



GREATER GRIFFITH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
*"Your Neighborhood. Your Voice. Your Council"*

PO Box 27003  
Los Angeles, CA 90027-0003



CERTIFIED COUNCIL #36

November 5, 2010

Councilman Tom LaBonge  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 North Spring Street, Room 480  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilman LaBonge,

On October 19, 2010, upon unanimous recommendation of the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Committee (PROS), the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC) voted 12 to 2 to send this letter of passive disapproval regarding the Haunted Hayride Event that recently took place in Griffith Park. This committee, through the board, wished to express its disapproval for this event based on the following issues:

- Concerns regarding fire risk due to the proximity of the event venue to highly volatile habitat and to careless smokers driving in the park late at night.
- The significant impact on normal users of that area of the park including Sierra Club hikers and the daytime picnickers who were displaced while the exhibits were in place. That area normally provides a tranquil and quiet environment for their chosen recreation.
- The Old Zoo area is a semi-natural, transitional area. The intensive use of this area by people and equipment creates noises and smells that impact wildlife usage and wildlife corridors to other areas of the park.
- Although this event was positioned as "green," there is a concern that the rhetoric of ecology was being used to confuse and mislead. Recycling and related "green" practices, do not begin to offset the negative environmental impact a large-scale commercial activity such as this visits on the Park's natural ecosystems, particularly its nocturnal species.
- This event represents a disturbing trend toward usage of our parks as revenue generators, and sets a precedent that undermines the natural values of our parks.
- There is concern that a new process for awarding concessions is being put in place, which circumvents public input. A company having commercial activity of this magnitude, which requires months of planning and discussion, surely had marketing contracts in place and long before the public became aware of it.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these issues and we look forward to increased community input prior to any subsequent events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Ostrow". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Ron Ostrow, President GGGPNC

By Gerry Hans, Interim Chair, PROS Committee  
and Jeff Gardner, Recreation Representative

Cc: Jessica Kornberg, GGPNC Secretary

Vicki Israel

Jon Kirk Murki

GGPNC Governing Board