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COUNCILMAN
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

City Council
of the
City of Los Angeles
City Hall
90012

COMMITTEES

CHAIRMAN
BUILDING AND SAFETY

MEMBER
PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE
REVENUE AND TAXATION

March 21, 1969

Dear Fellow Eagle Rock Resident:

I am certain that you have been as distressed as I have with the recent widely-reported controversy generated by the irresponsible statements of an Occidental College professor (or two), characterizing our community as a future slum.

Those of us who know our Eagle Rock neighborhood well know that he grossly overstated our defects and ignored the strengths of what is certainly one of the finest residential communities in Los Angeles. But we must also, as realists, know that there were seeds of truth in what he said. It is absolutely true that a community never stands still--that it either progresses or disintegrates--and that there are some problems in Eagle Rock to which we must attend.

This letter is to ask your cooperation in three ways: By direct assistance to my office; by your participation in a program of community improvement; and by the casting of your vote on two potential community programs.

First: PLEASE COMPLAIN! Let me know what the problems are in your neighborhood--tell us about the holes in the street, the abandoned vehicles, the dilapidated structures, the yards piled high with debris and weeds--those things which downgrade the quality of life in our community. Write to me at Room 333, City Hall, Los Angeles 90012, or to my field office at 5317 North Figueroa Street, Los Angeles 90042.

Second: My office has been instrumental in forming community improvement associations in a number of the communities of Northeast Los Angeles in the 20 months since I took office. If you would be interested in participating actively in such an organization in Eagle Rock, please so indicate on the coupon at the bottom of this letter. You will be notified of the first meeting of those who have indicated interest.

Third: Below you will find information on two potential community programs, the "Eagle Rock Street Lighting District," and the "Community Improvement Program." They are self-explanatory, and I would appreciate it if you would express your opinion on both programs for my guidance. I will follow the desires of the people of Eagle Rock in seeking either program. Use the coupon at the bottom of this letter to cast your family's vote.

A STREET LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FOR EAGLE ROCK

Since taking office just over a year ago, I have presented to the people of the Lincoln Heights, El Sereno, Elysian Valley, Cypress Park, North Atwater, and Glassell Park districts a plan for bringing modern street lighting to their communities. It has received, in each case, their overwhelming approval. The communities of York Valley and Highland Park have likewise asked for development of the program there. By 1973 all of the streets of the communities approving the program will be completely lighted on the most modern standard.

I have received a number of requests from Eagle Rock residents as well, asking that the people of Eagle Rock be allowed to vote as to whether they would like to be included in this program.

I am asking you to express your opinion on the matter, for under the law the City cannot provide all the funds necessary to finance this improvement. Much of the cost of installation will be borne by you, the property owners, at a cost of approximately \$1.50 per front foot in the typical installation. On this basis, the owner of the average 50-foot lot would pay about \$75 depending on the benefit to his property, to be paid over a ten-year period. That means the cost would be about \$7.50 per year, or about 65¢ per month for ten years. In return for this expenditure, Eagle Rock would get the most modern system of street lighting available--on every street in the community.

Printed on a separate sheet is an article from the New York Times. Let me urge your careful consideration of what it says. It is my desire to make our community a better and a safer place for you and your family. I am convinced that modern street lighting will aid in this effort, but the final decision is up to you.

This program does not apply, of course, in areas where there is a presently-existing system of continuous lighting.

THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IN EAGLE ROCK

This year the City of Los Angeles commenced a program called the "Community Improvement Program" which will have great importance to the future of our City. It is actually a City-enforced "clean-up, paint-up, fix-up" campaign. Under that program the City Department of Building and Safety conducts a review of every structure in the City of Los Angeles once every 10 years. This is a "once over lightly" inspection, designed to uncover hazards to life and health, seriously damaged buildings, zoning violations, and to order the repair of disintegrating and dilapidated structures and the painting of those buildings that are in need of it.

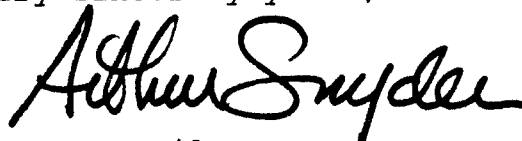
Every building in the City will be inspected within 10 years, and the Department has already covered the Elysian Valley district and Atwater. The program is presently in progress in the North Atwater area as the result of the request by vote of the residents there. Glassell Park is on the list for the program this year, but Eagle Rock is not. This program is our City's first line of attack against urban decay, and is greatly to the advantage of any community--but especially to those in the community who make the effort to maintain their homes.

As City Councilman, I do not have the authority to order the Program into a community or to order it out of a community. However, I have discussed with the Department of Building and Safety the possibility of bringing Eagle Rock into the program out of its turn. They have told me that if the people of Eagle Rock demonstrate their desire for the program this year, then the Department will give consideration and weight to their request.

Should you have additional questions on either program, a public meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10, at Eagle Rock High School Auditorium, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss both of them.

Thanks for your help. Despite the distortions of the headline hunters, you and I know well that Eagle Rock is a fine community where sound property values reflect the benefits of living in a friendly neighborhood with a great future. By working together, the people and their representative can do much more to guarantee that future than could be done separately.

Very sincerely yours,



Councilman
Fourteenth District

City Councilman Arthur K. Snyder
Room 333, City Hall
Los Angeles, California 90012

STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT

_____ I APPROVE

_____ I DO NOT APPROVE

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

_____ I APPROVE

_____ I DO NOT APPROVE

I would like to be active in an Eagle
Rock Improvement Association _____ YES _____ NO

Signature

Address