

Remember

**The conversation is not
about programs and
activities for the kids.
The conversation is.**

- ***No notification to the residents.* This skate park directly affects the residents of this community surrounding McBride Park and our concerns and questions were never sought by our city council representative.**
- ***Not the right location for a skatepark.* All the home owners and residents agree that we would love a skate park for the kids. We just strongly believe that this is the wrong location here next to our homes.**

SUBJECT #1 NO NOTIFICATION

We are the homeowners and residents that live in the homes directly surrounding McBride Park Teen Center. Our homes extend from Martin Luther King to Alamitos and 16th Street to Anaheim.

Our first complaint is that there was NO notification to the home owners or residents about your intentions of a skatepark on the south end of McBride Park.

This is not only in violation of the Brown Act., but it goes against the City of Long Beach Press Release # CM: 081209 dated August 12th, 2009 to take effect August 13, 2009.

The required radius of noticing is 1000 feet. 80% of the homes stated above are well within that range. Only two residents received a post card on Sat August 7th. This was the same day as the groundbreaking ceremony.

While there may be great support for the skatepark, the City of Long Beach and our own Councilman Dee Andrews failed to reach out to the community that a decision of this magnitude would affect the most,

property owners, residents and apartment renters surrounding McBride Park.

We believe that this notification was purposefully kept from the community because the city council knew there would be opposition to such a thoughtless and uncaring decision.

SUBJECT # 2 NOT THE RIGHT LOCATION

All the homeowners and residents agree that we love the idea of a skatepark and that it is good for the kids. We just strongly believe that this is the wrong location.

As to Chief of Staff John Edmonds suggestion, we visited the three other skateparks in Long Beach and the following are our findings.

14th Street SkatePark

- This facility is built on top of ground, almost a block long and quite wide. It is surrounded by empty lots, two homes and two businesses.
- One home owner stated that while there was no gang activity the major problem was noise. He said regardless of the city ordinance that there is to be no skating from sunset to sunrise, kids often skated at midnight and 1:00 O'clock in the morning.
- He stated that he has called the police numerous times.
- Graffiti was not an issue because there was nothing for them to write on.

- Shrubs and flowers had no chance due to trampling by the kids.
- The second resident stated that it was extremely noisy.
- There was no supervision and the kids all skated without helmets, knee or elbow pads.
- Also there were many kids riding bikes in the skatepark.

Houghton Park/ Jordan High School

- This is a huge facility located in an extremely large park. The skatepark is located about 150 feet from Harding Ave and 400 feet from Atlantic Ave.
- There was graffiti everywhere.
- Homeowners on the Harding Ave side were asked their opinions about the skatepark. Residents stated that there was no gang activity but there had been many confrontations between skaters and bikers. Police had to be called frequently to intervene.

El Dorado Park

- Obviously this is the largest park of them all. The facility sits so far off of Studebaker Rd. and Willow Street that there are no issues with the surrounding residents.
- There was some graffiti.

Our contention is that McBride Park is a small and beautiful park located in the middle of a residential community, surrounded by homes, (1) high school and (4) churches. It is not large enough to take on the size and scope that you propose.

Councilman Andrews is quoted. “We are honored and excited that the Tony Hawk Foundation has chosen McBride Skatepark. The additional funding will allow us to provide a world –class skatepark for the community.”

How does one plan to build such a world-class facility in such a small community park? There must be many more suitable locations for a world-class skatepark.

Former Councilman Mike Donelon is quoted. “The selection of Long Beach speaks volumes for our Mayor,

City Council, and our Parks, Recreation and Marine Departments support of skateparks and most importantly, the kids that ride them. Long Beach recognizes that skateparks work. They are a deterrent to gangs and give our risk youth an alternative to the streets.”

While every single person wants to do projects for the kids, Mr. Donelon fails to mention that the most important part of making that equation successful would be the inclusion of the adult community, people that own homes, pay taxes and vote. Yet no one has sought out our thoughts, suggestions or approval on any matters.

Phil Hester, Director of Park, Recreation and Marine is quoted as saying. “This is a great opportunity to add elements to the park that make it benefit not only the youth but the community. We are looking forward to the Tony Hawk Foundation in making this the city’s premier skatepark.”

