

Los Feliz improvement association

April 26, 2015

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Los Angeles City Council
Attn: Herbert J. Wesson Jr., President
200 No. Spring Street Room 530
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 14-1500-S1 RAP Self-operation of the Greek Theatre

Dear Council President Wesson and Councilmembers:

The Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA), representing 1000 households on the edge of Griffith Park hereby submits comments pertaining to your review of the Staff Report regarding the Department assuming operation of the Greek Theatre that was approved by the Recreation and Parks Commission on April 15.

The LFIA stands opposed to this course of action and strongly concurs with the points expressed in the April 8th letter sent to the RAP Commission by the Greek Theatre Advisory Committee (GTAC).

We would especially like to emphasize our agreement with GTAC on the following:

- 1. Opposition to the Department taking on the operation of the theatre:** It would be ill advised for Staff to take on this massive and complex task for which it has no prior experience and few resources. We would like to add that there is strong opposition in the community that arises out of skepticism as to the Department's ability and resources, along with a strong sentiment that this course is inconsistent with the Department's core mission. The depth of this opposition stems mainly from past and present experience, such as the current disruption imposed on Los Feliz due to the relocation of Hollywood Sign tourism traffic. It is largely felt that the Department is at its best when focused on core park management functions, such as correcting the substantial back-log of deferred maintenance including such basics as unusable bathrooms, crumbling retaining walls and other hazardous conditions that desperately need attention at parks and recreation centers all over this city.
- 2. Support of a two-year extension of the current contract:** Such an extension would continue smooth operation of the Greek with a predictable revenue stream for the City and allow time for the Department to design and issue a new RFP. The Department's repeated claim that this cannot be done has been refuted. We hope that the Council will vote to direct the Department to begin talks with Nederlander at once regarding an extension.

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Considering the two big issues of the RAP Greek Theatre self-management and Hollywood Sign tourism Traffic that stand to negatively impact our residents there should be no surprise at the wide community bafflement as to why the Department should be exploring such an option at all. Especially so, given the Greek Theatre, under its current management, is a national, award-winning model for smooth operations and neighborhood relations.

We urge you to step in, slow down the fast track, closely scrutinize this self-operation plan and determine whether or not the RAP staff has explored alternatives that provide comparable guaranteed revenue, far less risk for the City and less disruption to the neighborhood.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Laib', written over a circular scribble.

Los Feliz Improvement Association
Chris Laib, President

Cc: Tom LaBonge, Councilmember CD 4
Paul Krekorian, Chair, LA Council Budget & Finance Committee
Paul Koretz, Councilmember CD 5
Mitch O'Farrell, Chair, Arts, Parks, Health, Aging & River Committee
Michael Shull, General Manager, Recreation and Parks