

July 19, 2018

Honorable Mayor Tornek
Honorable Members of City Council
City of Pasadena
100 N. Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Dear Mayor Tornek and Councilmembers:

RE: New construction of public restroom facility
10 N. Arroyo Blvd., Desiderio Neighborhood Park

The West Pasadena Residents' Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above project, and submits the following comments for your consideration and action.

WPRA has reviewed the staff report and the draft project sketches, and is concerned about the size, design and the location of the structure.

It was long-debated whether to have public toilet facilities in Desiderio Park or not. Placing a restroom building similar in size to those that meet the needs of much larger parks seems misguided at best. The structure is patently oversized and its size difficult to reconcile with the limited area and nature of the park. The stated 875 square feet is larger than the maximum square footage allotted for a majority of accessory dwellings units under the recently-approved ordinance, designed with multiple stalls, and four ancillary and utility use areas. A much smaller structure (example photos attached) would be far more suitable for this small area. A large public toilet building ought not be shoehorned into this tiny neighborhood park. One size does not fit all.

We request that this public toilet's location be very carefully evaluated, and the final recommended placement provide a reliable confidence factor for being the least intrusive and most safe for its neighbors and users alike. The current recommended placement is 15-20 feet from the neighboring residences, and this proximity is both unsightly and unhygienic. Further, it is adjacent to Arroyo Blvd. This proposed location can potentially serve as an attractive post-event alternative relief station, causing traffic congestion, noise, and loitering. Locating a small public toilet close to the tot-lot, in an unobtrusive and more practical area distanced from neighbors, reduces the possibility of a potential public nuisance and provides additional enhanced safety for children.

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Lastly, although the current design has moderately improved our stylistic concerns, the structure remains a rectangular concrete box with superficial Arts and Crafts references. Given the setting and the restroom's adjacency to the historic Arroyo Bungalows, as well as the new Habitat construction which manifest the Craftsman style, it seems more appropriate that Arroyo stone and wood siding, exposed rafter tails, darker colors, etc. would be more applicable and compatible.

WPRA appreciates your consideration of these comments and concerns, and looks forward to an appropriately-sized structure with a more compatible design that is located in a much more appropriate location where it will be useful and easily accessible to park patrons.

Respectfully yours,



Dan Beal
President

cc: Steve Mermell, City manager
Taka Suzuki, Deputy to Councilmember Madison, District 6
David Reyes, Director of Planning and Community Development
Ara Maloyan, Director of Public Works
Charles Loveman, Board Chair, Vista del Arroyo Bungalows HOA
Marcelline Solway, Vista del Arroyo Bungalows HOA



**WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
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July 23, 2018

To Pasadena City Council Members:

Please take into consideration the following information regarding the Desiderio Restroom, which is on tonight's agenda.

1. **Cost of Park...** Some council members have stressed that because the cost of the park is so HIGH, the park needs to benefit all residents of the city. Fact is the cost of the park is so high because of the DEMOLITION OF THE ARMY BUILDINGS. On October 27, 2014 Mr. Tornek stated the "Lions" share in cost of this park is the demolition of the buildings and fees due to the nature of the buildings, but that it is a good value, as we are not paying a lot of money for the dirt. There are few opportunities for new open space and Desiderio Park is one of them. And the beautification of this wonderful space, which is seen by hundreds of thousands visiting our esteemed **Rose Bowl** every year, is an incredible benefit to all residents of this city. The original costs were estimated at \$1.5 million. Then it rose to \$2.4 million. It is currently at \$3.4 million. Do we now sink another \$1 million dollars into this project, which was originally envisioned as a repatriation of land back to the Arroyo Seco, with the addition of a restroom when it is absolutely not necessary?

2. **Cost of Restroom...** Staff states in their rebuttal to Appeal #5, the cost of this restroom will be between \$700K and \$725K. Staff states the source of the \$1 million cost estimate from the appeal is unclear. However they fail to acknowledge that \$200K has already been spent on designing the restroom! Hence, the \$1 million dollar restroom!! These figures DO NOT include the annual costs to maintain/clean/secure in future years. All of this money could be spent on more pressing needs throughout the city.

