PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

April 20, 2025

TO: Katy Yaroslavsky, Council District 5
        Jimmy Kim, Department of Recreation and Parks General Manager
        Sherlett Hendy Newbill, Los Angeles Board of Education District 1

CC: Vanessa Saldana, Council District 5 Field Deputy
        Kristen Torres Pawling, Council District 5 Deputy Chief of Staff
        Cathie Santo Domingo, Department of Recreation and Parks Assistant General Manager
        Scott Schmerelson, Los Angeles Board of Education President
        Jewett Walker Jr, Los Angeles Board of Education District 1

RE: Park Space in Palms

The community of Palms has one park, Woodbine Park, for its 43,000 residents. While Media Park is in Palms, it is on the south side of Venice Blvd. and the vast majority of Palms's residents live north of Venice Blvd. We also note that Los Angeles leases Media Park to Culver City who runs the park for the pleasure of Culver City residents. A park on the south side of Venice Blvd. is a barrier to families who need parks near where they live without having to navigate a wide, busy street to access open space.

Palms is one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in Los Angeles. It comes in at the bottom of the County Parks Needs Assessment, meaning there is insufficient park space for the population.

Palms is the center of most of the apartment building in Council District 5 and Quimby Fees are being generated in Palms and spent elsewhere. We don't see any Quimby Fees being spent in our community and we propose using them to develop the open space our community desperately needs.

Land in Palms is expensive and the Palms Neighborhood Council proposes some innovative ideas to build parks and open space on land that is publicly held. These projects could help transform Palms and also make it more climate resilient.

- 9419 Venice Blvd. Culver City owns the underutilized parking lot at this City of Los Angeles address. The Palms Neighborhood Council proposes Los Angeles take control of this lot, remove the asphalt covering, and build a pocket park. We also propose the pocket park include as much of the alley behind it as feasible without blocking ingress and egress. We recommend Los Angeles pursue a swap with Culver City of 9419 Venice Blvd. for Media Park.
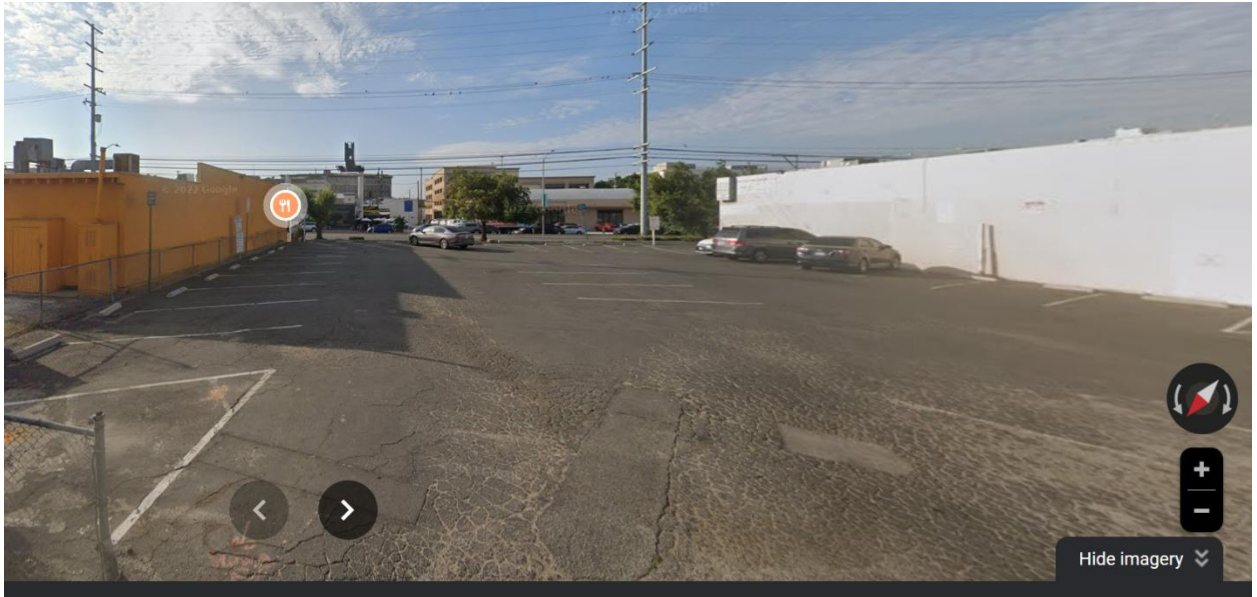
- Palms Middle School. The school has a large field that borders Charnock Rd. Recess is important for children and we think the field should be preserved for the children's use when they need it. When school is not in session and the children are not using the field, we propose the fence be opened to allow the residents of Palms to use it as a park. Leaving the field unused does not make sense when there is a real need for park space. LAUSD proposed building housing on this field. The community opposes this action. One community meeting was held and the community came out to voice its opposition. Palms is open to new housing projects as evidenced by the large number of projects approved by its Neighborhood Council. We want this space reserved for use by the children during the weekday and then available to the community when school is not in session.

