

Honorable Chair and Members
of the City Council Citizen Development and Enrichment
Via Teleconference or Other Electronic Means
Torrance, California

Members of the Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee:

SUBJECT: Discuss and Provide Direction to Staff Regarding Requests from Residents to Address Safety Concerns during the 2020 Seaside Ranchos Holiday Lights Display

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee:

1. Review the Seaside Neighborhood Association's (SNA) proposal for the 2020 Seaside Ranchos Holiday Lights Display; and
2. Concur with SNA and Staff's recommendation to establish the restricted parking period to begin on December 11, 2020 through December 27, 2020; and
3. Concur with Staff's recommendation to not modify to streets in which restricted parking signage is placed; and
4. Concur with Staff's recommendation to not implement permit parking for the 2020 holiday season; and
5. Direct Staff to bring an item forward for City Council consideration prior to the 2020 Holiday Lights Display.

BACKGROUND

On February 25, 2020, Staff brought an item forward to City Council to provide feedback on the 2019 Seaside Ranchos Holiday Display. At that time, the Council directed staff to have discussions with Seaside Neighborhood Association (SNA) and bring back to the CD&E Committee. Staff did engage in conversations with SNA in March 2020 and had a date set to bring an item forward to the Committee in April 2020; however, this was canceled due to COVID-19 and the fact that SNA was not sure how the pandemic would impact the 2020 Seaside Ranchos Holiday Display.

Staff met virtually with Seaside Neighborhood Association (SNA) President Tricia Blanco and Seaside Ranchos resident Mike Short back in July. This was at Staff's request, as we had previously been advised by SNA that their neighborhood holiday plans were undetermined due to the fluidity of the pandemic. Additionally, we were informed that SNA formed a sub-committee – "Holiday Lights Committee" or HLC. We were told that this sub-committee has, in the past several months, held a couple meetings with Seaside Ranchos residents. Staff was not requested to participate in these meetings.

SNA did also ask Staff how COVID-19 may play a role regarding gathering in their neighborhood and who would be liable if there were any issues. SNA indicated that they would not be trying to influence the number of visitors. At the advice of our City Attorney, they were provided with the following information:

“The City cannot provide legal advice to residents. Gatherings are covered by the County Health Order that can be found at:

http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/HOO/2020.08.12_HOO_Safer%20at%20Home_Higher%20Ed.pdf.

In paragraph 2 of the Summary of the Order, it provides that ‘Further, gatherings of people who are not part of a single household or living unit are prohibited within the County of Los Angeles Public Health Jurisdiction, except for the limited purpose expressly permitted by this Order.’

Gatherings are further discussed on page 8 of the FAQs:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/HOO/FAQ-SaferatWorkandCommunityOrder.pdf>

Reopening Protocols and other documents can be found at:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>

Questions regarding the Health Order should be directed to the County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health.”

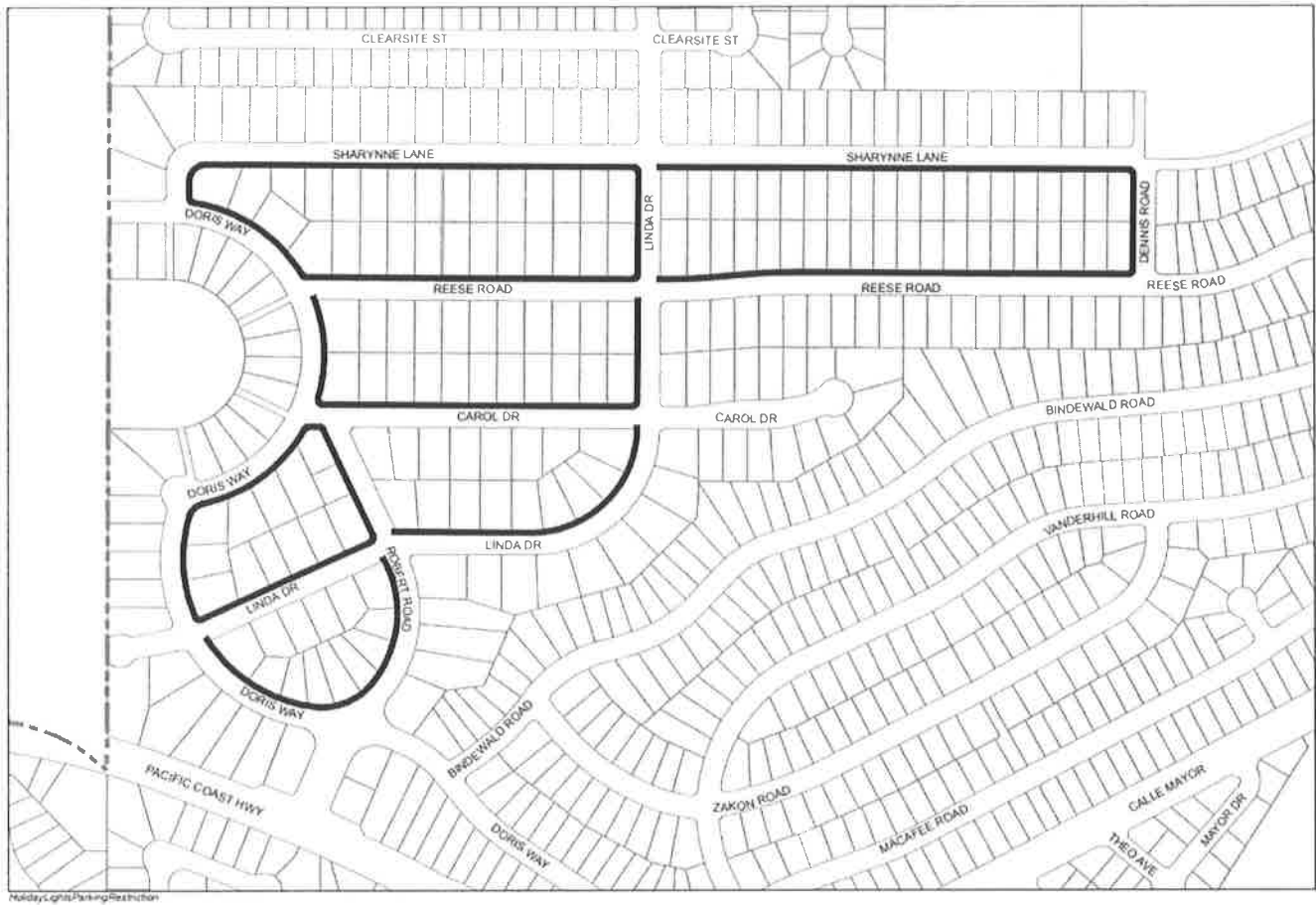
The City’s position remains the same in that the annual neighborhood coordinated light display in the Seaside Ranchos area of Torrance is not a city-sponsored nor a city-sanctioned event. The decision to do, or not to do, these displays is entirely upon each of the homeowners and the City is not in any way involved in that decision-making process.

