

## Communication from Public

**Name:** CSC  
**Date Submitted:** 09/24/2019 11:38 AM  
**Council File No:** 17-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** I fully support the Tour Bus Ordinance (CF 17-1115). The following transgressions on Mulholland Dr by tour buses adversely impacts the safety of residents and the tour bus clients, and have been observed by a local resident: Tour buses regularly stop on WB Mulholland in No Parking zone between Mulholland and Sunny Cove while partially blocking WB Mulholland traffic lane - tour buses straddle fog line forcing WB Mulholland traffic into EB Mulholland traffic lane. Location is immediately before blind curve. Tour buses regularly stop on WB Mulholland in No Parking zone between Sunny Cove and Hollywood Bowl Overlook while partially blocking WB Mulholland traffic lane - tour buses straddle fog line forcing WB Mulholland traffic into EB Mulholland traffic lane. Tour buses regularly make illegal left hand turn from Hollywood Bowl Overlook onto Mulholland WB. Location is immediately after a WB Mulholland blind curve. Tour buses regularly make illegal left turn from WB Mulholland into Hollywood Bowl Overlook. Location is immediately after a WB Mulholland blind curve. Tour buses regularly stop in No Parking zone located on WB Mulholland between Outpost and Macapa. Tour buses regularly stop at intersection of WB Mulholland and Pacific View Trail. Tour buses block intersection forcing Pacific View Trail outbound traffic into Pacific View inbound traffic lane. Tour buses also block Pacific View Trail exiting sight lines of Mulholland EB traffic. Tour buses regularly stop immediately in traffic lane after blind curve located just before Runyon Canyon street parking on WB Mulholland. Tour buses regularly stop in No Parking zone after blind curve located just before Runyon Canyon street parking on WB Mulholland. Tour buses occasionally cross WB Mulholland to EB Mulholland and stop in No Parking zone facing oncoming traffic and straddling fog line forcing EB Mulholland traffic into WB Mulholland traffic just before a blind curve. Tour buses regularly stop in WB Mulholland traffic lanes between Mulholland Bridge and Pyramid Place. Tour buses regularly slow down in WB Mulholland traffic lanes between Mulholland Bridge and Pyramid Place. It is extremely unfortunate that the quality of life of so many residents, many who are (retired and) in their homes during the day, is severely and negatively impacted by the actions of these tour buses. The city must act to put a stop on this with urgency as these residents have paid dearly

for too long.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Daniel Bernstein

**Date Submitted:** 09/24/2019 11:56 AM

**Council File No:** 17-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** I live in CD 4 and bicycle many of the streets that tour buses use. Our community has worked with state and city elected representatives to solve the problems we see regularly due to the tour buses. Please support 17-1115 and make sure the use of tour buses in Los Angeles can be well regulated. During my bike rides on and around Mulholland Drive, I have seen the bus drivers speaking on microphones to their bus riders while driving. From my personal experience, the bus drivers are as distracted as those drivers who use a cell phone while driving. Many times I have to cry out to avoid being hit by the tour buses as they stop and start from their illegal stops on the side of the road. Further, these stopped buses on the side of the road force bicyclists into the center of the roadway. When the Santa Monica National Recreation Area was formed by Congress, the sides of Mulholland Drive were to be for bicyclists and pedestrians. The tour bus industry saw an opportunity to make money and has invaded the space planned when the recreation area was formed. Thank you for your time, Dan

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Richard Klug

**Date Submitted:** 09/24/2019 02:25 PM

**Council File No:** 17-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** I strongly urge you to follow the 4 recommendations of the transportation committee and approve this ordinance so that it can be considered by the full Council. My neighborhood has had nothing but trouble and aggravation from these tour busses who could care less about the passenger's safety or whether they obey the law. They flagrantly disobey street signs, block roadways and create general havoc in our area. We need this ordinance to restore order in our neighborhood. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Peter

**Date Submitted:** 09/24/2019 02:48 PM

**Council File No:** 17-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear City Councilmembers, Tour buses in the Hollywood Hills area have become particularly troublesome. Many of my friends and neighbors share similar stories of dangerous close calls with these tour bus operators, which happens every day. The drivers operate the tour buses with maximum effort to please their paying passengers and almost NO effort to obey traffic laws. This puts the rest of us in hazardous situations. But there is also a core rudeness commonly displayed by these drivers. They often honk, gesture rudely (middle finger raised) and yell at other drivers who are simply trying to get safely by their tour buses. They have also told their passengers loudly: "Just ignore them. The people up here are on serious drugs". On one particular occasion, my family was driving to lunch and attempted to exit our narrow cul-de-sac. We couldn't because a tour bus was stopped broadside to us right in front of the Stop sign. After waiting a bit, we tooted politely to let the driver know that we couldn't move and were unable to leave the street. In response, he yelled at us and told us that we would have to wait. So in addition to driving dangerously, the tour bus drivers have the nerve to add rude behavior to this unacceptable situation. They lie, slander, harass and bully the local residents. This cannot continue. Please put a stop to this by restricting tour buses from our otherwise quiet residential neighborhoods. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Robert Mansell