- National Blvd. between Motor Ave. and Mentone Ave. The Palms Neighborhood Council proposes this block be pedestrianized. We envision allowing the restaurants on this stretch to expand their al fresco dining areas. A plaza that includes benches and trees would be a great addition to the community. We could consider removing some of the asphalt and concrete to make the plaza not only open, but also more green. There is a small parking lot in front of the Lokal and Simpang Asia restaurants. We are comfortable leaving that lot intact.

- The intersection of Watseka Ave. and Faris Dr. These two streets come together in a Y-intersection leaving a sizeable asphalt area that is unused. We propose removing the asphalt within the Y and building a parklet.

Sincerely,

Kay Hartman
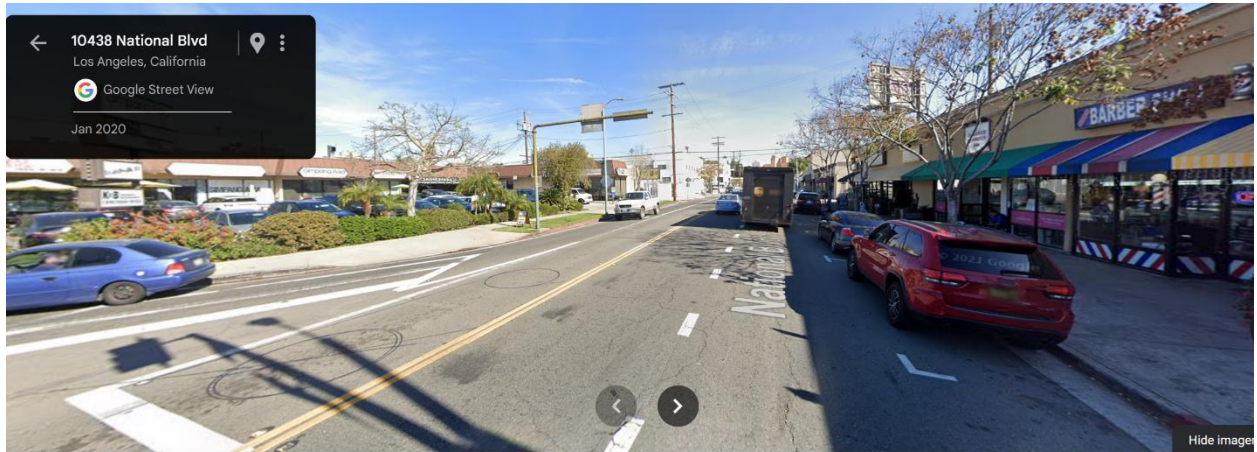President, Palms Neighborhood Council

PARKING LOT AT 9419 VENICE BLVD.

PALMS MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD

NATIONAL BLVD. BETWEEN MOTOR AVE. AND MENTONE AVE.

WATSEKA AVE. AND FARIS DR.