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GGPNC CANDIDATE STATEMENT: AT LARGE

When I first considered moving out to L.A. from Washington, D.C., some ten-and-half years ago, everyone I knew said I would live out my days trapped in a car. They said I would never find the kind of community where you can walk to the post office, or to the movies, not to mention fine dining. But I found all those things and more in Los Feliz.

What truly has had the biggest impact on my life, though, is the sheer joy that running in Griffith Park provides. Running “off road,” the true natural beauty of the park is revealed in its entirety – from jagged mountainsides to teeming forests and delicate faunal life. I also love the cultural diversity that permeates the park, from my fellow runners in the Wild Mountain Runners and the Los Feliz Flyers, to the many families who stake out the grounds in the early morning hours to celebrate family get-togethers.

The first time I ran on the fire roads to the top of Mt. Hollywood, I was rewarded with a magisterial view that made me feel like I was floating on a bed of clouds as I gazed down on the still slumbering city below. That was when I realized how important it is to be living in the right community, whether you’re a home owner, or a nearly 11-year renter, like me.

Being a renter, not to mention single, I believe I represent a segment of the neighborhood that is often dismissed as “not counting.” When neighborhood councils convene to consider what’s best for the “greater good” of the community, all the factions that make up that community need to be considered.

Having previously worked in television in various capacities, I currently make my 9-5 home at Northern Trust, N.A., in downtown L.A. Due to the proximity of my job, I make it a point to keep the car in the garage to do my part to curtail our carbon footprint by relying instead on the DASH, LADOT, and Metro.

As for my quirky upbringing, my father was a Foreign Service Officer and I grew up overseas, where we lived in Bolivia, Colombia, Mexico and Poland. I have both a B.F.A. in Speech and Drama from Catholic University and an M.A. in Broadcast Journalism from American University. I have worked in various fields throughout my career, from script reading for theatre to serving as a bilingual Spanish-language television producer for the Voice of America, to commercial television, where I did several stints as a game show question researcher.

While I can’t claim to have a background in community organization, and I have never served on anything like a neighborhood council, I feel the time has come to step up and make sure my voice, and others like it, are heard. I promise to do my best to aid in the preservation and enjoyment for all of, not only our wonderful neighborhood, but our beautiful park – “just down the street.”