

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

August 12, 2014

Virginia Robinson Gardens ("Gardens") is one of the cultural jewels of the Los Angeles County Park system. It is the first residential estate in Beverly Hills and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The property, which contains a tremendous display of gardens, a house museum and a Pool Pavilion, attracts a varied audience ranging from those interested in the history of Los Angeles and Beverly Hills to people who appreciate beautiful gardens and Classical Revival architecture.

The Department of Parks and Recreation ("Department") and the Friends of Robinson Gardens have worked tirelessly to make this multi-faceted property more accessible to the public without impacting the neighborhood. The current operating hours and program schedule were established thirty-four years ago in the 1980 Environmental Impact Report (EIR). It limits the hours and days of operation and number of daily visitors allowed at the Gardens for guided tours, classes, seminars and special events.

The 2014 Final Supplemental EIR, which is before the Board today, proposes operational changes to allow more access for visitors with minimal impacts to the

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neighborhood. The proposed operational changes include opening the Gardens from Monday to Saturday and all holidays, with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, and extending the hours of operation by thirty minutes.

While the proposed changes are modest, in further deference to the neighbors, I propose that instead of opening the Gardens every Saturday, as contemplated by the Revised Final Supplemental EIR, the Department open the Garden on only two Saturdays a month as part of a twelve month pilot program. This will allow the department staff to collect information on how Saturday operations are conducted and assess any impacts to the neighbors. Also, I want to reassure the neighbors that weddings will not be held on the property and there will be no parking on Elden Way by visitors to the Gardens. Furthermore, Garden events will continue to relate to the historical context of the site.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the County Department of Parks and Recreation to: (1) institute a twelve month pilot program in which the Garden limits its Saturday hours to two Saturdays per month; (2) return to the Board thirty days after the completion of the pilot program with an evaluation of the Saturday use based on attendance, number of complaints, and impacts, if any, to neighbors; and (3) make a recommendation to the Board as to continuing Saturday hours of operation.

MCC: S:MOTIONS/VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS