



June 9, 2015

VIA EMAIL (councilmember.huizar@lacity.org)

Councilmember Jose Huizar
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street, Room 465
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Huizar,

Spring Street Park opened to much fanfare on June 17, 2013, providing much needed green space in the Historic Core. Stakeholders further view the Park as an asset – an asset that should be protected and valued to ensure that all stakeholders are free to enjoy its many amenities.

Unfortunately, the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) has received numerous complaints from its stakeholders regarding the current condition of Spring Street Park. Recent complaints have involved public urination and defecation, lewd acts, alcohol consumption, illegal drug use and sales, and improper use or destruction of park amenities and facilities.¹

Occurrence of illicit activities have become so frequent, that on April 27, 2015, a stakeholder reported that within a twenty (20) minute period the stakeholder witnessed two individuals improperly using the Park’s water feature for personal hygiene, two unconscious individuals (one of which had to be transported for medical assistance), and two individuals engaging in lewd acts behind a tree. We further note that the stakeholder did contact the Los Angeles Police Department (“LAPD”) for assistance, but due to prolonged hold times was unable to report the incident to the LAPD and instead, contacted the Historic Core Business Improvement District (“HCBID”) for assistance. By the time the HCBID arrived, several of the aforementioned individuals had left the Park.

Despite repeated requests from stakeholders requesting law enforcement to be present at Spring Street Park to discourage illegal or illicit behavior, the City has not provided an effective and long-term solution. While the current solution, which appears to involve occasional foot patrols by the LAPD and rangers from the Department of Recreation and Parks, is a welcomed first step, much more is *desperately* needed.

A significant step forward in making Spring Street Park a safer and more enjoyable public space would be to assign a dedicated team to oversee the Park during all hours of operation. In this regard, we understand that TFAR Funds have already been identified and set aside for Friends of Spring Street Park (“FSSP”), a 501(c)(3) organization, to be used for the betterment of Spring Street Park.

¹ See http://www.ladowntownnews.com/news/decline-of-spring-street-park-frustrates-neighbors/article_42a92268-d4bf-11e4-87ab-935318930be2.html.

Councilmember Jose Huizar

June 9, 2015

Page 2

These funds could be used to retain a full-time ranger or security guard, whose mere presence would undoubtedly remedy the many ills that have plagued Spring Street Park. Accordingly, DLANC hereby respectfully requests that a council motion be introduced *immediately* to direct the Department of City Planning to administer these funds to FSSP so that FSSP may begin utilizing these funds to improve the safety of Spring Street Park by among other things, retaining a full-time ranger or security guard to monitor the park and to discourage illegal activities from taking place within its boundaries.

Sincerely,

/s/ Russell Chan

Russell Chan
DLANC Vice-President of Administration

Sincerely,



Eric R. Garcia
DLANC Community Impact Committee Chair

CC: Tanner Blackman (Tanner.Blackman@lacity.org)