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July 10, 2024

Letter to the Community of Sunland-Tujunga:

The Safe Traffic and Transportation Committee wants to respond to the situation that took place at the 4th of July Parade in Sunland-Tujunga involving actor Danny Trejo and put on by our local Rotary Club. As the committee promotes safety on our streets, we are very disappointed that a small group of parade goers would disrupt this long-standing parade that hundreds of people and families with young children were greatly enjoying, up until that point.

What happened was not only disrespectful to Mr. Trejo, it was disrespectful to the spirit of the 4th of July, a holiday that celebrates our unity and pride as a community and as a nation.

Danny Trejo was an honored guest and dignitary who took the time to ride in our parade. As a celebrity, he is looked up to by people all over the world and for that reason, he was chosen to highlight our Sunland-Tujunga parade. However, some members in the crowd dishonored him by throwing water balloons at his entourage and his car. This was a despicable act of unjustified violence and not an appropriate way to celebrate our beloved 4th of July Parade.

The damage did not stop there, however. It was reported that equestrians had their horses pelted with water, which could have caused another disaster. As such, our STAT committee is recommending that the Rotary Club, with the aid of LAPD, explore and find ways to strictly enforce a "NO WATER BALLOON" policy throughout the parade route for future parades. This includes, water cannons, super soakers and throwing buckets of water at parade participants.

This code of conduct needs to be strictly enforced by LAPD with those violating the rules asked to leave, arrested for violating the No Water policy, or having penalties or fines imposed as stated in the municipal code of the City of Los Angeles. There has to be consequences for those who ruin our parade as it casts a negative image on our entire community. The actions of a few people who did this were not representative of who we are as a community in Sunland-Tujunga or what we want to be known for.

Our Sunland-Tujunga community has always supported this parade and it has been an event that everyone loved and came out to attend. But for this event to continue, there has to be respect shown to ALL of the human and animal participants with no projectiles or water aimed at the vehicles in the parade.

Danny Trejo was not the problem. The problem was the way in which he was treated. Ten years ago, this parade was at least twice as long with live bands from different states and lots of classic car clubs and everyone respected them. But what took place this July 4th was an insult to the Rotary Club who put on the parade, the participants and the entire community of families who came out with their children to watch it.

For our parade to continue, there has to be enforcement by LAPD or some other security because this can't happen again or our parade will diminish or completely die out.

Sincerely,



Pat Kramer, chairperson,

Safe Traffic and Transportation Committee of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council



Jon von Gunten, co-chair,

Safe Traffic and Transportation Committee of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council