 2017 at 10:33 AM

Subject: Proposed Rec & Parks Budget

To: councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, Councilmember Mitchell Englander <councilmember.englisher@lacity.org>, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, erika.pulst@lacity.org

Cc: Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, ap.diaz@lacity.org, Vicki Israel <vicki.israel@lacity.org>, councilmember.ryu@lacity.org, Don Andres <andres2007@sbcglobal.net>, Tori.Kjer@tpl.org

To: Councilmember Paul Krekorian (Chair) [213-473-7002](tel:213-473-7002)

Councilmember Mitch Englander [213-473-7012](tel:213-473-7012)

Councilmember Nury Martinez [213-473-7006](tel:213-473-7006)

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield [213-473-7003](tel:213-473-7003)

Councilmember Mike Bonin [213-473-7011](tel:213-473-7011)

Dear Councilmembers of the City Council Budget Committee:

The Friends of Runyon Canyon, a non-profit Foundation supporting the LA Department of Recreation and Parks, strongly opposes the devastating proposed cuts to RAP's budget. Parks are a necessary part of any city and essential to the health of a city's residents. As you know, parks are extremely beneficial to a person's physical and mental well-being.

The City should protect its investment in our parks by maintaining them properly to keep them safe and clean so that these marvelous assets do not deteriorate and are preserved for future generations. Deferred maintenance has already occurred in many parks, and will ultimately cost the city much more in the long run. It is unconscionable to significantly reduce the park maintenance staff even further in the Rec & Parks budget which is already at a level that cannot care for and maintain the numerous LA City park areas.

The Los Angeles area has had several years of drought resulting in weakened trees and areas without vegetation. The RAP staff works diligently to maintain trees for shady areas in parks and tries to restore vegetation. The heavy rains this winter and the recent strong winds have caused damage to many park areas -- all of which must be removed by the park staff. There is also a great need to keep park visitors on appropriate trails to prevent erosion -- this too is facilitated by the RAP staff creating techniques along designated trails to protect the fragile habitat.

Runyon Canyon - a 137 acre park in the heart of Hollywood, is the perfect example of the park importance meeting the needs for the LA community. With nearly 2 million visits per year, this park is enjoyed by a wide variety of local, regional, and international people hiking, exercising, and enjoying this rare greenspace commodity in our ever-developing city. Our growing Los Angeles population resides now more than ever in apartments and condos without yards, and thus our City's open green spaces are even more valuable and essential to the livelihood of the LA residents. Community-based groups like our Foundation have stepped up to help preserve and maintain parks like Runyon Canyon along with volunteer clean-up groups -- it is time for the City of LA to step up to its responsibilities for our parks.

The LA Department of Rec and Parks is attempting to maintain more parks than ever before. The RAP budget should be *increased*, not decreased. The Friends of Runyon urges you to maintain and increase the RAP budget for its maintenance staff.

Very truly yours,

Don Andres, President

Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation

andres2007@sbcglobal.net

[323-333-7445](tel:323-333-7445) (cell)





Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Fwd: Proposed Rec & Parks Budget

Erika Pulst <erika.pulst@lacity.org>

Wed, Apr 26, 2017 at 10:37 AM

To: Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

—— Forwarded message ——

From: Don Andres <andres2007@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Wed, Apr 26, 2017 at 10:33 AM

Subject: Proposed Rec & Parks Budget

To: councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, Councilmember Mitchell Englander <councilmember.english@lacity.org>, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, erika.pulst@lacity.org

Cc: Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, ap.diaz@lacity.org, Vicki Israel <vicki.israel@lacity.org>, councilmember.ryu@lacity.org, Don Andres <andres2007@sbcglobal.net>, Tori.Kjer@tpl.org

To: Councilmember Paul Krekorian (Chair) [213-473-7002](tel:213-473-7002)

Councilmember Mitch Englander [213-473-7012](tel:213-473-7012)

Councilmember Nury Martinez [213-473-7006](tel:213-473-7006)

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield [213-473-7003](tel:213-473-7003)

Councilmember Mike Bonin [213-473-7011](tel:213-473-7011)

Dear Councilmembers of the City Council Budget Committee:

The Friends of Runyon Canyon, a non-profit Foundation supporting the LA Department of Recreation and Parks, strongly opposes the devastating proposed cuts to RAP's budget. Parks are a necessary part of any city and essential to the health of a city's residents. As you know, parks are extremely beneficial to a person's physical and mental well-being.

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The LA Department of Rec and Parks is attempting to maintain more parks than ever before. The RAP budget should be *increased*, not decreased. The Friends of Runyon urges you to maintain and increase the RAP budget for its maintenance staff.