This little but quant park is not big enough to be premier. All of these quotes indicate that the skatepark benefits and improves our community. Yet not one of

these men consulted the people who are directly affected by such an important and impacting decision.

We have many questions and concerns.

- Wouldn't Hamilton Bowl or Mac Arthur Park be a more accommodating site for a skatepark?
- Why did the skatepark change from the 16th street side to the south side of the park? Was this due to complaints?
- Why are there no blueprints of this facility? Is it because the skate park was only added on to the McBride Teen Center Project a little over a year ago?
- What is the size of this skatepark and where exactly is it proposed to be?
- One year ago a mobile skate facility was shut down due to gang activity. Why do you feel that now, that this is not an issue?
- What about gang activity?
- What about graffiti?
- Look at the present parking lot, will the new parking lot and skatepark be kept the same way once moved on to the south side.

- The size of this facility would cover the whole south end of the park. How could you protect the homes nearest the south fence and on Lewis Ave from excessive noise and traffic?
- Where are the bleachers for a premier skatepark to be placed?
- How does something like this affect our property value?

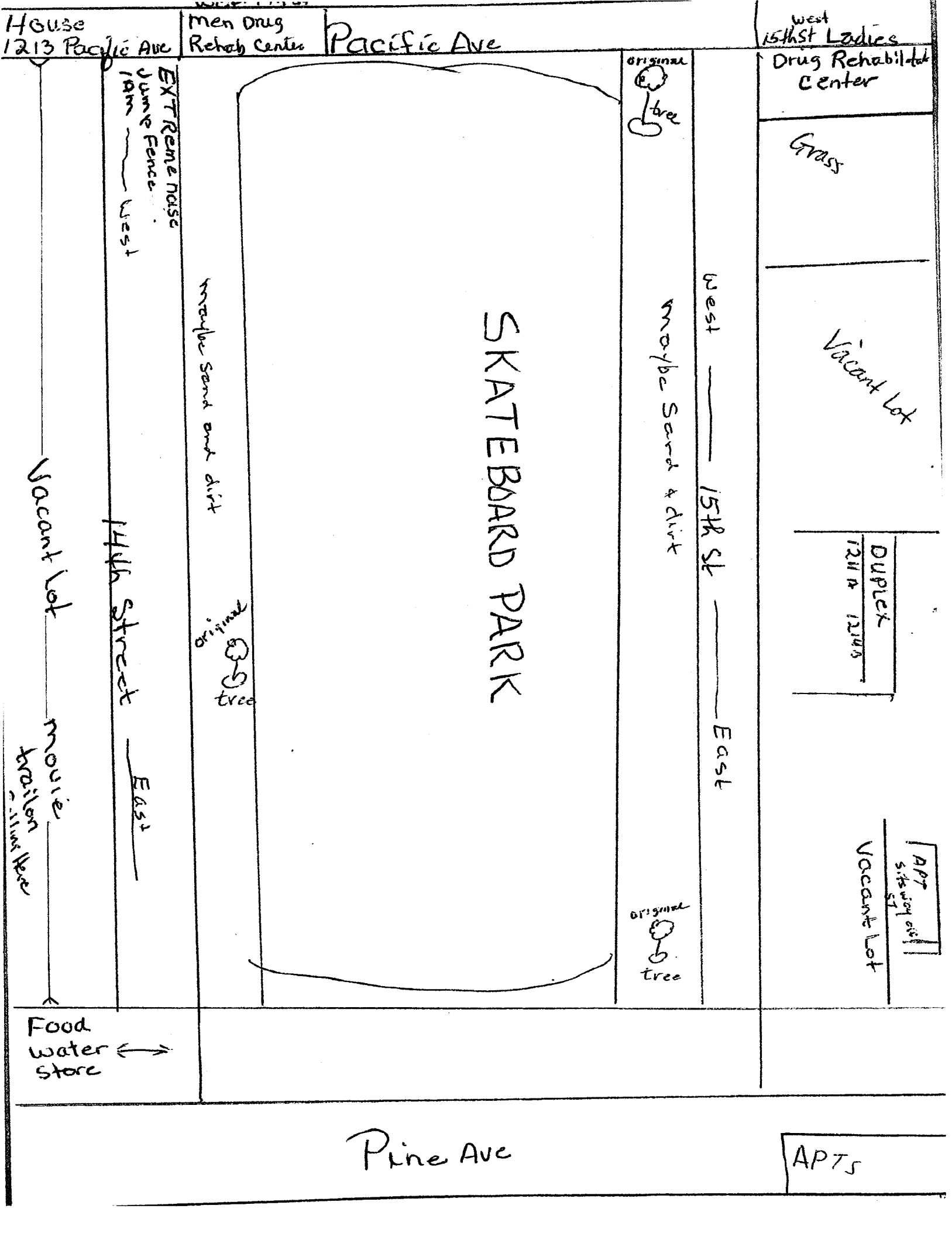
There must be many more suitable locations for a world-class skatepark.

