



Beachwood Canyon

N E I G H B O R H O O D A S S O C I A T I O N

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

It has come to our attention that the General Manager of the L.A. Animal Services Commission has approved removing our only trained Urban Wildlife Expert Officer, Gregory Randall, from his post serving your hillside constituents.

As new families and individuals move into their homes in the hillside communities, there is a constant and ever present need to help educate these people on how to co-exist with the urban wildlife in the area. Many have never been this close to the large variety of wildlife that roam our streets and yards during the night and now, during the day. Gregory was our resource for this valuable training along with his experience dealing with all issues of wildlife in the hills.

The person placed in the Wildlife program as his supervisor has no training in wildlife and the other "wildlife officer" has a degree in Zoology, which is vastly different from the training that is needed to deal with our urban wildlife. We are not a zoo - we are neighborhoods surrounded by Griffith Park hills filled with wildlife. They are not captive and we do not support any efforts to trap them. They are free and need to be understood. Officer Randall is uniquely qualified to impart that understanding and guide the neighbors in ways their behavior can alter to accommodate the presence of wildlife in our neighborhoods.

We are now told that the L.A. Animal Services Department headed up by the GM Brenda Barnett, is ordering Officer Randall OUT of the Urban Wildlife Program and assigning him to the East Valley Shelter to work as an Animal Control Officer. This is wrong on so many levels. The person who has been his supervisor for the last few years is uniquely qualified for the East Valley Shelter position, yet has never received any management training or wildlife training. One must question why he has been given the title of Urban Wildlife Program head.

Many positions are political and we understand this. However, sending our best resource away like this looks like retribution similar to that which whistle blowers endure. We ask that you look into this matter right away. If Officer Randall does not agree to this transfer, he will not have a job.

May we discuss this at your earliest convenience? It would be good for you to meet Gregory Randall and get his take on this. He has been out on stress leave due to the harassment he has endured. After a review of his complaints filed with personnel, they agree that he has indeed been put through the ringer by his supervisor. But rather than shift this person (lacking management training) to the East Valley Shelter, they are asking Gregory Randall to make that move.

Sincerely,

Fran Reichenbach, founder and treasurer of the Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association

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