



WILMINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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LA's 1st Certified Neighborhood Council



Valerie Contreras, Chair
Carlos Sanchez, Co-Chair
Santiago Sedillo, Secretary
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November, 12, 2019

Councilman Joe Buscaino, 638 S. Beacon Street, San Pedro, CA 90731
California Department of Transportation District 7, 100 South Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn 302, West 5th St. #200, San Pedro, CA 90731
County Parks & Recreation Commissioner- Rap.commissioner@Lacity.org
City Planning & Transportation-LADOT 100 S. Main Street, 10th floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Disability Rights Education Defense, 3075 Adeline Street, suite 210, Berkeley, CA 904703

Reference: Sidewalk installation on PCH in the community of Wilmington at specified location

On November 12, 2019 the Wilmington Neighborhood Council took official action on behalf of our stakeholders, to approve sending this letter to address the need for sidewalk installation in this exact location.

On April 25, 2018 the Wilmington Neighborhood Council sent a letter to LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn regarding measure A Funding for Los Angeles county park assessment for improvement. One item we discussed was the need to safely access the renovated Ken Malloy Regional Park within our Wilmington district boundaries. Our stakeholders cannot safely access the park without sidewalks via Pacific Coast Hwy and Anaheim Street. Funding was available.

On May 23, 2018 the Wilmington Neighborhood Council took official action on the Mayor's City Budget for 2018-2019 CF 18-0600 as we filed a community impact statement asking for Safe Sidewalks in Wilmington and funding for it. We specifically asked for sidewalks to safely access the Ken Malloy Regional Park.

Today, this letter is to address the need for sidewalks along PCH where traffic is flowing Eastbound. There are NO sidewalks in this stretch of approximately 100 meters section. This creates an unsafe situation for all individuals who are forced to walk on the street with no edge or safety space. There is only a guard rail for vehicles. Individuals who need to cross this area by walking, biking, scooter or wheelchair can't. This violates the California ADA accessibility laws. There must be safe access for all. Traveling further down this stretch of 3 km there are still NO sidewalks but there is a dirt path along the side of the park. Walking on the street against the oncoming traffic is never safe.

Stakeholder's firsthand experience:

My name is Ginger Falkenstein, I live in Wilmington and I volunteer at the Kaiser hospital in Harbor City. I choose to walk to get some exercise and fresh air. Our household only has one car and my husband needs it for Work. The easiest route for me to take from my house is to walk down PCH. After I pass Denny's as I head Westbound on PCH. I reach the Solace housing where they have added a new sidewalks & a street light. I can safely cross there but at the end of the Solace housing shortly after, the sidewalk ends. From that point I have to walk on the street where oncoming Eastbound traffic is flowing. Pacific Coast highway narrows there and the traffic bottlenecks. The merge is difficult for oncoming cars. Pedestrians or bicyclists are not expected. There are no signs posted at that site. There is no safe passage and poor lighting at night for all who pass.

This letter serves to inform all Los Angeles City Departments, Council office, Planning, Transportation, State Caltrans, Los Angeles County Supervisor, Parks & Recreation, and all entities involved. We ask that you work together on this project to resolve the issue and provide a safe passage here for all. Please install sidewalks. Your expedient response is necessary.

The people of Wilmington and all individuals who access this section mentioned on Pacific Coast Hwy are in grave danger.

Stakeholder firsthand experience:

On December 12, 2017 Max Alvarado was riding his bike Eastbound on PCH in Wilmington at the location mentioned above. He was struck by an oncoming car and died as a result. Sister Rosie Diaz and aunt want this area fixed so this won't happen again.

His life was valuable and could have been spared if this problem would have been addressed and resolved. We DON'T want this tragedy to occur again. We urge you to fix this problem before another life ends.

The Wilmington Neighborhood Council is recommending that sidewalks be installed immediately. Further, we invite you to join us at a meeting to discuss this topic.

Sincerely,

Valerie Contreras, Chair

Wilmington Neighborhood Council