To whom this may concern,

If anyone deserves a toast to end 2024 it is the residents of our hillside communities who have had to endure unsafe conditions for years, irrespective of fiscal spending.  The public safety conditions have been ignored by key city agencies for years require **immediate attention and actionable solutions**. The lack of coordination and planning by city agencies cannot be ignored any longer.  The penalties are way too dangerous.

The current approach relying on LADOT and LAPD to manage traffic and safety is not only inadequate but places these departments in an impossible position. They are deployed without a **traffic plan, capacity numbers or an emergency plan to guide their efforts**, leaving them ill-equipped to address the challenges effectively. The solution for our ongoing problems does not rest with them, but rather with **providing an alternate location and process for visitors to experience the Hollywood Sign.**  **One that ensures safe access and monitoring and away from residential communities.**

The recent events in New Orleans on January 1, 2025 underscore the vulnerability of our public spaces to terrorist activities. These events serve as a stark reminder of how critical it is to monitor and secure popular landmarks, such as the Hollywood Sign, and public parks where unsupervised activities, including off-trail hiking, could expose countless individuals and residents to significant risks.

The Hollywood Sign, a global icon, and the surrounding trails attract millions of visitors annually. Despite this, the lack of robust monitoring systems, clear boundaries, and security personnel in these residential areas leaves them susceptible to misuse and malicious activities. An unregulated environment could easily become a target, endangering both visitors, residents and the integrity of these landmarks. This is particularly concerning given the rising number of visitors and the increasing popularity of secluded trails and new trails pathed by over tourism that are difficult to patrol. The request to have these areas closed as tourist destinations immediately due to lack of surveillance, lack of proper safety signage, lack of park ranger staffing, lack of proper gating and boundaries set and lack of visitor education on regulations should no longer be set aside and unrecognized.  I urge the city to take immediate steps to mark these areas as closed, promptly.

Our Board has not had a day of peace due to the deluge of angry residents and having to address unsafe conditions for our residents this holiday season.  We can confirm that the Holidays were not happy ones for any of the residents or visitors. Our communities were not designed to function as tourist destinations, and the burden of unmanaged tourism has compromised the safety and quality of life for residents and the experience for the thousands that visit daily. **It is imperative that the city takes responsibility for developing sustainable and effective solutions that protect both residents and visitors.**

Based on these past few weeks (and years) we request immediate action on the below:

1. **Providing an alternate location and process for experiencing the Hollywood Sign**
2. **Official Park trails should be secure, monitored, signed and designed for visitor safety.**
3. **Expediting the Preferential Parking District (PPD) process** for the Lake Hollywood area to alleviate parking and congestion issues - ***This topic must be placed on the January Agenda and approved ASAP.***
4. **Replacing and reconfiguring the Barham signal for Hollywood Knolls** as a priority to improve traffic flow and safety.
5. **Permanently abandoning plans to reopen the Beachwood Gate** - this would just exacerbate congestion and safety concerns.

We urge the Los Angeles Mayor's Office, CD4, Los Angeles Rec and Parks, the Department of Tourism, and the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce to collaborate on a comprehensive plan to address these visitor issues and a new path forward for tourism and the Hollywood Sign away from the hillside neighborhoods and community parks.  Until a new plan can be formulated these areas need to be closed. We look forward to your immediate response and a clear plan of action to address these long-standing issues.

Regards,

Board of Directors, Lake Hollywood Homeowners Association