



April 9, 2013

Honorable Jose Huizar, CD 14

John Kirk Mukri, General Manager, L.A. Department of Recreation and Parks

Barry A. Sanders, President, Department of Recreation and Parks Commissioners

RE: San Julian and Gladys Parks

Gentlemen:

At our regularly held public meeting on April 9, 2013, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council ("DLANC") voted to submit the following comments regarding the Skid Row Areas: San Julian Open Space and Gladys Park.

DLANC would like to thank Councilman Huizar for his efforts and generous financial contributions from council office funds which made it possible to keep these facilities open and operating on an interim basis. He and his staff are to be commended. We know that money is tight and that government process is slow. However, your office found the resources and remedied this situation in record time. Thank you, Mr. Huizar.

We would now like to plea for a permanent solution.

Downtown is seriously underserved when it comes to open space and parkland. The skid row community is even less served than the rest of downtown. The loss of these two parks, as small and insignificant as they may seem to an outside observer, would be a critical blow to downtown. For many local residents, these parks are their only options to safely be outside without loitering on public sidewalks. Most SRO rooms are small studios with no room for guests. Many lack community rooms are other gathering areas.

We understand the City's financial situation and realize that money is very hard to come by. However, DLANC and its stakeholders hope that your office and other city departments and partners will give priority to these parks. The closing of these parks will have very significant impacts on public safety, loitering and the well-being on the community's residents.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Very truly yours,

Patricia Berman
DLANC President

Very truly yours,

Judith Hansen
DLANC Parks, Recreation and Open Space Chair