3. **Broad Base Community Support...** In 2007 one of the requirements from the Federal Government was the project achieve BROAD BASE COMMUNITY SUPPORT. At that time, this council stated and decided that NOT SPENDING ALOT OF MONEY was the best way to get the entire community behind this project, hence satisfying one of the Feds criteria. At that time, this council agreed that spending 500K or more on infrastructure was not something that would gain broad base community support. Fast forward a decade and you are about to spend 800K on the construction of a restroom, not including the \$200K design fee!

4. **Fiscal Irresponsibility...** Just last week this council approved to support a ballot measure increasing our city sales tax because the 2019-2023 Capital Improvement Program Budget has millions of dollars in identified, but UNFUNDED capital needs, such as:

Fire Station upgrades

Upgrading 911 response communications
Replace 17,000 streetlights
Repair 670,000 sqft of sidewalks
4,000 curb ramps need compliance
Upgrades to libraries, community centers, bridges and 911 shelters

The Desiderio Restroom is an extravagant expense in light of these MORE PRESSING AND EMERGENT NEEDS!! Pasadena residents do not understand this councils' prioritization of a park restroom over addressing a multitude of safety hazards and issues throughout the city. How can you ask your constituents to approve an increase in city sales tax when we are witness to such irresponsible spending with current city funds?

