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Certified Neighborhood Council
Certification Date 02-12-02
NW San Pedro Neighborhood Council
638 S. Beacon Street, Box 688
San Pedro, CA 90731

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September 14, 2018

Honorable Joe Buscaino
Councilmember, 15th District
638 S. Beacon Street, Room 552
San Pedro, CA 90731

Re: Safety of our NW San Pedro Neighborhood Area Parks

Dear Councilman Buscaino:

On August 6, 2018, at approximately 11:00AM, several parents and several small children witnessed a couple get naked and have sex by the playground. Several parents called the Los Angeles Police Division (LAPD), who eventually responded. The couple was spoken to by LAPD officers and then let go. Several community members were upset at the non-accountability of these two individuals and inquired about it at LAPD Harbor Division. They were informed that lewd conduct, even in front of a minor, is not a basis for an arrest or criminal prosecution. LAPD Harbor Division personnel also stated that even if they were to initiate paper work, the District Attorney would dismiss it before the papers were complete.

The Public Safety Committee chair conducted research and made inquiries and found that under Penal Code, Section 314 and California State Senate Bill 384, these actions should have been chargeable, at a minimum, as a first time misdemeanor.

{While a California "indecent exposure" conviction may not seem like a very serious offense, the repercussions can be devastating.

In most cases, a first indecent exposure conviction subjects you to misdemeanor penalties of up to six (6) months in county jail and a fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000). A second offense is a felony and can lead to a California State Prison sentence.

But perhaps worst of all, a Penal Code section 314 conviction subjects you to a minimum ten (10) year duty to register as a Tier one California sex offender. (California Senate Bill 384 recently created a three-tier sex registration system that reduced the registration requirement for indecent exposure to ten (10) years. It used to be for life.) }

On August 20, 2018, The Public Safety Committee of the Northwest Neighborhood Council (NWSPNC) passed a motion to address community concerns about the present safety issues of Harbor Highlands Park. A group of stakeholders have expressed concerns regarding protection of minors from "indecent exposure" and "lewd acts" in their presence while at Harbor Highlands Park, and apparent lack of accountability for the perpetrators.

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We owe our children more than "this" in our community. Our children should not have to see sex in the parks and lewd acts in LA City public places. We feel a strong obligation to respond to our constituents and protect our children. Therefore, we want this concern to be addressed immediately by your office. Also, NWSPNC wants a reply from your office within thirty (30) days regarding action to be taken to prevent further conduct like this in our community and in our parks.

Yours in community collaboration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. Regalado". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "R" and "D".

Ray Regalado, President
On behalf of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council
(Letter approved by the board at the August 13, 2018 meeting)

cc:

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