

Wand, Katherine

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**From:** Wand, Katherine  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2020 2:21 PM  
**To:** Bilezerian, Craig; Finton, Steve; Serna, Martin; Santana, Danny  
**Subject:** FW: Seaside Ranchos - Follow-Up

FOR INFORMATION ONLY  
BCC: COUNCIL2

Good afternoon,

I spoke with Debbie this afternoon. She, like Deanna, expressed concern about the SNA not representing all Seaside Ranchos residents. Debbie informed me that she does not participate in virtual meetings but that she would submit her feedback via email so that I could include it as correspondence in the upcoming Committee item.

Thank you,

**Katie Wand**

Management Associate – Office of the City Manager  
City of Torrance | 3031 Torrance Boulevard | Torrance CA 90503 | 310.618.5880 voice | 310.618.5891 fax | KWand@TorranceCA.gov | [www.TorranceCA.gov](http://www.TorranceCA.gov) | [www.Twitter.com/TorranceCA](https://www.Twitter.com/TorranceCA)

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**From:** Wand, Katherine  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2020 2:07 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Seaside Ranchos - Follow-Up

Debbie:

Thank you for taking my phone call earlier today.

Per your request, below are links to the previous City Council and Commissions items related to the 2019 Seaside Ranchos Holiday Lights Display:

1. City Council **Item 9D** dated 4-23-19 – [Staff Report and Supplemental Material](#)
  - [4-23-19 Meeting Minutes](#) (Summary of Council's action)
2. City Council **Item 9D** dated 8-13-19 – [Staff Report](#) (No supplemental material was submitted.)
  - [8-13-19 Meeting Minutes](#) (Summary of Council's action)

3. Traffic Commission Agenda Packet dated 2-3-20 (Refer to Item 7A)
  - Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes dated 2-3-20 (Refer to Item 7A)
4. City Council **Item 9E** dated 2-25-20 – Staff Report and Supplemental Attachment
  - 2-25-20 Meeting Minutes (Summary of Council's action)

Additionally, you mentioned in our phone call that you do not attend virtual meetings; however, should you wish to share this information with your neighbors, below is the information for our upcoming Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee meeting, scheduled for 10-19-20 at 3pm to discuss this matter. As I also mentioned, you may submit public comment for this meeting by sending me an email and it will be submitted as part of the record for Committee consideration:

#### **CD&E Committee - Follow up on the Seaside Ranchos Holiday Lights Display**

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.  
When: Oct 19, 2020 03:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)  
Topic: Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84997050588?pwd=WTBldFYxQlIGRmp2bWtmYzITN29qUT09>

Passcode: 076294

Please let me know if I may be of further assistance.

Thank you,

#### **Katie Wand**

Management Associate – Office of the City Manager  
City of Torrance | 3031 Torrance Boulevard | Torrance CA 90503 | 310.618.5880 voice  
| 310.618.5891 fax | [KWand@TorranceCA.gov](mailto:KWand@TorranceCA.gov) | [www.TorranceCA.gov](http://www.TorranceCA.gov) |  
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**prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and delete all copies.**

**From:** Alvarado, Stephanie <SAlvarado@TorranceCA.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2020 5:05 PM

**Subject:** Light display, South Torrance

Good afternoon,

I had the following people call in regarding the light display in South Torrance.

They stated they are against having people come into their neighborhood to view the lights this year. The citizens that called expressed their concerns for the spread of COVID and each of them said they do not want this to spread any further. Each person mentioned a black out in that area where the residents of the neighborhood will be turning off their lights and staying indoors if there are any outside individuals coming into their neighborhood.

The residents listed below did ask for a call back from each member of the Council to express their concerns.

Deanna, [REDACTED]

Debbie, [REDACTED]

For information only

Please do not reply

BCC: Council2

**Stephanie Alvarado**

Office Assistant – Office of the City Manager

City of Torrance | 3031 Torrance Boulevard | Torrance CA 90503 | 310.618.5880 voice | 310.618.5891 fax |

SAlvarado@TorranceCA.gov | [www.TorranceCA.gov](http://www.TorranceCA.gov) | [www.Twitter.com/TorranceCA](https://www.Twitter.com/TorranceCA)

## Wand, Katherine

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**From:** Wand, Katherine  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2020 1:42 PM  
**To:** 'Mike Short'; Tricia Blanco; SNA  
**Subject:** RE: CD & E Committee Meeting Scheduled

Yes, all members of the public are invited to attend.

Thank you,

Katie Wand

Management Associate - Office of the City Manager  
City of Torrance | 3031 Torrance Boulevard | Torrance CA 90503 | 310.618.5880 voice | 310.618.5891 fax | KWand@TorranceCA.gov | [www.TorranceCA.gov](http://www.TorranceCA.gov) | [www.Twitter.com/TorranceCA](https://www.Twitter.com/TorranceCA)

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**From:** Mike Short [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2020 1:41 PM  
**To:** Wand, Katherine <KWand@TorranceCA.gov>; Tricia Blanco <[REDACTED]> SNA  
<[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: CD & E Committee Meeting Scheduled

**WARNING: External e-mail**  
Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Katie,

Many thanks for the invite.  
Are we at liberty to advertise this meeting locally?