Thank you,
Stacey Fortner
Pasadena Resident

2017 - 10 DEATHS -
2016 - 8
2015 - 6

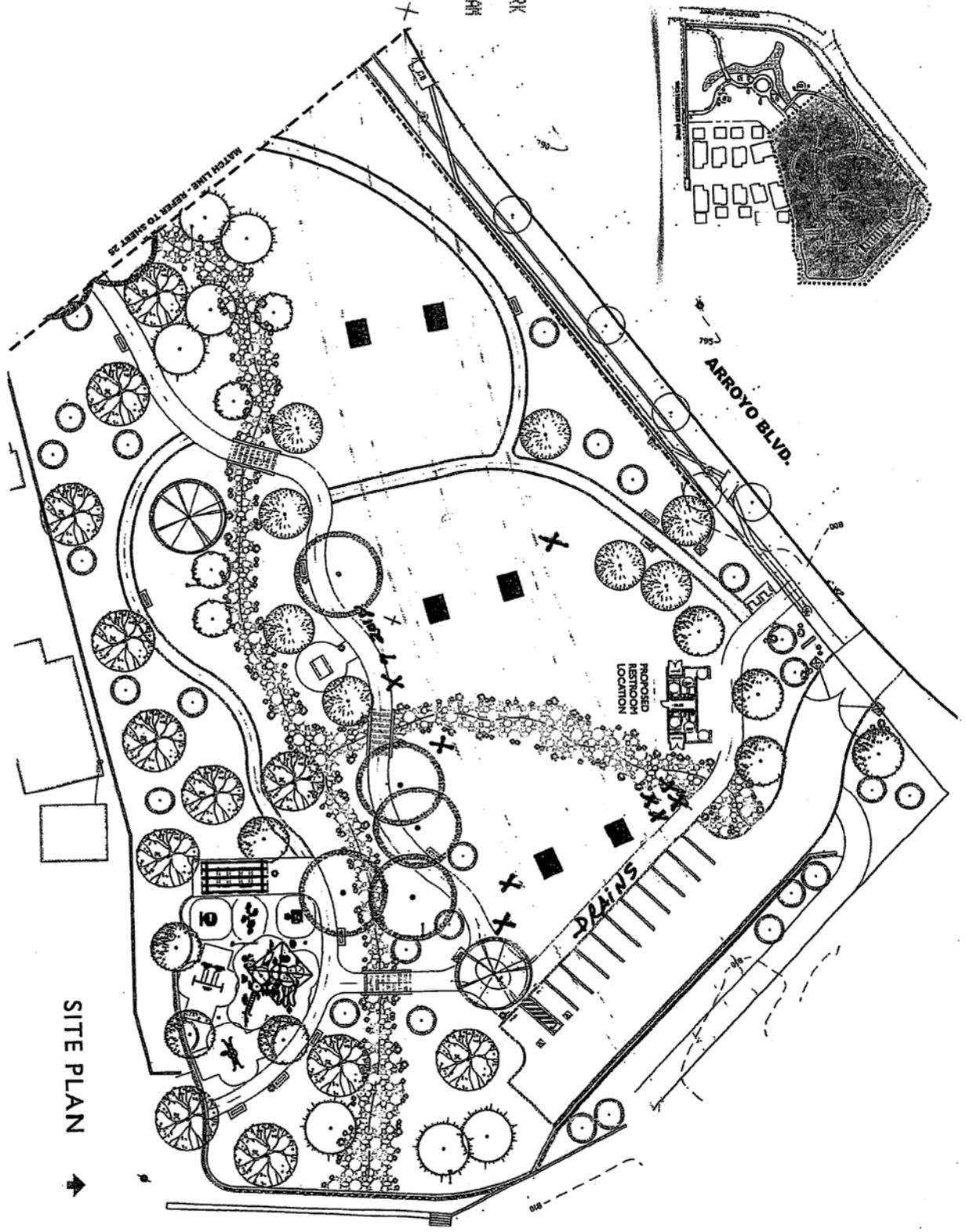
7:18 JUL 23 18:37AM

CITY CLERK

JUMPERS LAND MARKED

By *JK*

July 2018 3...1 IN PARK

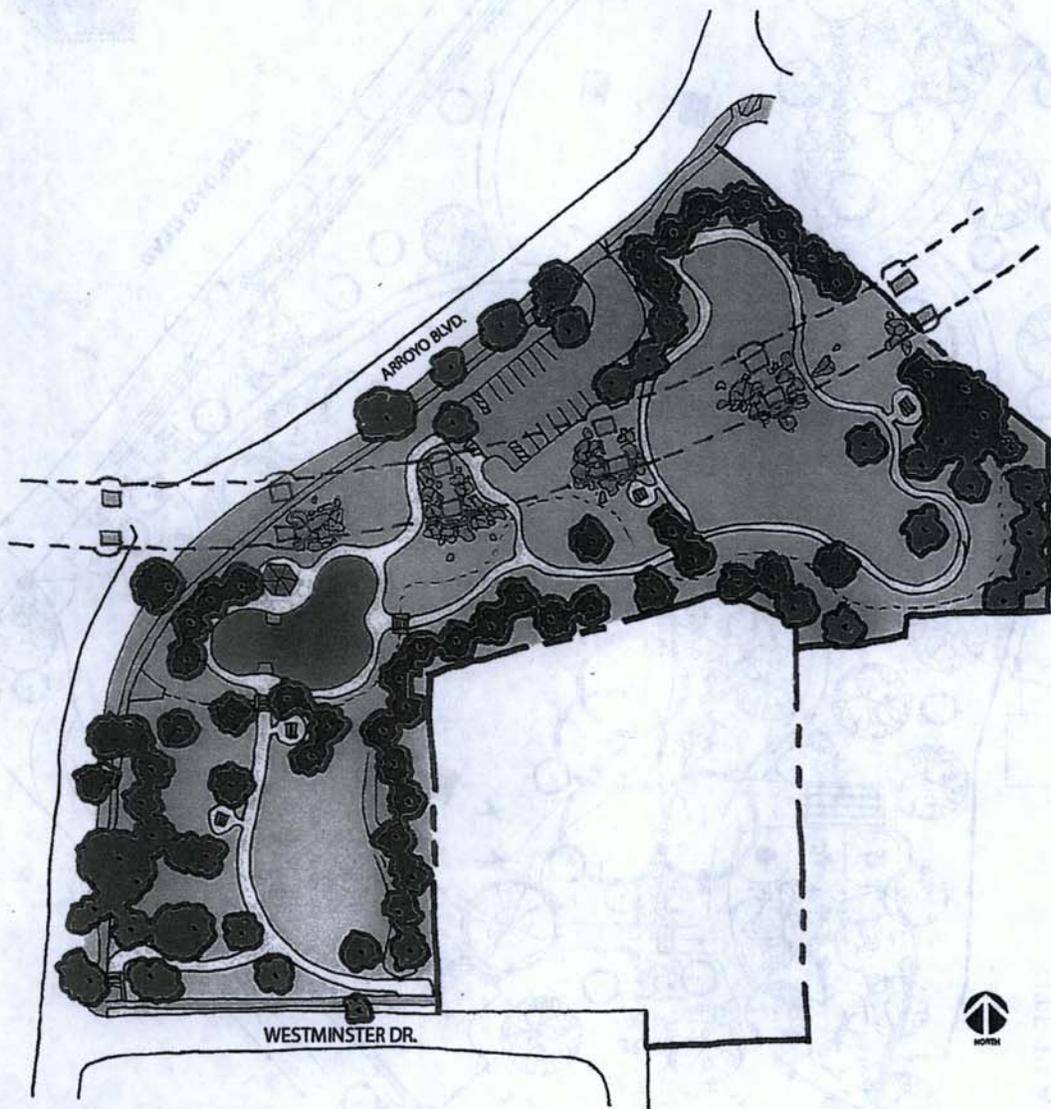




PASADENA

Department of Public Works

- Parking adjacent to Arroyo Blvd.
- Play area in western location of site
- Underground drainage system
- Open meadows



CONCEPT C

Modes RR, playground, parking away from HH, VDA.

