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August 24, 2009

Barry Sanders
 President, Board of Recreation and Parks
 221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 1510
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Park Rangers

Dear Mr. Sanders,

The Los Feliz Improvement Association representing over 1000 households adjacent to Griffith Park, has been a staunch friend and supporter of the Los Angeles City Park Rangers. The LFIA recently advocated for retention of a separate Ranger division during the city's effort to consolidate security functions within the General Services Department.

While we are sensitive to the current fiscal realities, the Park Rangers are experiencing disturbing manpower attrition and changes to their historic duties. We feel it is vital that the city retain a full strength Ranger division within all its large regional parks.

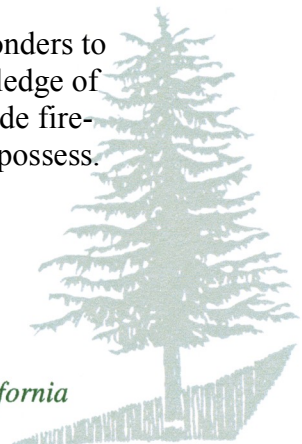
We wish to remind you of the benefits the city, its regional parks, and its citizens receive from the Rangers:

- Park Rangers have historic and institutional knowledge of the idiosyncrasies of security and preventative park policing, including trail security and management. This knowledge cannot be supplanted by a traditional security operation.
- Park Rangers have historically been the first responders to brush fires within the regional parks. Their knowledge of the terrain, trails and fire roads allows them to guide fire-fighting efforts and is a unique acumen only they possess.

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Mr. Barry Sanders, President, Board of Recreation and Parks

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- Park Rangers continually use their law-enforcement status in life and property-saving situations: It was a Park Ranger who arrested an arsonist setting blazes in Griffith Park from his bicycle in 2008.
- Park Rangers provide an educational service to the public. They offer education on park etiquette to park users, instruct hikers on safe trail use for their safety and the protection of the environment, and convey their knowledge of the fragile habitat and wildlife, which is a unique aspect of our regional park system.

The LFIA urges you to consider the incalculable consequences and liabilities that would ensue from the loss of additional Ranger personnel and if the traditional Ranger division is further compromised in any manner.

Sincerely yours,

Donald A. Seligman, President

cc. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa

Councilman Tom LaBonge

Jon Kirk Mukri, General Manager, Recreation and Parks Dept