**Date Submitted:** 09/24/2019 02:55 PM

**Council File No:** 17-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** We need safety regulations to protect our hillside homes. Many of the streets up in the hills are substandard - most do not have curbs and gutters, many are too narrow for a firetruck to get by if there are cars on both sides (much less if an over-sized tour bus is clogging the way), many have excess vegetation which creates more of a fire hazard when dry, etc. These streets were not designed for the massive amount of over-sized vans and full sized buses with tourists, many of whom smoke in the van or bus (or light up the moment they get out to look at a view site or "celebrity home"). Please protect our hillside communities and put an end to these over-sized vans and buses in our neighborhood.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** David Sanov

**Date Submitted:** 09/24/2019 03:16 PM

**Council File No:** 17-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am posting this comment in support of CF-17-1115 to restrict the incessant tour busses from accessing the small and busy streets of the Hollywood Hills. I have personally witnessed several accidents at the location where tour busses / vans are stopped on a blind curve to illegally turn left into the Jerome C. Daniel Overlook (above the Hollywood Bowl). An occasional tour is understandable, but recently the sheer number of vans/busses is so excessive and dangerous, that it is out of control. On Mulholland Boulevard, I witness almost daily, these vans/busses partially pull over (with half of their vehicles in the lane) gesturing to other cars to illegally pass (which causes them to have to cross the double yellow lines) on a blind curve. I have seen pedestrians (customers of the tour busses) almost get hit while they cross Mulholland Blvd on a blind curve after the driver of the van parked illegally on the other side of the road. They seem to completely ignore all the "No parking" and "No left turn" signs in addition to violating the laws of impeding traffic, and driving on the wrong side of the road so people can get photos of the Hollywood Sign. The actions of these drivers are extremely dangerous, and its only a matter of time that someone is killed. I would hate to see the City of LA in a position of liability, especially having been made aware of the unenforced violations.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jacquelin Sonderling  
**Date Submitted:** 09/24/2019 10:41 AM  
**Council File No:** 17-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** It is imperative that tour buses be banned from our hillside streets. In particular - Mulholland. Daily - no, hourly - they pose great danger to drivers, pedestrians - anyone who needs to use Mulholland for any reason. During the most popular times, you can stand in one spot and count dozen of tour buses passing within just a few minutes minutes. The sheer number of buses is out of control. We are overrun. Tour bus drivers seem to think laws don't apply to them. They stop wherever they want on Mulholland - quite frequently on blind curves - pointing out the view and whatever tall tales they're telling to their passengers. They often block traffic - just to give passengers a breathtaking view of the city. Meanwhile, cars back up behind them - and they just simply don't care. If you dare to honk, you'll get one of three responses: a) nothing. They continue to sit there. b) they instruct the passengers to wave at the cars they're blocking or c) they instruct the passengers to flip off the drivers who they're blocking. The drivers run stop signs, they block side streets so residents can't get in and out of their own streets. And they continue to use loud speakers rather than the earphones the law requires (I know - I live about half a block off Mulholland, and I can hear the drivers on their loudspeakers in my backyard.) Every time I have to drive past the Hollywood Bowl Overlook, I feel that I'm taking my life in my hands. I never know what's going to be blocking the parking area, backing up cars into the street or - worse - which tour bus is going to stopped on the blind curve. It's a nightmare. We have a very hard time containing the traffic chaos at Runyon Canyon. Without Parking Enforcement officers assigned all day every day, we wouldn't be able to get through the intersection at Pyramid Place and Mulholland. Yet it's common to see tour buses stopped, blocking access to Pyramid, while the driver spins some tale about Runyon Canyon. Imagine that dozens and dozens of times each day, every day. The tour buses are out of control, and the problem continues to grow. Each season, new companies (both regulated and rogue - but who cares? Nothing is enforced) add to the mess. The drivers think they own the area and can do whatever they want, safety be damned. It's time to put some brakes on these companies who think they can do whatever they want, wherever they want. It's time to make these areas safe again for residents and people who truly need to use them.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Taia Siphron

