

Informational re: Beach Curfew

In the 1980s many communities were struggling with high rates of violent crime and by 1988 many curfew ordinances for youth were enforced in both beachside communities and inland, along beach through-paths and on the beach itself.

By 2010 the gang and crime situation had changed and these dated ordinances were revisited amid questions regarding the regulatory authority of the Coastal Commission.

This 2010 LAT article by Tony Barboza provides a good background:

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/nov/18/local/la-me-beach-curfew-20101117>

California coastal panel challenges beach curfews

The commission says cities' nighttime closures are illegal without state approval. The first big fight is shaping up in Los Angeles, which says the panel has little authority over local statutes.

and this more generally from the NYTimes: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/26/us/26curfew.html>

At issue is whether the CoLA or the Coastal Commission (CCC) has final authority over the beaches. CoLA contends the CCC does not appreciate social concerns specific to this locality (crime, homelessness, parking); the CCC contends its authority supersedes local jurisdictions regardless.

The courts have generally approved the CCC's position and in 2015 a group of homeless and anti-gentrification activists sued the City regarding its failure to obtain approval from the CCC for curfew restrictions.

That lawsuit was settled for \$1.1m in April and the City intends to seek that approval from the CCC, which is rumored to hear the matter in November.

As stated in a 2015 letter from the CCC, The CoLA will have to show "... "credible evidence" of a continuing public safety threat to get the permit". <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-venice-curfew-challenge20150419-story.html>.

Negotiating points employed or suggested by various coastal communities and policy makers at different times include • locations of corridor access, • curfew hours, • extent of beach access (for example, within 20 feet of "wet sand"), • compensatory enforcement appropriations • warning -> ticketing process.

Pacific Palisades has been key on this NC motion and its stakeholders particularly vocal. One proposed beach corridor could well be located at Will Rogers SP/beach, while a potential corridor at Venice Beach has been missing from periodic proposals. Here is a good article from PP: <http://www.palisadesnews.com/index.php/2018/03/26/editorial-beach-curfew-and-the-coastal-commission/>

MVCC's ROSE Subcommittee was interested to hear more about the law enforcement challenges before committing to a policy position. MVCC's PLUM Committee supports the safety concerns of the NCs in our neighboring beach communities (Del Rey, Venice, Pacific Palisades) and supports the WRAC resolution as written.

The Westside Regional Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (WRAC) – a cooperative regional council made up of all 13 Neighborhood and Community Councils on the Westside of Los Angeles – serves to amplify our collective voices. WRAC will adopt a policy position if and only when a super majority of its constituent NCs approve a substantially similar motion.

The following has been passed by (1) Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, (2) Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa, (3) Westside Neighborhood Council, (4) Pacific Palisades Community Council, (5) Brentwood Neighborhood Council and (6) Westwood Neighborhood Council, (7) Westwood Community Council (8) West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council, and (9) South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

Motion: *The Mar Vista Community Council opposes the lifting of the beach curfew currently in place, restricting beach access from midnight to 5am, daily. This is in consideration of public health and safety concerns and in keeping with long standing practice, supported by LAPD and LA County Beaches and Harbors, who are tasked with maintaining the safety and integrity of the beach and the shoreline, respectively.*