

LINCOLN HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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2002

3516 N. BROADWAY
LOS ANGELES, CA 90031

LINCOLNHEIGHTSNC.ORG

September 16, 2021

City Attorney, Hollenbeck community prosecutor, LADBS, City Planning

RE: 2730 SIERRA ST/ HAPPY VALLEY/ LINCOLN HEIGHTS. ASSAULT AND HILLSIDE DESTRUCTION THAT OCCURRED THE WEEK OF 7/25/21.

Dear LA City Attorney, Hollenbeck community prosecutor, LADBS, and LA City Planning,

On August 25, 2021, Community members residing on the Hill at 2730 Sierra St were rudely awakened by a man illegally grading the protected hillsides with heavy machinery . He cut a road on the mountain and then turned his weaponized tractor on to the inhabitants of the property. He began destroying their property, their food source (gardens) and then turned the machine on the Humans, with the intent to tear down their dwelling. The residents were nonviolent and pleaded with the man to stop. He then went to the edge of the site for hours and began ripping into the hillside making a 10 ft deep trough across the face of the ridge. The rocks tumbled onto the properties below, damaging homes and property. This was a malicious act and then once again turned the machine on the people.

This site is a well documented and respected indigenous settlement that was formed over a decade ago that maintains a Yurt where humans live who tend the flora and fauna. This part of the hills was city owned land until 1968. The city owned road dedications still exist for streets that will never be built because they're on substandard hillsides in an earthquake induced liquefaction zone. Half of this settlement is on the city property/ road dedication/ easement.

The assailant Nicolo Gobbi purchased the property and three other adjoining lots in August 2021. He purchased property knowing that was inhabited. He rented a backhoe multiple times to attack the residents and cut a swathe of the the hillside out about a 50 meters long and 10 feet deep at the grading site. He had no permits to grade or clear land. He then erected a 8 ft tall chain link fence around the perimeter of the site entrapping the residents and harming the wildlife on the hill. The fence is still there. He violated the hillside ordinance with intent of erecting an illegal "Tiny home" behind the shrubbery. He assaulted human beings with the intent to harm and/ or kill.

LAPD and LADBS were called to the site on the day of the altercation. LAPD would not let the victims file a police report, claiming that it was a "civil matter". LAPD actually had to calm the man and make him sit down. LADBS cited the new landowner for illegal grading, but for some reason, did not really acknowledge the severity and irreparable destruction of our precious hillside.

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Now the owner put the four lots up for sale for double what he bought them for only two months ago. He is trying to avoid prosecution. He is selling the land with photos of it already graded and "ready for construction". These four lots adjoin the Paradise Hill Parcel on the western downslope and the damage he has done is viewable from miles away.

We are seeking justice for our Indigenous brothers and sisters who were wrongfully assaulted and violated by a man who would not stop until the community intervened. This "landowner" was a guest who not only failed to do his homework on the Laws of the land, but also plotted and premeditated hit on lifelong Lincoln Heights residents who have tended to this land and fire abated it for over a decade. This structure is viewable on the aerial maps on the MLS and the Assailant bought the property knowing that people lived there.

The hills of Lincoln heights have dwellings that extend into adjoining lots because some of these houses were built before the land was even subdivided. Homeowners did not have access to surveyors when constructing 140 years ago-or even 70 years ago for that matter, so properties sprawl into the city owned road dedications and adjoining parcels. If a structure impedes on one's private property, A person can't simply take a wrecking ball to it or a backhoe for that matter.

We ask that the City of LA in consultation with the City Attorney undertake all civil and criminal measures available to the City under the Los Angeles Municipal Code and State law to enforce and prosecute Nicolo Gobbi for this clearly egregious violation of City codes and the California Environmental Quality Act, including but not limited to the invoking of Section 91.106.4.1(10) of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, otherwise known as the "Scorched Earth Ordinance" in relation to the Hillside Desecration at 2730 and 2728 N. Sierra St, LA, CA 90031.

In our pursuit of Land Justice and Human Rights for all of the people of Lincoln Heights, we seek the full prosecution of Nicolo Gobbi. Assault with a deadly weapon is what happened that day. We call out to Hollenbeck PD community prosecutor to pursue this case. An attack on one is an attack on all. If we don't condemn this behavior, we condone it; normalizing violence against our community.

Sincerely,

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council