



January 21, 2021

VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell – Council District 13
The Honorable Councilmember Mike Bonin – Council District 11
Greg Good, President, City of Los Angeles Public Works Commission
Alex Helou, Assistant Director Solid Resources, City of Los Angeles, Department of Sanitation
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via Email: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org; mike.bonin@lacity.org; greg.good@lacity.org;
alex.helou@lacity.org

Re: *SUPPORT FOR* Proposed Ordinance 21-0034 (O’Farrell/Price) – RecycLA Program Rate Increase – Impact on Multi-Family Residential Buildings and Small Businesses in Brentwood

Dear Councilmember O’Farrell, Councilmember Bonin, Mr. James and Mr. Helou:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Brentwood Community Council (“BCC”) and South Brentwood Residents Association (“SBRA”), which represents the interests of the owners and residents of multi-family buildings (i.e., townhomes/condominiums and apartments) and small businesses in Brentwood.

The BCC and SBRA **SUPPORT** proposed Ordinance No. 21-0034 (O’Farrell/Price), which was introduced on January 12, 2021 (the “Ordinance”). The Ordinance instructs the Bureau of Sanitation (“LASAN”) and RecycLA Service Providers to report to the City Council in 30 days on their efforts to work with customers who may be impacted by the RecycLA Program’s 6.15% rate increase effective January 2021. The BCC and SBRA further supports any and all efforts and measures to stay the annual price increases imposed by Athens Services (“Athens”) and other RecycLA Service Providers or that would mitigate the impact of such price increases.

We believe that a 6.15% rate increase by Athens at this time is highly inappropriate and would impose an unreasonable impact on multi-family residential buildings and small businesses in Brentwood. As you will recall, after the Athens-City of Los Angeles trash hauling contract commenced in June 2016, the rate of County Health Department refuse-related violations in South Brentwood skyrocketed. In 2017-2018, there were 198 violations in South Brentwood. At the same time, Athens implemented an exorbitant increase in the prices they were charged to multi-family residential and commercial buildings in Brentwood. Indeed, such increases were as high as 300% for some buildings, forcing many buildings and businesses to downgrade the level of service which they receive. Those price increases went into effect at the end of 2017 and there have been small annual increases since that time.

Since 2019, the number of refuse-related Health Code violations have diminished in South

Brentwood but there was no mitigation of Athen's exorbitant price increase at the end of 2017 except that Athens gave discounts to the buildings which were cited with Health Code violations. Further, the Coronavirus has had a disastrous impact on the income of the owners of condominiums/townhomes and small businesses in Brentwood and they are not in a position to absorb an additional price increase from Athens. **If Athen's prices are increased, such owners will be forced again to downgrade their level of trash-hauling service, leading to the massive increase in Health Code violations we saw take place in 2017 and 2018 when Athen's prices were previously increased. We need to avoid a reoccurrence of such health and safety concerns and hope that the Ordinance will assist in that effort.**

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Thank you for your consideration of our position and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Michelle A. Blsnoff
Michelle Blsnoff
Chair, Brentwood Community Council
blsnoff@gmail.com

Alisa M. Morgenthaler
Alisa Morgenthaler
President, South Brentwood Residents Association
alisa@aliamorgenthaler.com