

# FOREST LAWN®

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June 6, 2023

Councilmember Nithya Raman  
City of Los Angeles  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 415  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Proposed Removal of Vehicular Traffic Lanes on Forest Lawn Drive

Honorable Councilmember Raman:

Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association is extremely concerned about Council District 4's (and the Department of Transportation's) consideration of the possible removal of travel lanes on Forest Lawn Drive in order to include protected bike lanes. We cannot overstate the negative consequences such a change would have for the operation of our Hollywood Hills Memorial-Park, the Mount Sinai Memorial Park, and other neighboring uses. This is an ill-advised concept that should not proceed.

As you may know, Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association is a non-profit, non-denominational organization that has been providing interment services to the Los Angeles area for over a hundred years. Forest Lawn's approximately 444-acre Hollywood Hills Memorial-Park on Forest Lawn Drive has served the community for 75 years and is the largest memorial-park serving Los Angeles. In 2012, the City approved Forest Lawn's long-term plans for the Hollywood Hills Memorial-Park, and we expect to continue to serve the community for many decades to come.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of people come to Forest Lawn Memorial-Park, Hollywood Hills, and access from Forest Lawn Drive is critical to our ability to serve the community. Maintaining the existing lane configuration on Forest Lawn Drive is critical to maintaining that access. While we appreciate Forest Lawn's inclusion in the recent key stakeholders meeting on May 3, 2023, hosted by Mr. Berker with your Council Office, and raised concerns in that meeting, we want to be clear that we are adamantly opposed to any reduction in vehicle capacity on Forest Lawn Drive.

On a daily basis, there are thousands of visitors coming to Forest Lawn Memorial-Park. In addition to the many funerals and memorial services held each day, Forest Lawn is also the location of various community educational and cultural programs, consistent with our primary mission as a place of interment. Throughout the day, there may be hundreds of cars coming to or leaving the Memorial-Park around the same time in connection with services or special events. Given that there is already queueing on Forest Lawn Drive that affects the travel lanes in both directions, it is alarming to consider the significant impacts of

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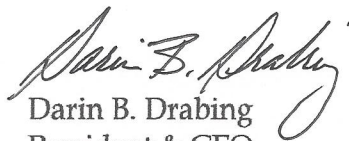
reducing the roadway to one travel lane in each direction. Not only would access to the Memorial-Park be inhibited, the adjacent streets and freeways would be adversely affected.

Conversely, we have not observed substantial bicycle use on Forest Lawn Drive. As was stated at the meeting, there are existing bike lanes on Forest Lawn Drive, and there is a planned bike path along the Los Angeles River (for which millions are being spent). It is not clear why the proposal to change the bike lanes is being considered. While we can appreciate the goal of improving safety, the enhancements would leave only one vehicle travel lane in each direction and would be disastrous for Forest Lawn Memorial-Park, our neighbor Mount Sinai Memorial Park, and motorists that rely on Forest Lawn Drive.

It was stated at the meeting that the idea to reconfigure the roadway arose in connection with the planned resurfacing for Forest Lawn Drive. However, resurfacing the roadway is not a reason to make such a substantial modification. And the resurfacing is desperately needed and should occur as soon as possible.

We respectfully request that the proposal be dropped and the necessary resurfacing of the roadway previously scheduled for this year proceed without further delay.

Sincerely,



Darin B. Drabing  
President & CEO

cc: Rachel Freeman, Deputy Mayor for Business and Economic Development  
Mehmet Berker, Senior Deputy, Council District Four  
Jay Kim, Assistant General Manager, Mobility Management Group, Los Angeles  
Department of Transportation  
Pamela Lee, Supervising Transportation Planner, Los Angeles Department of  
Transportation  
Charlie Ho, Supervising Transportation Planner, Los Angeles Department of  
Transportation  
Randy Schwab, General Manager, Mount Sinai Memorial Parks and Mortuaries  
Joy Forbes, Vice President, Planning and Development, NBCUniversal  
Daphne Sigala, Public Affairs & Community Engagement, Warner Bros. Studios  
Susan Sandler, Chief Legal Officer, Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association  
Dennis Madison, Vice President-Environmental Compliance, Forest Lawn  
Memorial-Park Association