* THIS DESIGN WAS SOLD TO: HH, VDA, Surrounding Home owners

Desiderio Army Reserve Center Project Kick-off Presentation

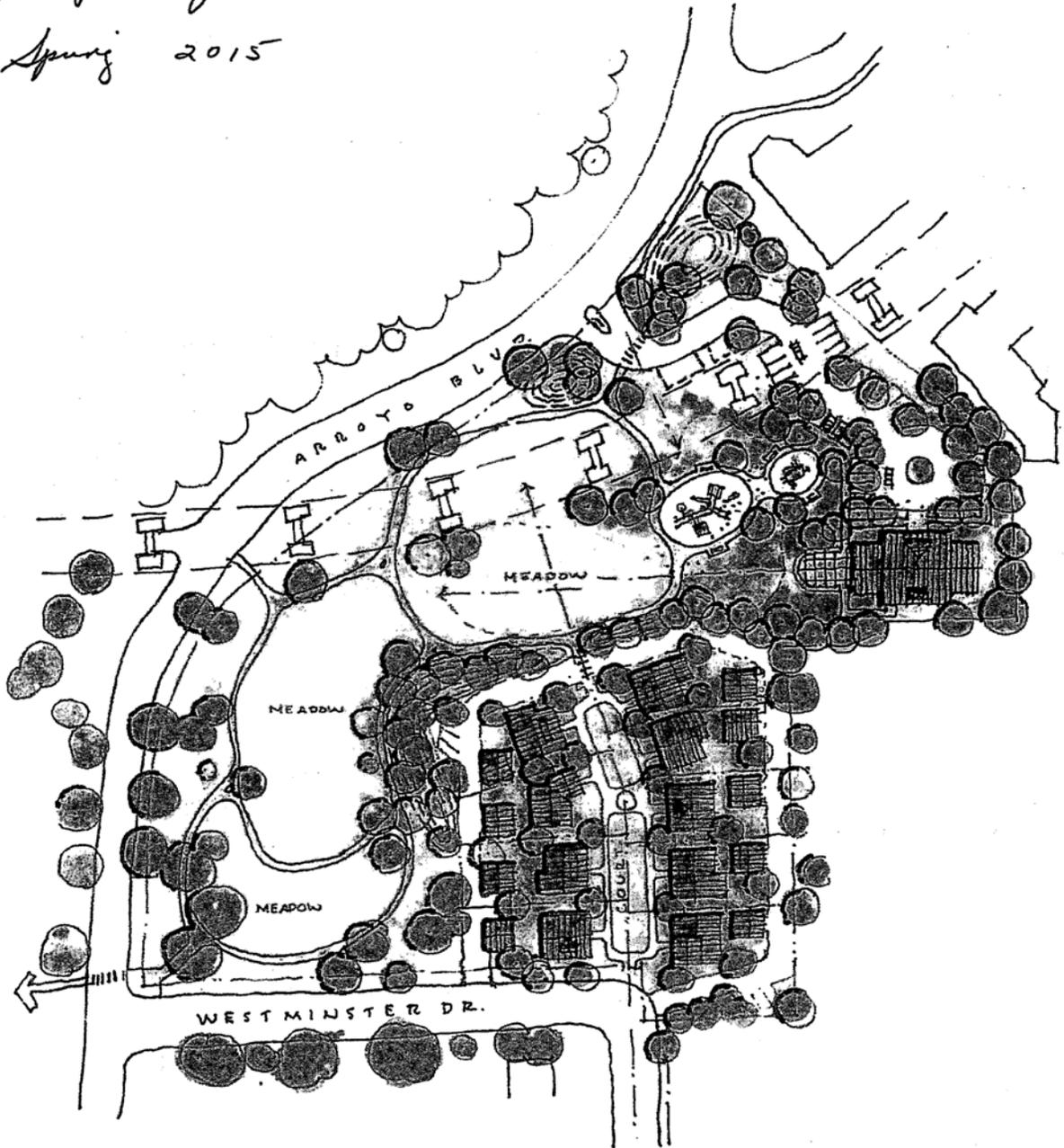
September 10, 2013

Desiderio Neighborhood Park – A new 3.8-acre neighborhood Park for west Pasadena

Desiderio Homes – A 9-unit Habitat for Humanity project on 1.9 acres

demo begins Jan 2015

Park Spring 2015



See reverse side for project details.

Desiderio Army reserve Center Kick-off Presentation – Sept. 10, 2013

Background

- 2005
 - US Army recommends the Desiderio facility for closure
- 2006
 - City conducts process to determine best use of the site
 - 11 re-use proposals received, presented to 4 committees and commissions
 - Finalists selected over 3 additional commission meetings
- 2007
 - Council approves neighborhood park/affordable housing concept
- 2011
 - Formal proposal submitted to the Federal Government !
- 2013
 - City accepts property, finalizes transfer
 - Project Implementation commences

Desiderio Neighborhood Park

Desiderio Neighborhood Park will be a new, 3.8-acre Neighborhood Park serving west Pasadena. The park will be designed as a passive park intended for quiet use and small, informal gatherings. Planned features include open turf meadow areas with substantial tree cover, walkways that loop around and through the park, security walkway lighting, a small play equipment area and site furnishings. Additional considerations include native grasses and plantings consistent with the adjacent Lower Arroyo Seco, naturalistic play elements dispersed throughout the park, a small Picnic Ramada (family scale; 2 tables), street crossing across Arroyo Boulevard from Desiderio Park to Lower Arroyo trails (at Westminster Drive), and a small parking lot to accommodate approximately 10 cars.

Desiderio Homes

Desiderio Homes is a collection of 9 single-family bungalows in a court formation occupying approximately 1.3 acres in the southeastern portion of the property. The bungalows will be constructed by Habitat for Humanity through a sweat equity program and sold at affordable rates.

