



Honorable Jose Huizar, CD 14

Dear Councilperson Huizar:

DLANC requests your help with problem solving in the Bunker Hill pedway-area that has resulted in decreased safety and a significant rise in vandalism, graffiti and drug and alcohol use. This issues is directly affecting Bunker Hill residents, students and business stakeholders.

As you know, we in Bunker Hill are in an area where much was developed according to a Master Plan by the CRA. Included in the plan were connecting overhead walkways or "pedways" between major buildings. They exist above the street and belong to the City.

The pedways have been, for years, an asset in our area as workers, residents and students use them as quick short-cuts between buildings. Without traffic lights or cars to contend with, they are of a nice scale pedestrian "street" between high rises.

About a year ago, after years of calm and cleanliness, graffiti started to appear on the pedway between the World Trade Center (WTC) and the Bunker Hill Towers (BHT) Plaza. Then, as more graffiti appeared, the lights that illuminate the pathway at night started to be broken. They went without repair and the pedway became the poster child for the broken window syndrome.

Today the walk is a mess of graffiti. About two weeks ago, after months of pleading by residents, the City cleaned the upper graffiti. However, the plastic over the lights and the lights themselves must be replaced. Neighbors above the pedway have documented what appears to be groups or gangs on the pedway, drinking, smoking dope and playing loud music. It's a great spot for vandals as they are out of sight from the street below.

The new Hybrid USC HS has volunteered to pick up trash but they cannot deal with the tough guys and graffiti writers. DCBID presently does not have a contract for pedways. It seems to be up to the LAPD to make it a priority and respond to calls immediately from neighbors, until the pedway is retaken. There are hundreds of people living directly above and many have documented the problems they see below but LAPD is either slow or hasn't responded.

We are concerned for our safety on the pedway. This affects the young students who daily pass along the walkway. This pedway is used by residents, tenants of the World Trade Center, Bonaventure Hotel guests, UCLA Extension adult students and neighborhood visitors. The situation continues to deteriorate and almost seems to be waiting for a tragic crime to happen there before it receives much notice.

A significant part of the problem stems from underage visitors who are using the pedway for late night drinking and destruction of property. Their participation may be needed to solve the issue. One issue discussed was that some problems might come from vandals accessing the pedway from the street level at 3rd Street and Figueroa.

Through your office, we request a meeting with appropriate City officials and affected stakeholders for a discussion to include an ongoing maintenance, security and supervision plan, possibly in partnership with the adjacent buildings. This has been an escalating problem and it will not go away without some thoughtful and quick intervention.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Berman president DLANC

J. Russell Brown on behalf of DLANC Public Safety committee

Judith Hansen -DLANC board member representing Bunker Hill Residents