We might consider sharing with:  
1) The SNA Holiday Lights Committee.  
2) All members of SNA.  
3) On [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com), etc.

Please let me know if there are limits.

Mike Short

On 9/28/20 09:19, Wand, Katherine wrote:

Good morning:

Please see link below for the CD&E Committee meeting, which will be held virtually on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

Thank you,

**Katie Wand**

Management Associate -- Office of the City Manager

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## Wand, Katherine

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**From:** Wand, Katherine  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2020 10:51 AM  
**To:** Bilezerian, Craig; Serna, Martin; Santana, Danny  
**Subject:** RE: Light display, South Torrance

FOR INFORMATION ONLY  
BCC: COUNCIL2

Good morning,

I spoke with Ms. Deanna Cowell this morning. Here is a summary of our conversation that she requested I share with you all:

- Ms. Cowell has spoken with Councilmember Ashcraft last week regarding this matter.
- She does not want food sales permitted due to COVID/safety issues.
- The SNA did not do a ballot/outreach as they did last year. The City is not involved in this aspect, but she shared for awareness.
- She expressed general concern that the SNA is ran by people who live in the outskirts/not on the main interior Seaside neighborhood and so their perception is different than those neighbors who live in the highest traffic areas. Additionally, realtors are involved and are more concerned with increasing property values/selling homes than perhaps the concerns of those residents who live in high-traffic areas.
- Ms. Cowell was pleased and appreciative of the measures that were taken last year by the City to address safety concerns.
- I shared with Ms. Cowell the information for our Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee meeting to discuss the 2020 display and reminded her that all members of the public are able to participate by submitting public comment to me via email or to participate directly in the Zoom meeting.

I will reach out to the other resident, Debbie, today as well, and this email will be included as correspondence in the upcoming Committee item.

Thank you,

**Katie Wand**

Management Associate – Office of the City Manager  
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**From:** Jackson, LeRoy  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2020 5:09 PM  
**To:** Wand, Katherine <KWand@TorranceCA.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Light display, South Torrance

**From:** Alvarado, Stephanie <SAlvarado@TorranceCA.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2020 5:05 PM

**Subject:** Light display, South Torrance

Good afternoon,

I had the following people call in regarding the light display in South Torrance.

They stated they are against having people come into their neighborhood to view the lights this year. The citizens that called expressed their concerns for the spread of COVID and each of them said they do not want this to spread any further. Each person mentioned a black out in that area where the residents of the neighborhood will be turning off their lights and staying indoors if there are any outside individuals coming into their neighborhood.

The residents listed below did ask for a call back from each member of the Council to express their concerns.

Deanna, [REDACTED]

Debbie, [REDACTED]

For information only

Please do not reply

BCC: Council2

**Stephanie Alvarado**

Office Assistant – Office of the City Manager

City of Torrance | 3031 Torrance Boulevard | Torrance CA 90503 | 310.618.5880 voice | 310.618.5891 fax |

SAlvarado@TorranceCA.gov | [www.TorranceCA.gov](http://www.TorranceCA.gov) | [www.Twitter.com/TorranceCA](http://www.Twitter.com/TorranceCA)

## Wand, Katherine

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**From:** Wand, Katherine  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2020 9:20 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: CD & E Committee Meeting Scheduled

Good morning, Ms. Elwood:

Forwarding the information below as an FYI.

Thank you,

**Katie Wand**  
Management Associate - Office of the City Manager  
City of Torrance | 3031 Torrance Boulevard | Torrance CA 90503 | 310.618.5880 voice | 310.618.5891 fax | KWand@TorranceCA.gov | [www.TorranceCA.gov](http://www.TorranceCA.gov) | [www.Twitter.com/TorranceCA](http://www.Twitter.com/TorranceCA)

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**From:** Wand, Katherine  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2020 9:19 AM  
**To:** Tricia Blanco <[REDACTED]>; 'Mike Short' <[REDACTED]>; 'SNA' <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** CD & E Committee Meeting Scheduled

Good morning:

Please see link below for the CD&E Committee meeting, which will be held virtually on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

### AGENDA ITEM

#### Follow up on the Seaside Ranchos Holiday Lights Display

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.  
When: Oct 19, 2020 03:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)  
Topic: Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84997050588?pwd=WTBldFYxQlIGRmp2bWtmYzITN29qUT09>

Passcode: 076294

I will send you additional information as the meeting date gets closer. Staff is in the process of reviewing the proposal that you submitted and will let you know if we have questions or concerns.

As done in the past, any written communication from residents, etc. received related to this item will be submitted with the staff report for the Committee to consider.

Thank you,

**Katie Wand**

Management Associate – Office of the City Manager

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## Wand, Katherine

---

**From:** Wand, Katherine  
**Sent:** Friday, September 18, 2020 9:28 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Christmas Lights issues in Seaside Rancho

Ms. Elwood:

This email is to provide an update regarding the 2020 Seaside Ranchos Holiday Lights Display. This update was shared with our Mayor, City Councilmembers, and SNA as well.