On September 26, 2020, SNA emailed Staff proposed changes to last year’s Pilot Program. This proposal may be found in Attachment A. In short, the proposed changes are as follows:

- Shorten the period of restricted parking (allows for emergency vehicle access) during the 2020 holiday season. SNA proposed December 11, 2020 through December 27, 2020. Staff concurs with this recommendation.
- SNA proposed modifying the streets that are affected by the restricted parking described above.
- SNA proposed permit parking for Seaside Ranchos residents and their guests, at no charge, to be utilized only during the holiday season when parking is restricted.

ANALYSIS

During the 2019 holiday season, temporary “No Stopping” signs were placed and enforced during the period of November 29, 2019, through January 1, 2020 during the hours of 5:00 – 10:00PM. A map was published on the City’s website and was shared with residents indicating which streets and which side of each street would be impacted.



— Parking Restriction

Holiday Lights Parking Restrictions



In their proposal for the 2020 display, SNA asked to move the parking restriction to the East side of Robert Road between Doris Way and Linda Drive, and to move the location in which the restriction begins on Doris Way.

Staff recommends that the street restrictions remain the same as in the map shown above. This set-up maximizes remaining parking and facilitates signing, enforcement visibility, and emergency lane alignment.

Additionally, SNA asked for permit parking to be implemented for the 2020 holiday lights display. Staff is not recommending permit parking this season for the following reasons:

- Permit parking enforcement is currently suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Permit parking would require twice the number of signs and a significant amount of administrative and enforcement efforts, assuming that the suspension is lifted prior to December. At this time, the suspension is in place for the foreseeable future.
- Permit parking is not recommended for short-term, local events such as the holiday lights display. Permit parking would have the effect of pushing parking and the associated issues into adjacent neighborhoods.

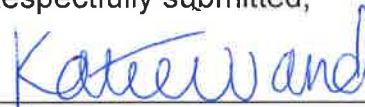
If the Committee is interested in pursuing permit parking, due to the current suspension on enforcement, Staff would recommend that this topic be considered for the 2021 holiday lights display.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Your Honorable Body direct Staff to bring forward an item for City Council to consider the following items for the 2020 Seaside Ranchos holiday lights display:

- Place temporary "No Stopping" signs as outlined in the "Holiday Lights Parking Restrictions" map for a period beginning December 11, 2020 through December 27, 2020 from 5:00-10:00pm daily; and
- Consider providing 20 additional trash bins as was done in the 2019 holiday lights display; and
- Consider providing illuminated light boards to assist with traffic control and to inform visitors of parking restrictions; and
- Maintain informative webpage on the City's website; and
- Return to City Council in the first quarter of 2021 to report on the 2020 display; and
- Extend the one-year pilot program that was approved for the Seaside Ranchos neighborhood by City Council on October 15, 2019 (Item 9H) regarding Cottage Food Operations

Respectfully submitted,



Katie Wand
Management Associate

CONCUR:



Aram Chaparyan
City Manager

Attachments:

- A. Proposal received from SNA dated September 26, 2020
- B. Public Comment
- C. City Council Item 9E dated February 25, 2020 (Limited Distribution)