

# FOREST LAWN®

FUNERALS • CREMATIONS • CEMETERIES

November 27, 2024

Mayor Karen Bass  
City of Los Angeles  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Honorable Mayor Bass:

For over 100 years, Forest Lawn Memorial-Parks & Mortuaries has been providing a critical public service to the residents of the greater Los Angeles area. Our Hollywood Hills Memorial-Park serves as the final resting place for hundreds of thousands of members of our community. As a nonprofit organization, we serve the needs of the community daily, and the City has relied on Forest Lawn in times of its own great need, including throughout the devastating coronavirus pandemic.

We are, thus, shocked and dismayed at how poorly and disrespectfully the City is treating Forest Lawn and the community that relies on this hallowed space.

Most recently, we have learned that the Department of Transportation, along with Councilmember Raman's office, are moving forward with plans that would reduce Forest Lawn Drive to just one travel lane in each direction directly in front of our cemetery and the neighboring Mount Sinai Memorial Park. Forest Lawn Drive provides the only access for family members and loved ones to visit our respective cemeteries. Any reduction in travel lanes would be disastrous and have a profoundly negative impact on our and Mount Sinai's ability to serve the community.

We and Mount Sinai raised serious concerns last year when this concept was first proposed by the Department and Council office. We and Mount Sinai made clear we were vehemently opposed to any such change.

Most recently, the Council office approached us for a meeting to discuss a revised plan for Forest Lawn Drive. We requested a copy of any plans in advance of setting a meeting in order to have a productive discussion. We were told by the Council office that no plans or presentation were available. That clearly was not true.

Despite our repeated requests for a copy of the plans or presentation, nothing was shared with us or Mount Sinai. We separately received word from other parties that the Council office made a presentation on November 20<sup>th</sup> to the Neighborhood Council regarding their proposed change to Forest Lawn Drive. And now a community meeting is being scheduled for December 4. And still, we and Mount Sinai have received nothing from the Department or Council office.

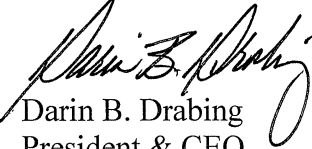
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We respectfully request a meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss the growing difficulty we are having in continuing to serve the Los Angeles community, as generations of Angelenos have come to expect. It is critical this ill-conceived idea of eliminating half the travel lanes on Forest Lawn Drive be stopped.

I can be reached at (323) 340-4699 or [ddrabling@forestlawn.com](mailto:ddrabling@forestlawn.com) to set a time to meet. I sincerely hope we can have this meeting next week.

Very truly yours,

  
Darin B. Drabing  
President & CEO

DBD:kap

cc: Councilmember Nithya Raman  
Laura Rubio-Cornejo, General Manager, Los Angeles Department of Transportation  
Randy Schwab, Mount Sinai Memorial Parks and Mortuaries