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LINCOLN HEIGHTS EST. 1871

CERTIFIED COUNCIL
2002

3516 N. BROADWAY
LOS ANGELES, CA 90031

LINCOLNHEIGHTSNC.ORG

September 16, 2021

RE: PARADISE HILL. 2929 AMETHYST LA CA 90032

Dear Supervisor Solis,

Lincoln Heights asks the county and state to intercept the auction of Paradise Hill. We ask the city, county and state to acquire the land to preserve it as a public park into perpetuity. We ask that the county authorize a caretaker for this land this is locally owned, such as NELA SOUL. Land banking is a real issue, and the arrangements the city has with certain entities - entrusting our public land in joint partnerships leaves too much power in the hands of private interest groups and associated nonprofits.

Lincoln Heights has a well documented lack of green space and ranks in 100th percentile of environmental burden and vulnerability on EPA's CalEnviroScreen. This is a low income community of color where 62.4% of the children live below the federal poverty level. This community has been historically disenfranchised, sidelined and exploited.

One of the main reasons that the city should step up and acquire this land is because it was City Land that was given away in 1968 in a corrupt exchange. The sale of this municipal land was championed by then councilman Art Snyder. He sold it to a notorious developer Roland Arnall for the lowball sum of \$75k for 30 acres or 5.5 cents per sq. foot. They were caught in an upzoning scandal and a 650 house building project was abandoned. The developer had paid the councilman to lubricate the zoning commission so his bank would give him a loan for the development. The owner tried to back out of the deal and get a refund from the city. The city, fed up with the councilman, told him that they would not take the land back.

Here we are now, with former municipal land on the chopping block. The city gave this land away for pennies decades ago in a scandalous deal. This land is now at auction for nearly \$20 million. Paradise Hill should be repossessed out of principal. The city gave away assets from the people of Los Angeles at a time when mountaintops were only good for trash dumps. This land deserves justice, it deserves respect, and the people demand accountability from the City regarding the unresolved past. It is this past that is hidden from the people. Council files and land use files have been disposed of. History forgets, people die, but some things never fade. That thing would be a 30 acre mountain that has existed in the collective consciousness of the people of Lincoln Heights for generations- People have been awaiting the return of Paradise hill quietly, knowing it was theirs the whole time unconsciously.

Sincerely,

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

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