

July 2025



**CARING FOR OUR
NEIGHBORHOOD.**



Hugo's Disgrace

The intersection of Silver Lake Boulevard and the 101 Freeway is known as the **Gateway to Silver Lake** – and is currently a **disgrace** to both our neighborhood and the City of Los Angeles. As it is now, it's more like the **Gateway to Hell**, and not an entrance to one of the most iconic, quirky and classic neighborhoods in Los Angeles.

Sadly, the area is home to an encampment where the residents live in a center median of about 7 feet in width. They inhabit a space between lanes of speeding traffic and present a danger to both traffic and themselves.

The situation has been an encampment for several years and has lately gotten worse. The turn lane to the southbound 101 was covered in trash and bottles, some broken, over the weekend. Tents and belongings spill into the turning lane. Another lane is now partially blocked by about a dozen shopping carts. A generator was observed last week and power is being obtained from an underground utility box. Cars are constantly weaving around these dangers, often stopping quickly, and the people who live there are often darting between tents in the traffic lanes.

The situation is a danger to those who live there and drivers who pass through. This encampment is an impediment to public safety. We ask our readers, and more specifically the Councilmember, how can anyone think this is a humane treatment of fellow Angelenos?

Who is responsible? Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez.

We ask the Councilmember: do you actually think this is humane treatment of your fellow human beings? Are you proud of what you see when driving through this area, or does your stomach turn like it should? You can no longer pass the buck or make excuses. Calls to CalTrans and the Bureau of Street Services have placed the responsibility squarely with the Council District as those agencies have no jurisdiction over this issue. Shame on you and your office. Weren't you elected to solve problems?

While the Council District does clean the area monthly, the trash and debris fill up immediately, and the situation does not get solved. People posting on Next Door note the Council District says it is a "difficult area to resolve." Other council districts have been able to clean up, remove, and control encampments. Why can't CD13?

Will it take a tragedy to resolve this situation?

Under the previous Councilmember, the area was maintained far better and was less of a public safety issue. Encampments were not prevalent, and the area was constantly cleaned by the Silver Lake Improvement Association (SLIA). In fact, the area was landscaped and improved over 20 years ago by

the SLIA as a community improvement project. A mural was also installed, is now destroyed by the encampment and graffiti, and is now considered irreparable. Maintaining the area now is dangerous, per the SLIA, and is not possible.

Silver Lake Together would love to see the residents of this area housed, and the area made safe for pedestrians and vehicles. Why can't Councilmember Martinez?

Editor's Note: We encourage readers to send emails and concerns about this tragic situation to:

Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez
Councilmember.Soto-Martinez@lacity.org

Michael Batistick, Homelessness Director
michael.batistick@lacity.org

Images: Dangerous lane blockages at Silver Lake Boulevard and the 101 Freeway, both human and shopping carts.





Vacant Wronske Building Brings Blight and Crime



We all are more than familiar with the ugly unfinished building at 2800 Glendale Blvd., owned and “managed” by Hardy Wronske. It’s been an eyesore for years and has brought anxiety and frustration to all who live within 500 feet of this monstrosity. The following is just a brief description of the hell residents of Locksley deal with everyday:

“Hardy Wronske is known for building thoughtful, community-focused projects across LA, which makes the neglect at 2800 Glendale Blvd especially frustrating. I reached out to collaborate on basic safety, with no demands, just genuine concern for the neighborhood. His only response was asking how I got his email (his website). Since then, there’s been a fire, a car break-in, unsecured scaffolding, and still no visible action. Our street is a place where kids ride bikes and neighbors walk together, but that sense of safety is slipping. When pedestrians, especially children, pass an unsafe site every day

and the owner remains silent, it becomes necessary to speak publicly. Our community deserves better." - *Rachel Hollcraft, a concerned neighbor*

Well, finally some good news.

As of July 21st, the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety has opened an investigation. Let's hope they deem the building useless and fine Wronske and order the building to be torn down and the lot sold.

To add insult to injury, a homeless man has made the public space near the vacant property his domain, causing more anxiety for Locksley residents. He has yelled, trespassed, trashed, harassed, and tormented both adults and children. The police do respond to calls and he has been "removed", only to return hours later to continue his troubling behavior. The photos provide a visual "taste" of what people have had to endure.

Where is CD4?

Why have neighbors been forced to not only live for years with an abandoned building, which is a magnet for crime, looming over their properties, AND a man with destructive tendencies, struggling with mental illness? It's all just so ridiculous. Our city council representatives are failing us.



Thank you, Dawn Cotterell!

LADWP's Dawn Cotterell, who represented the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex, has been transferred to another area of the agency. Silver Lake Together enjoyed working directly with Dawn, and appreciates all of the time and information she provided to our team and the neighborhood.

We are happy to announce that LADWP's Michael Ventre, who has represented the electrical power side of our community, will now be handling all that Dawn did regarding the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex.

Welcome to the Silver Lake Together Advocacy team, Michael!



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