



Fw: Proposed Preferential Parking "AA" for Parkcrest
Irma Heinrichs to: Allison Bunma, Carolyn Harris, Merianne Nakagawa

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----- Forwarded by Irma Heinrichs/CC/CLB on 05/25/2010 08:35 AM -----

From: Liz Joy <liz125spring@yahoo.com>
To: cityclerk@longbeach.gov
Date: 05/22/2010 03:18 PM
Subject: Proposed Preferential Parking "AA" for Parkcrest

TO: Larry G. Herrera, City Clerk

City of Long Beach

333 West Ocean Boulevard 90802

FROM: Elizabeth Trapp

5739 Hanbury Street

Long Beach, CA 90808-2049

(562) 429-6996

DATE: May 22, 2010

RE: Proposed Preferential Parking District "AA" for Parkcrest Street & adjacent areas

Dear Mr. Herrera:

We have received a notification from you, the City Clerk of Long Beach, that the residents on Parkcrest Street & the last blocks north on Marber Avenue, San Anseline Avenue, and Albury Avenue between Bellflower Boulevard and Woodruff Avenue have requested the establishment of Preferential Parking District "AA."

As the City Council members review, discuss, debate, deliberate and decide this issue I would like them to keep the following historical and environmental issues in mind.

- Do not be misled: Heartwell Park was there before the residents purchased their homes. They decided to buy there in full knowledge of the existing Heartwell Park established in 1939 with its recreation building built in 1964 and public recreational lawn facilities. Those facilities were paid for and belong to all of the citizens of Long Beach, a very few of whom happen to live on Parkcrest and in the immediate adjacent areas. When my husband and I were searching for a home we looked at one of those houses and decided we did not want that kind of environment. Nobody put blinders on the current homeowners who purchased a home in that area. Even now most of the time they enjoy an unrestricted view of the park but they want full control of community property, community property that should be left easily accessible to the public.
- The homeowners on Parkcrest tried for over a year to restrict parking by erecting their own version of "Do Not Park Here" signs. Without any penalty they were told to remove them. Now they are trying a more legal way to limit immediate access to that southern area of the park, the part nearest to the existing recreation building and playground area. They want the Long Beach City Council Members to make that part of the park their own private sanctuary while depriving the rest of the citizenry of Long Beach from easy access to the south side of the park.
- Here is a quote from the City of Long Beach Department of Parks concerning our Heartwell park: "... in February 1939. Col. Heartwell was President of the Water Department at that time. Heartwell lobbied for the city to purchase 350-acres of land along Carson Street between Lakewood Blvd. and the San Gabriel Riever.[sic.] This land is restricted for use as a public park, playground and" The park was established in 1939. Homes were not built in the area until after WWII. The "land is restricted for use as a public park" and it should be left easy to access.

- Long Beach Parks' description says to "Come enjoy 122.5 acres of scenic landscaped grounds." How? Where shall the visitors park? Why not on public streets, including Parkcrest? Are you aware there is a City Parks' planned activity for a film under the stars at Heartwell's recreation center this summer? As advertised, it is: "August 4- Hoodwinked at Heartwell Park, 5801 East Parkcrest St." Well, I guess you will be "hoodwinked" if you allow preferential parking. The "5801 East Parkcrest St." is exactly in the middle of the zone where the residents want preferential parking. That is where the recreation building is located. It is the same recreation building where year-round the Parks Department offers several evening classes for both children and adults. Are the students expected to walk across the park or along several blocks at night? Will the City of Long Beach provide extra police protection because the participants do not have easy access to their vehicles?

- What other parking options are there? Well, there is a parking lot yards and yards on the opposite side of the park, across the park on the Carson Street side. When the sprinklers are on (and they water frequently), the access to the Parkcrest side is difficult. Many times the Carson Street parking lot is not large enough to accommodate all the people who wish to use the park. The actual street parking on Carson Street itself has limited parking times. The Bellflower Street access is not entirely open because of the Girl Scout establishment. Parking on Woodruff Avenue is also very limited, so where is there left to park? Are the users to go one block south of the Parkcrest & San Anseline intersection and park on San Anseline, thus causing increased parking problems for those residents? Or are they to go to the extreme east or west one block south and park on Hanbury Street, Albury Street, or Marber? It seems the residents of Parkcrest are being very NIMBY (or should it be NIMFY?) in their mentality even though they were the ones who chose to own a home facing Heartwell Park.

- If preferential parking is extended to these residents, then will it also be granted to the residents on Parkcrest west of Bellflower Blvd.? Will the duck pond opened in 1985 become another public jewel inaccessible to many users?

- This preferential parking issue is similar to the one concerning Long Beach City College that was raised several years ago. ALL of those NIMBY's also purchased a home there AFTER the college was established. They knew where they were buying a home. Those residents around LBCC should not have been granted preferential parking at that time and the ones on Parkcrest should not receive it now. The situation would be different *IF* the park or the college had come into existence after they purchased their homes. However, one only needs to study and understand the history of the development of Long Beach to realize the absurdity of trying to place the blame on others for one's own mistakes. If one does not like a neighborhood and its surroundings, then one shouldn't buy a home there. It is the duty of a buyer interested in becoming a home owner to investigate just exactly what and where one is buying and the homeowners on Parkcrest knew with obvious full disclosure what they were

“buying into”.

- What’s next? Will homeowners who purchased houses under flight pathways ask you to restrict planes from flying over their neighborhoods? Again, it is a question of looking before you leap.
- Where will it end? Please do not allow a few “I-want-my-cake-and-eat-it-too” citizens dictate to a city of over 490,000. They do not in any measure speak for the majority.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Trapp