Contacts

City

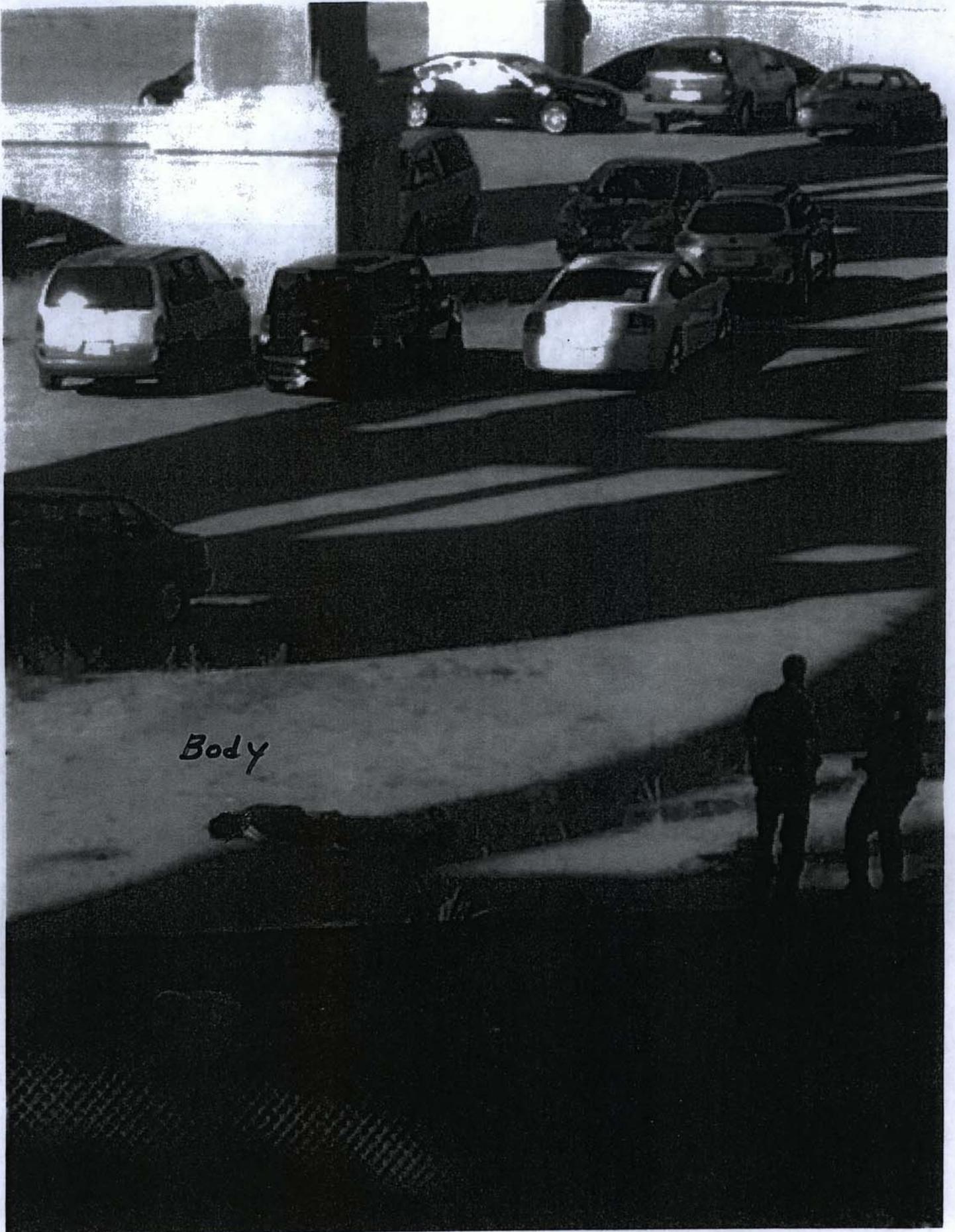
- Loren Pluth, Project Manager for Parks and Landscape, 626-744-7329, lpluth@cityofpasadena.net
- Laura Dahl, Senior Planner, 626-744-6767, ldahl@cityofpasadena.net

Habitat for Humanity

- Sonja L. Yates, SGV Executive Director, 626-387-6899, ed@sgvhabitat.org

* ORIGINALLY - NO BATHROOM - OR PARKING !