**Date Submitted:** 09/24/2019 10:50 AM

**Council File No:** 17-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** The liability of Tour Vans in the Hills with regards to wildfires and safe evacuation for the residents is growing at an alarming rate. If a wildfire breaks out in any of these neighborhoods in the hills there are very limited roads in which to evacuate the residents. Our street is a cul-de-sac and so we have only one way to escape if wildfire breaks out. Mulholland Drive was built in the twenties and was therefore never designed to withstand commercial Tour Vans. If you think this is an unlikely scenario, think about Paradise California and the Berkeley Hills fires. The residents had to navigate narrow mountainous roads exactly like the roads in the Hollywood Hills. The results were disastrous. People were burned to death in their cars just trying to get out. Remove the Tour Vans from the Hollywood Hills altogether, the liability and the risk to human lives is not worth the risks.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Barbara Rounds  
**Date Submitted:** 09/24/2019 10:58 AM  
**Council File No:** 17-1115  
**Comments for Public Posting:** I live on Mulholland Drive and the tour buses are a real hazard as they park on the side of the street in non-designated parking spots.  
B. Rounds

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Danielle Mead

**Date Submitted:** 09/24/2019 11:14 AM

**Council File No:** 17-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** I strongly urge the Transportation Committee to support the Tour Bus Ordinance as recommended by LADOT. The ordinance establishes a transparent set of criteria based on public safety, which balances the city's support for tourism and the need for safety on residential streets. By focusing on specific public safety criteria rather than the type or location of the street, this ordinance will give the city and the public an effective mechanism to restrict tour buses on streets throughout the city wherever they pose a risk to residents, pedestrians and drivers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 09/23/2019 01:17 PM

**Council File No:** 17-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** I have been a resident of the hills for many years. It's always been a safe area to walk with my child, ride my bike or take my dog for a walk. With the recent tour buses coming through the neighborhood, the streets have become increasingly unsafe. Tour operators often exceed the speed limits, park in the middle of the street while pointing out homes or sights, make illegal u-turns or stop on the road on Mulholland Drive, which has many blind curves, making it increasingly dangerous for normal driving. Because I know the streets and curves, I know in advance to proceed extra slowly around certain curves or streets; however, I cannot count on this being the case for people who just happen to be driving on one of our streets.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** E Stuart Wright  
**Date Submitted:** 09/24/2019 07:31 AM  
**Council File No:** 17-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** The approximately 4 mile stretch of Mulholland from Cahuenga to Wrightwood attracts over 100 tour vans daily because of the unique points of interest within its boundaries. The first point of interest driving west on Mulholland from Cahuenga you have an unobstructed view of the Hollywood sign. Tour Vans frequently stop, obstructing traffic, so their passengers (tourists) are able to take pictures of the Hollywood sign. The next point of interest is the Hollywood Bowl Overlook where tour vans trying to gain access to the Overlook block Mulholland due to small number of vehicles the Overlook can accommodate. Frequently vans will park illegally on the north side of Mulholland forcing their passengers to cross Mulholland in 30 - 40 mile an hour traffic, near a blind curve, to access the Overlook on the south side of Mulholland. The 3rd point of interest is the intersection of Mulholland & Pacific View Trail. Tour vans often block this intersection so passengers can take pictures of the city. In addition to blocking access for Pacific View Trail and Pacific View Drive residents and emergency vehicles should they be necessary, that stretch of Mulholland is a no parking zone. The 4th point of interest is Runyon Canyon. Tour vans stop in the intersection of Pyramid & Mulholland to conduct tours. Once again obstructing traffic without regard for residents or commuters. The last point of interest is the Universal Overlook which has limited parking so the vans park illegally adjacent to the Overlook so people can take pictures of the city. In short the vans operate along this stretch of Mulholland without regard for laws totally disregarding posted signs of any kind and stopping in traffic where and when they want. They do this because they know there's no ENFORCEMENT! Tour operators have been heard saying that they obey laws in Beverly Hills because they believe Beverly Hills will enforce their laws. However when it comes to Los Angeles, tour operators know LAPD does not have the resources to enforce the laws. Tour vans add traffic congestion, block access to small streets, have a blatant disregard for our laws and have no respect for the communities they disrupt. Thank you

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Paul Golding

**Date Submitted:** 09/24/2019 09:39 AM

**Council File No:** 17-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** These photos demonstrating some of the illegal and dangerous tour bus actions described in the many letters you have received. All the tour busses in these photos have stopped in the roadway to look at points of interest. They are on Mulholland, a street with many blind curves, few stop signs and almost no traffic lights. By illegally stopping, the busses endanger their passengers and other drivers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Erena Radich  
**Date Submitted:** 09/24/2019 09:43 AM  
**Council File No:** 17-1115  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please stop Tour buses!!! They come on my street that so small ... parking on one side. Has blind curves everywhere! There will be a fatality... sooner than later! STOP TOUR BUSES!!!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Phil S.