Councilman Andrews stated in his most recent news letter concerning the upcoming 6th District Budget Summit, Tuesday, August 31, 6:00 p.m., here at McBride Park.

“I encourage residents to attend this meeting to voice their concerns, to listen and to be informed.”

“This is your city, your money, and when it comes to the budget, I want to make sure that your voices are heard.”

We hope that you here us at this meeting. And we intend to be there for the next to make sure we are included from here on.



House
1213 Pacific Ave

Men Drug
Rehab Center

Pacific Ave

West
15th St Ladies
Drug Rehab Center

Grass

Vacant Lot

DUPLEX
1211 & 1215

APT
side of 14th St
Vacant Lot

original tree

original tree

SKATEBOARD PARK

EXTREME NOISE
Jump Fence
10m
West

maybe Sand and dirt

original tree

14th Street
East

Vacant Lot
movie trailer

Food
Water Store

Pine Ave

APTS

**News Release**

City of Long Beach Public Information Office
333 W. Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90802

8/12/2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE #CM: 081209

Subject : City Requirements for Notices of Public Hearings to Change Effective August 13, 2009

Contact : Victoria Ballesteros 562.570.5583

Beginning August 13, 2009, new requirements for noticing of public hearings will take effect in the City of Long Beach. The changes were made with the goal of increasing community awareness about public hearings, and in an effort to increase public engagement and participation in the planning process. Changes taking effect include:

- The required noticing radius has been expanded to 750 feet around the subject site; for City or institutional projects the noticing radius has increased to 1,000 feet.
- The noticing radius is now measured only from the subject property's boundaries, and not the opposite side of any adjacent right-of-way.
- In addition to property owners, all occupants (both residential and non-residential) must also be given notice.
- Subject sites must now be posted with a 30" x 40" notice poster, which will be provided to project applicants by the City.

All Planning applications submitted on or after August 13th will be subject to these requirements. Projects submitted prior to this date will be subject to the previous noticing requirements.

For more information, please call the Department of Development Services at 562.570.6194 or visit <http://bds.longbeach.gov>.

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City of Long Beach, CA

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Photo by Russ Roča

announcements



Mayor Foster Announces His Recommendations for City's 2011 Budget
 July 23, 2010 – Long Beach City Manager Pat West Mayor presented the City's FY 2011 budget during a press conference and Mayor Bob Foster announced his recommendations at City Hall today.

(Mayor's recommendations for City's 2011 budget)
[More...](#)



Mayor Foster of Long Beach Delivers the Good News to Habitat for Humanity's Newest Homeowners

On Tuesday July 6th the Lopez family learned that their American dream of homeownership would soon come true. Not only have they been selected as a Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles (HFH GLA) partner family, they have also been selected as the recipients of the organization's Mayor's Build home. The Mayor's Build home is sponsored by Mayor Bob Foster, who was one of the many representatives from the City of Long Beach who joined the Good News Caravan to help HFH GLA deliver the news to the Lopez family.

[More...](#)



Friends of L.A. River Honor Mayor Foster

Mayor Bob Foster received the Chi Mui Award from the Friends of Los Angeles River (FoLAR) during their annual awards reception on Saturday night. The award recognizes the Mayor's efforts to clean the Los Angeles River, and his partnership with Heal the Bay to identify, quantify and qualify sources of pollution in the Los Angeles River.

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