

BLUE FOLDER ITEM

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING January 5, 2021

J.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Khatirah Nazif

Subject: FW: Remarks for Redondo Council meeting Jan 5th

Good evening Mr. Mayor City councilmembers and staff:

My name is Holly Osborne, District 5.

Back on Oct 13 you may recall that I sent you excerpts from an August *New York Times* article on how different areas of some cities were hotter or cooler based on the number of trees and green areas. The differences in the temperature could be as much as 4 degrees on average, or 8 or 9 degrees in the extreme.. In the article, the cause of the temperature differences in these areas were traced back to redlining policies of the 1930's, and often the hottest areas of the cities were in poorer neighborhoods of people of color. The article pointed out to higher death rates, and more health problems in these areas.

That article focused on Richmond, Virginia, although I passed out a bar graph from the article showing temperature differences of cities all over the United States.

On January 1, I received in my in-box something from *National Geographic* with a similar article on the importance of trees, and inequities in cities. This article had an instagram preface on a city a lot closer to home: Los Feliz, in LA County.

From the article, it says "Los Feliz has a leafy tree canopy that covers about 15 percent of the land, and is on average nearly 4 degrees cooler than the city's average."

This difference has been and will exacerbated by global warming.

Right now, I am not focused on whether or not redlining policies of the past determined these cooler vs hotter areas. There is a more threatening policy looming in the future that can destroy the health of our neighborhoods just as surely, and that I shall call this the "concretization" of our neighborhoods.

Current proposed policies in the legislature that emphasize overdevelopment of R1 lots (SB9, SB 10) are going to heat up cities, and further accelerate the effects of climate change. These policies are favorable to builders and speculators, and they will zero-in on the R1 zones in cheaper cities to densify first. These cities will often be cities where people of color live. This will repeat the inequities of the past, but this time it will be in the name of "progress." This is the ultimate hypocrisy.

What can be done to mitigate this?

A city planner from another city suggested a requirement to "maintain plant-able areas", In order to have street canopies, we absolutely must not destroy front yards where people can plant trees. I realize some areas in Redondo Beach are simply "unplantable", and I think of the R1-A areas where there are the "tall and skinnies" in North Redondo. But that should not dissuade us from preserving the neighborhoods that still have front or side yards, before they get destroyed by total concrete coverage.

Why am I bringing this up again now? Because Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi sent out a survey asking what is important to us. It is due by January 8th. I would like to ask him to introduce legislation that allows cities to "preserve plant-able areas" and this could apply to medians as well. (I welcome refinements from our own planning staff.)

Mr. Muratuchi also needs to be reminded to oppose SB 9 and SB 10.

Senator Ben Allen, our senator, is chairman of the environmental committee. He needs to be approached as well. Get moving people, the next legislature starts next week, and we need to be proposing the legislation, and not always reacting.

Thank you for your time
Holly Osborne

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Holly Osborne <[REDACTED]>

To: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, January 1, 2021, 03:15:14 PM PST

Subject: Instagram on climate change and heat warming from National Geographic.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ELLIOT ROSEN. [@ELLIOTSTUDIO](#)

ILLUSTRATION BY ELLIOT ROSEN. [@ELLIOTSTUDIO](#)

Trees, please: The affluent Los Angeles neighborhood of Los Feliz (*above*) has a leafy tree canopy that covers about 15 percent of the land, and is on average nearly 4 degrees cooler than the city's average. Researchers find a correlation between redlining and a significant increase in surface temperatures. Tree cover and the essential shade it provides is one critical

factor that results in this heat disparity. **With extreme temperatures set to take off in the coming decades, it's important to recognize that heat related fatalities will disproportionately impact minority and lower income neighborhoods across the United States.**

Related: Racist housing policies have created some oppressively hot neighborhoods

From National Geographic Instagram , Jan 1, 2021.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ELLIOT ROSS, [@ELLIOTSTUDIO](#)

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