Re: Issues in Harbor Highlands Park

At its November meeting, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council (NWSPNC) passed the following motion.

A report of a “clown car” driving on the lawn at Harbor Highlands Park during a group event in August is only the latest in a long-running series of incursions in and on the park by civilian motorized vehicles.

Whatever other improvements in the park are desired or necessary; the issue of vehicle access is an emergency which needs to be addressed by the Department of Recreation and Parks immediately.

A report to the NWSPNC Issues Committee indicated only that existing stanchions at park entrances would be “enhanced” and/or new locks would be added. That solution is not sufficient. The current locking system is too easily overcome by bolt cutters and other means. The posts that allow pedestrians or wheelchairs into the park need to be permanently affixed, and one park opening needs to be selected (probably at Teheran intersection of Gatun St. and N. Cabrillo Ave.), to receive a single or double-swinging gate to give only city and emergency vehicles access to the park property.

This is a fine example of an accident waiting to happen. In addition to tearing up turf and sprinkler heads, it is only a matter of time before someone is injured by an unauthorized vehicle, with the probability of millions of taxpayer dollars being placed at risk.

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council urgently requests that the Department of Recreation and Parks:

1. Secure all entrances to the park, and,
2. Install clearly visible signage at each park entrance in both English and Spanish forbidding vehicle access to the park; and,
3. As this is purely an issue of public safety and preserving public property, that funds for these items not be taken from park improvement money.

We ask the Department of Rec. and Parks and the Council Office to propose a plan to the community to resolve this hazard within 30 days of the receipt of this motion.

We look forward to your response,

Ray Regalado, President
On behalf of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council