**Date Submitted:** 09/24/2019 06:56 PM

**Council File No:** 17-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** We have been living at the corner of Wrightwood Drive and Mulholland Drive for over 20 years. The issue around these makeshift repurposed vans as "tour wagons" began some 3 or 4 years ago when we would see the odd one speeding along. That has now evolved unrestrained and unregulated into a van every 3 minutes from around 10 am until well into the evening, 7 days a week, 365 a year. Our primary concern, and I have been very active with Jessica Fugate at Councilman Krekorian's office about this, is safety. The operators of these wagons pay no attention to speed restriction signs, no stopping signs, or give any indicator warning when stopping or pulling over at a moment's notice to point something out to their passengers. The number of incidents of other motorists' safety being compromised; having to swerve, brake severely or frequently have the road obstructed are substantial and occur many times daily. We hear the constant car horns from our house as other motorists seek to make themselves noticeable to the drivers, evidently distracted by their tour commentary. Incidentally, I understand that they are not permitted to use externally audible public address equipment, but rest assured they blatantly do without any constraint or reserve. A quick look at review sites will confirm that frequently passengers are fearful of the speed at which they are being driven. I am also fairly sure that accepted vehicle safety standards and features probably run quite slim in these vans. However, the most dangerous thing we worry about is the issue of the collapsing embankment located on Mulholland Drive at Wrightwood Drive by our house. (Please see attached pdf #1) It is so unsafe that we will not set foot on it, yet these vehicles swerve onto it at considerable speed to get a good look at the view, frequently two or three in a line at one time. We have been complaining for 4 years not that it is a question of IF a van will go over but WHEN a van will go over. The open topped van would spill its passengers down the steep 80 foot drop and it would be difficult not to imagine certain death and severe injury to those victims. As such we have been petitioning and requesting a restrictive curb or bollards to be put up without success. We have even threatened to hold the City and elected officials responsible for fatalities, damage and any brushfire that might ensue in a tragedy such as this. On February 23rd 2019 that day arrived. A Star-Line



operated wagon went over as the ground gave way but by some fortunate miracle the van's complete fall was halted by a random rock. (Please see attached pdf #2) Nevertheless it took about four hours to pull the van out after evacuating it. After this happened the City finally put up two "No Stopping" signs. The tour operators pay absolutely no attention to these and continue to pull over. We have put up three additional "DANGER NO TOUR WAGON STOPPING" signs that are also ignored. I have personally telephoned many operator companies including StarTrack Tours, whose manager a Jeff Napshin, basically told me what to do with myself in vulgar language. I have approached the drivers and told them that it is unsafe for their passengers and either been told arrogantly to mind my own business at best or something again more vulgar. Several have said "we will keep it in mind" but still continue to pull over on to the embankment. Most recently we welcome Star-Line again, who must believe that sufficient time has now passed from their almost tragic incident to make it ok for them to pull over there again. If you would please see attached pdf #3 you will noticed that the "No Stopping" signs are completely ineffective. Please study these pictures of several buses lining up under the signs while not paying the slightest bit of attention. to illustrate the volume, these were taken during a 10 minute window. Jessica Fugate was kind enough to offer contact numbers for the LADoT Parking division to report parking violations for these signs, however they cannot accept complaints are only able to enforce violations if their agents are actually present at the time. As the vans only stay for less than a minute it is not practical to call to report them. I would stress to the committee that as a resident and permanent observer, that no matter how much the desire for profit, this activity is not one that we would consider even remotely safe and with the volume of the carriage of vans involved is completely overwhelming to what is already a hazardous mountain ridge and narrow highway. These vehicles need to stick to approved, safe routes and locations for tourism of which there are plenty throughout Hollywood. None of us want to see death, dismemberment, disaster or injury or any brush fire that may consume our homes. Thank you for your attention to this. Sincerely, Phil S. (full name available upon demand)







## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sheldon Willens  
**Date Submitted:** 09/24/2019 04:09 PM  
**Council File No:** 17-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** 1. The buses are mechanically dangerous. 2. There is no uniform safety standard applied to the numerous vehicles being used by the many different types and modifications of these vehicles. 3. Mulholland Drive is a narrow two lane road that curves dangerously. 4. These different vehicles have no seat belts or other protections. 5. Mulholland Drive from beginning to end is in a highly dangerous FIRE area. 6. Because of various apps now available to drivers using short cuts through the hills, traffic on Mulholland and access roads and streets has dramatically increased to the point increasingly dangerous overcrowding. 7. Outlook points are also dangerously dangerously over crowded and cause frequent traffic backups of cars, trucks, buses and other vehicles waiting in line. THESE BUSES ARE A DISASTER IN THE MAKING, AND ENORMOUS LIABILITY TO LIFE AND PROPERTY.