

Pacific Palisades Community Advisory Group – LAPD – call #2 Summary (5/28)

PCH Opening Weekend Update Meeting

Maryam Zar welcomed attendees to the meeting, including Army Corps Colonel Palazzini, Captain Gabaldon, Deputy Mayor Robert Clark, Sergeant Alpert, SLO Espin and Arus from CD11. She noted that Col Palazzini had informed the community over the weekend that the US Army Corps would take the Memorial Day holiday weekend off, and that might have positively impacted road congestion as PCH opened over the weekend. She asked if the resumption of work had translated into adverse impact with the opening and traffic flow. LAPD reported that there were no significant complications over the weekend, and only one incident that led to an arrest (for copper theft). The objective of the meeting was to receive updates from LAPD, US Army Corps, MOPS, and CD11 (Arus), and to get feedback from the community in an ongoing effort to maintain open lines of communication as the recovery progresses. Captain Gabaldon said he very much appreciates the exchange and thanked the community for pressing to maintain checkpoints even as PCH opened this weekend - it helps LAPD be effective in crime suppression in Pacific Palisades and prevents the same sort of crime uptick as was seen in Altadena.

Debris Clearance Progress Update

Col Palazzini reported that debris clearance operations are progressing well, with truckloads reduced from 1,200 to 500-600 daily and crews reduced from over 100 to 50-60 (as the number of properties left to clear decreases and more complicated lots remain). USACE expects to complete their mission by the end of summer, with some caveats as complex properties are left and new properties (such as multifamily lots are added to their workload). Work is “complete” once all debris is cleared from the lot and paperwork is returned to the County. Due to paperwork complications and multifamily parcels, USACE deployment may extend into September. Maryam inquired about Temescal Canyon Road – repairs as well as access to Pali High students. Col confirmed that Tem Cyn Rd will be restored to its “pre-project” condition (noting that there was water leakage at the bottom of the road where USACE is not operating). PCH road access was discussed with no major incidents, noting that while most USACE contractor trucks are now off PCH, occasional traffic control measures will remain in place to protect crews still working on shoulders.

Police Deployment Update

The LAPD has deployed 68 officers, including one lieutenant, six sergeants, and 61 officers with most on overtime. Over the weekend, 10 officers from other parts of the city were used to backfill duties, and CHP continues crime suppression in the Palisades with 12 officers and 2 Sgts. Checkpoints were reduced from

16 to 12, and while there was traffic congestion on PCH due to tourists misunderstanding access rules, the situation is improving as word spreads about authorized access only. A multi-person looting arrest occurred at 600 Via de la Paz, involving suspects caught with stolen copper wiring and burglary tools, with the ringleader being a contractor who had been denied access to a construction site.

Palisades Security and Community Engagement

WLA Captain Gabaldon emphasized the importance of traffic control points and checkpoints in managing access and preventing unauthorized entry, particularly as construction activities increase. Sergeant Alpert and Brian Espin discussed the strategic benefits of gradual reopening plans and the challenges of maintaining security while adapting to community needs and said community feedback and communication is helpful. Maryam said the community will support LAPD deployment for as long as they identify the need, noting that this deployment is costly to the city and unlikely to last forever. Arus (CD11) encouraged residents to spread awareness about the 41.24 forms and a community survey. The group addressed camera locations (50 camera locations but locations not announced to community) and the effectiveness of the CD11 survey with suggestions to streamline it for better participation.

LAPD and Private Security Coordination

The meeting discussed the presence of LAPD and private security during the Memorial Day service, highlighting the importance of LAPD's capabilities and communication. John Padden inquired about the role of private security, and LAPD clarified that three city-contracted security companies (GSG, Allied Universal, and Absolute Security) are currently patrolling the Palisades, with direct communication channels to the LAPD command post.

Palisades Security and Access Management

LAPD discussed their current approach to managing resident access and concerns about suspicious activity, while Sharon highlighted recent arrests for copper wire theft and emphasized the importance of vigilance against homeless individuals squatting in the area. The group also discussed the use of surveillance cameras, with WLA explaining their incident-driven monitoring system and the process for reporting suspicious activity through 911 or 311.

Palisades Traffic Checkpoint Concerns

Kambiz Kamdar raised concerns about backups at the Sunset and PCH checkpoint, suggesting potential adjustments to checkpoint placement or hours if they continue beyond a month. Maryam mentioned

CD11 considering allowing Palisadian households a certain number of guest passes. The group discussed the impact of lane restrictions and cone placement on PCH, which WLA clarified are managed by Caltrans rather than the LAPD. Brian Espin to ask them to review cone placement and speed check after Chautauqua (where traffic should be normal/non construction zone enforcement). Continued monitoring of checkpoint operations and lane closures was identified as a necessity, with Brian tasked to communicate resident concerns about cone placement to Caltrans.

Palisades Security Measures Discussion

Robert Gold raised questions about the number of private security companies operating alongside LAPD, and LAPD clarified that residents may wish to hire private security for their properties, with the possibility of future city-contracted security positions becoming available. Maryam shared that she, Sue Kohl and Jessica Rogers met with LVT, the company that has offered 25 solar-powered trailer cameras to LAPD for use in Pacific Palisades (shared on our PRC May 13 Security call). Jessica provided details of her tour of the area with LVT, highlighting problem areas and potential crime risks, so they can better assess how best their products can address our security needs. The company will present a plan for camera placement, and the community will reconvene next Wednesday to discuss further security initiatives.

Next steps

- Brian to pass on community feedback about cone placement and lane closures to the Incident Management Team.
- Arus to consider vetting future surveys with community members before distribution.
- LAPD to monitor and potentially adjust the Sunset/PCH checkpoint to reduce traffic backups.
- LAPD to review cone placement on PCH and Chautauqua periodically to optimize traffic flow.
- Jessica and community leaders to review and provide feedback on the security camera company's placement plan once received.
- LAPD to consider integrating the new security cameras with existing surveillance systems.
- Army Corps to continue monitoring and adjusting their operations as PCH reopens to ensure smooth debris removal.
- Colonel Palazzini to provide an estimate of the number of structures burned specifically in Pacific Palisades.
- Arus to share the updated Google Sheet for trespass authorization forms with Officer Brand and other relevant parties.