In February 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 let us know in August that they had some proposed changes to last year's Pilot Program (i.e. changes in parking restrictions, shorter parking restriction term, etc.). I let SNA know that if they are seeking City support again, to please submit a proposal to me via email by September 30, 2020. I will then share with our Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments for review and analysis. SNA indicated that they would be submitting a proposal and Staff is working with the Chair and Committee members to coordinate a date/time for a virtual CD&E Committee meeting. **Members of the public are invited to participate in this meeting and as soon as the meeting date/time is finalized, information will be shared publicly.**

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](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.

Please let me know if you request additional information at this time.

Have a nice weekend,

Katie Wand

Management Associate - Office of the City Manager

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**From:** Chen, George

**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2020 8:50 PM

**To:** Jackson, LeRoy <LJACKSON@TorranceCA.gov>; Chaparyan, Aram <AChaparyan@TorranceCA.gov>; Berg, Eve <eberg@TorranceCA.gov>; Serna, Martin <mserna@TorranceCA.gov>; Bilezerian, Craig <CBilezerian@TorranceCA.gov>; Santana, Danny <DSantana@TorranceCA.gov>

**Subject:** Fw: Christmas Lights issues in Seaside Rancho

FYI

**George Chen**

Councilmember - Office of the City Council

City of Torrance

3031 Torrance Blvd

Torrance, CA 90503

310-618-2801 (Office)

GChen@TorranceCA.Gov

<https://www.TorranceCA.Gov>

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**From:** Stefanie Elwood <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2020 8:05 PM

**To:** Chen, George

**Subject:** Christmas Lights issues in Seaside Rancho

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**WARNING: External e-mail**

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Dear Mayor Furey and esteemed council members,

The Christmas lights fiasco has divided the Seaside Rancho neighborhood. Obviously; we love Christmas, but the "help" we're getting is ruining our holidays and hurting the residents. First of all, there is a committee of non-elected people, some of whom do not even suffer the huge inconvenience and dangers of the parking restrictions. The residents do not collectively recognize this committee as a representation of their views. Some are not part of their communication system and were quite blindsided by the parking restrictions imposed on us last year. The committee sent out surveys, but they do not get to the crux of the issue. When a resident, way up on Vanderhill, says she likes the parking restrictions because it's easier to see the displays, we obviously have a problem. When there are people on the

committee who do not have restricted parking in front of their homes, we wonder why they feel entitled to advocate for their neighbors to suffer those restrictions.

As I understand it, the parking restrictions were put in place because this committee convinced Torrance that we wanted help getting emergency vehicles into the neighborhood during Christmas. The committee said that we would try this for one year and assess the plan afterward. Well, the plan failed. A traffic division person, helping out at PCH and Doris, said that there is no way this would help a firetruck get through. Additionally, no one I know has ever heard of an emergency that has not been handled. Considering the detriment caused by this plan, I implore you to stop the madness and help our community heal.

Points to ponder:

- Torrance should invest in bikes and medical backpacks for our paramedics. In a high-traffic situation, a paramedic could get to the residence ahead of the truck (if deemed necessary) and begin administering aid. Festivals and public events utilize paramedics on bikes. Our police officers also patrol on bikes.
- The new stop signs at Robert and Doris did NOT stop people from pushing their way through the intersection. A city engineer said that we only need the extra stop signs for about two weeks, but we are stuck with them year 'round. How does that sound right? We should not be saddled with more signage in our somewhat recently sign-barraged neighborhood for a two-week problem that was not even fixed. The extra signs also inflict the entryway to our cozy neighborhood with a "main street" feel.
- Residents have been forced to compete with neighbors for street parking. Christmas used to be a friendly time. This parking prohibition is tearing us apart.
- People who work at night end up having to park far from home and walk. Our neighborhoods are no longer safe, especially at night. Some people walking home are women and young adults.
- People who are able to drive themselves to the hospital or ER now have to walk quite a distance to get to their car. It's hard even to remember where we've parked at times.
- Families with multiple cars have to repark across the street every day before 5:00 and then bring the car back every night after 10:00. Cars in our neighborhood are constantly getting broken into. People want their cars close to home, so they can keep an eye on them.
- Some people don't have "across the street" parking, which makes parking an even greater challenge.
- Sometimes, the "across the street" parking is not well lit, which creates an increased likelihood of a car getting broken into.
- The parking restrictions make having company or hosting a party almost impossible. Obviously, this neighborhood loves Christmas. Parking restrictions put a huge damper on holiday spirit.
- Pedestrians are now walking in the streets and *not* watching their children well. Little ones scrambling around, not holding hands with a parent, could easily step or fall into the path of oncoming cars. Drivers are mostly looking at the lights, not pedestrians. Parked cars keep pedestrians safely on the sidewalks.
- People were doing more U-turns than ever this year because of the mad dash to find a place to park.
- We are concerned about parking restrictions impacting home sales. I would certainly never buy a house where I can't even park in front of my own home, especially at Christmas. Would you?

Please invest in bikes and medical backpacks for paramedics and put an end to the dangerous and intrusive "no parking" fiasco. We very much want to get back to enjoying Christmas.

Thank-you,

Stefanie Elwood