


		CITY OF LOS ANGELES California	
		Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council	
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June 18, 2009

Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation
1200 West 7th Street, Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

The Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC) voted in its regularly scheduled Board meeting this evening to request that Los Angeles Recreation and Parks review security and safety procedures, specifically at Orcas (Gabrieleno) Park.

Los Angeles Police Department recently reported the park at double its safe capacity of users. The police presence was responding to break up a feud between two families.

On three-day weekends and major holidays, cars line both sides of Orcas Avenue and often flow into the residential neighborhood. On Easter weekend, emergency response vehicles were totally blocked by parked cars on Orcas street and were unable to respond. Over burden of toilet facilities and large amounts of trash render the park unusable.

These circumstances repeat every summer weekend. Unlicensed vendors sell food. Horses are brought in, tied to trees and rented to anyone who will pay. There are unauthorized BBQ fires next to soccer games next to small children at play. Alcohol consumption, live bands (that can be heard for half a mile) and horses racing around outside of the arena set the stage perfectly for deadly accidents.

Some months ago, a local equestrian fatality did occur on a Sunday at Orcas Park. It was reported that the horse spooked, meaning it had a reaction to a noise.

There are reports of drug use and sales and prostitution at Orcas Park during the week.

We look forward to your response, remedies and solutions that Recreation and Parks can implement to make the park a safer experience for all involved.

Thank you,

Dale Gibson
 President, Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council

