

Timeline of Hollywood Road Sign Creation

The road signs were a response to serious safety hazards which exist at the top of Deronda drive and Dirt Mulholland. The issue had been clearly documented and does not appear to be in dispute by those who are actually familiar with it. The photos at the bottom of this document were displayed at the BCNA public meeting on 9/5/10 as well as the HHA meeting on 9/14/10.

This initiative was headed by Diana Knoll, a LedgeWood resident, in response to the dangerous amount of visitors to dirt Mulholland. A dangerous car fire in November of 2009 appears to have prompted the desire to direct tourists toward a more safe and accessible area. In April 2010 the plan to install signs was discussed by the HHA with no input or participation by Deronda residents.

During the summer of 2010, Deronda residents became alarmed by the regular blocking of the fire and emergency access by illegally parked tourists who came to view the sign. The street became impassible for hours at a time, heaviest but not limited to weekends. Parking enforcement was notified countless times, as was the Park Police. None of these measures did anything to alleviate the problem.

Concerned Deronda residents then contacted the City Councils office who indicated that the HHA already had a plan to address this safety issue by directing traffic to Lake Hollywood Park. The Deronda residents became involved after the project had already been approved by the HHA and the DOT with the support of the LA City Council's office.

The objective of the signs was to direct tourists to Lake Hollywood Park in order to:

1. Keep tourists from using Dirt Mulholland as a viewing area in order to mitigate fire thread assure emergency and fire access;
2. To keep the Deronda fire lane clear and accessible at all times for the sake of the entire community and;
3. To ensure Deronda remain accessible for emergency services to reach residents in case of emergency at all times,

This is the issue we wanted to address and this is why we became involved in the process.

The signs have been installed and appear to solve the safety issue on Deronda and dirt Mulholland. It remains to be seen what will happen during the summer months when the tourists are far more plentiful and the fire danger more severe.

The unfortunate byproduct of this success is increased traffic on LedgeWood. We, as residents, understand that issue and would like to try and work out a

compromise to mitigate that problem, but we feel strongly that fire and emergency safety issues supersede traffic inconvenience.

We feel that the removal of all the signs would be reckless and irresponsible. The signs were time consuming, costly and approved by a full board in its right mind. They were approved by DOT and, supported by the Councils office after many visits to the problem areas. If they are all removed, as the opposition demands, it would only serve to undo a successful solution to a problem that puts many members of this community in perilous danger on a daily basis.

Before we do anything impetuous and irreversible, we urge a compromise in order to relieve tensions and allow time for a calm assessment of the entire situation.

Our recommendation has been to remove the first two signs at (Beachwood /Ledgewood and Ledgewood/Belden) in order to immediately relieve the traffic pressure and assess the effect on Ledgewood traffic.

Once this measure is complete, we recommend the entire matter should be referred to the Hollywood United Neighborhood Council for adjudication with the input of the a representative for the “opposed” side and a representative from the “in support” side, as well as representatives from DOT, LAPD and the LAFD. We feel this will allow a civil discussion on the matter in an open forum where everyone is heard.

Thus far the opposition has refused to acknowledge that this is an imminent safety threat. They have been unwilling to investigate this matter fully and have instead demanded their immediate removal without careful consideration.

We only ask that we take a measured approach and carefully consider our actions before we irrevocably undo over ten months of hard work which has successfully remedied the safety issue at the end of Deronda. In fact, the signs appear to be too successful. This is why we feel we should take a phase-in approach to moderate the ill effects without inviting the return of the very same safety hazards.

I would note that Deronda still has its fair share of cars, tourists and hikers, which take up all the available legal parking. But because of the signs, it remains at a level that the street can safely manage for now. This has never been about keeping our streets entirely clear of tourist. That would be impossible.

The traffic issue on Ledgewood is very real, and we agree that something must be done. But the fire and emergency safety of the entire community and the residents who have been put in harms way should not be sacrificed to that end. Below are a selection of the photos which clearly illustrate the problem we have been discussing.

Car fire from November 2009.



Multiple images shot during summer, 2010