Very truly yours,

Don Andres, President

Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation

andres2007@sbcglobal.net

[323-333-7445](tel:323-333-7445) (cell)





Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Fwd: Possible budget cuts to RAP maintenance staff

Erika Pulst <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
To: Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Wed, Apr 26, 2017 at 11:15 AM

—— Forwarded message ——

From: Kathryn Louyse <fauxnov1@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 26, 2017 at 11:14 AM
Subject: Possible budget cuts to RAP maintenance staff
To: erika.pulst@lacity.org

Erika Pulst
Budget and Finance Committee

Dear Erika

The entirety of Griffith Park encompasses over 4,300 acres (by some standards, the largest Urban Wilderness Park in the United States) – a sizable plot of land by any measure.

Adding to the sheer size of this Parkland, RAP maintenance crews face many challenges not seen in other city parks... the Park configuration, deep canyons, drought, and proximity to residential zones... a list that grows daily as more residents discover the Park's amenities.

Compound these issues with the number of visitors which, according to some estimates meet or exceed 10 million per year.

While traffic measures will potentially curb more vehicles from entering the Park, they would in no way lessen the number of visitors entering the Park using rapid transit or other means of ingress.

So, in short... how would trimming the Park staff by 34 (including 8 senior positions) help this or any Park face increasing challenges? If anything, the staff should be increased to meet demands created by the avalanche of individuals and vehicles utilizing our Parks year-round.

I urge the committee to evaluate all concerns before eliminating important staff members necessary to maintain the health of Parklands.

Thank you

Kathryn Louyse
Friends of Griffith Park board member



Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Fwd: Proposed Budget for Rec & Parks

Erika Pulst <erika.pulst@lacity.org>

Wed, Apr 26, 2017 at 12:10 PM

To: Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

—— Forwarded message ——

From: Gemoets, Travis M. <TXG@jmbm.com>

Date: Wed, Apr 26, 2017 at 12:09 PM

Subject: Proposed Budget for Rec & Parks

To: "councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org" <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, Councilmember Mitchell Englander <councilmember.englander@lacity.org>, "councilmember.martinez@lacity.org" <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, "councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org" <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, "councilmember.bonin@lacity.org" <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, "erika.pulst@lacity.org" <erika.pulst@lacity.org>, "Cc: 'Michael Shull'" <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, "ap.diaz@lacity.org" <ap.diaz@lacity.org>, Vicki Israel <vicki.israel@lacity.org>, "councilmember.yu@lacity.org" <councilmember.yu@lacity.org>, "Tori.Kjer@tpl.org" <Tori.Kjer@tpl.org>

To: Councilmember Paul Krekorian (Chair) 213-473-7002

Councilmember Mitch Englander 213-473-7012

Councilmember Nury Martinez 213-473-7006

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield 213-473-7003

Councilmember Mike Bonin 213-473-7011

Dear Councilmembers of the City Council Budget Committee:

My name is Travis Gemoets. I am an LA native and a resident of the Nichols Canyon area of Los Angeles. I strongly oppose the devastating proposed cuts to RAP's budget. Parks are a necessary part of any city and essential to the health of a city's residents. As you know, parks are extremely beneficial to a person's physical and mental well-being.

The City should protect its investment in our parks by maintaining them properly to keep them safe and clean so that these marvelous assets do not deteriorate and are preserved for future generations. Deferred maintenance has already occurred in many parks, and will ultimately cost the city much more in the long run. It is unconscionable to significantly reduce the park maintenance staff even further in the Rec & Parks budget which is already at a level that cannot care for and maintain the numerous LA City park areas.

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I am a frequent visitor to nearby Runyon Canyon - a 137 acre park in the heart of Hollywood. This is the perfect example of a park which must be able to continue to meet the needs for the LA community. With nearly 2 million visits per year, this park is enjoyed by a wide variety of local, regional, and international visitors who enjoy hiking, exercising, and walking their dogs in this rare greenspace commodity in our ever-developing city. Our growing Los Angeles population resides now more than ever in apartments and condos without yards, and thus our City's open green spaces are even more valuable and essential to the livelihood of the LA residents. Community-based groups have stepped up to help preserve and maintain parks like Runyon Canyon along with volunteer clean-up groups -- it is time for the City of LA to step up to its responsibilities for our parks.

The LA Department of Rec and Parks is attempting to maintain more parks than ever before. The RAP budget should be *increased*, not decreased. I urge you to maintain and increase the RAP budget for its maintenance staff.

Very truly yours,

Travis M. Gemoets