APRIL- 2017



July - 2017

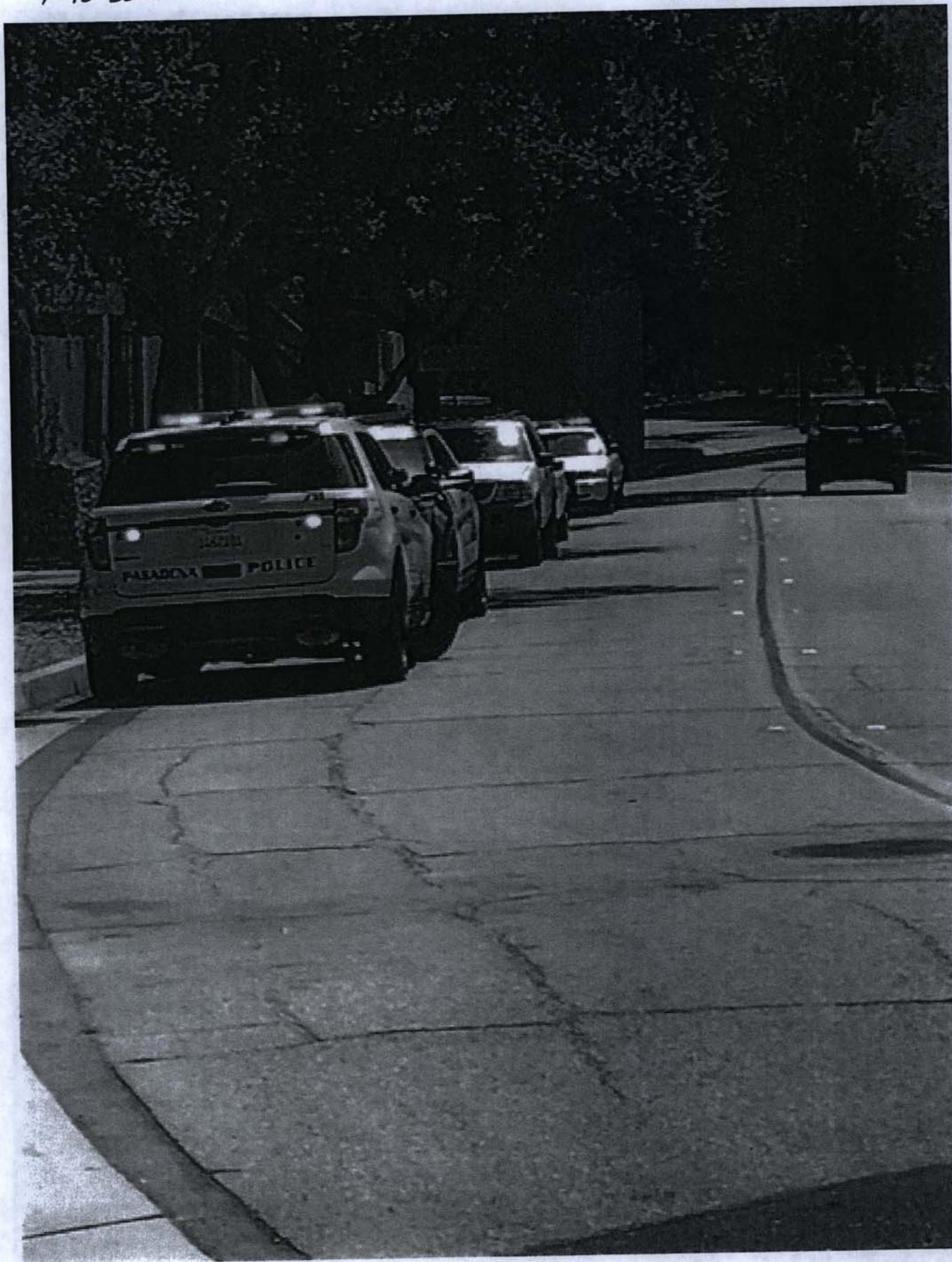


CURRENT PROPOSED PARKING

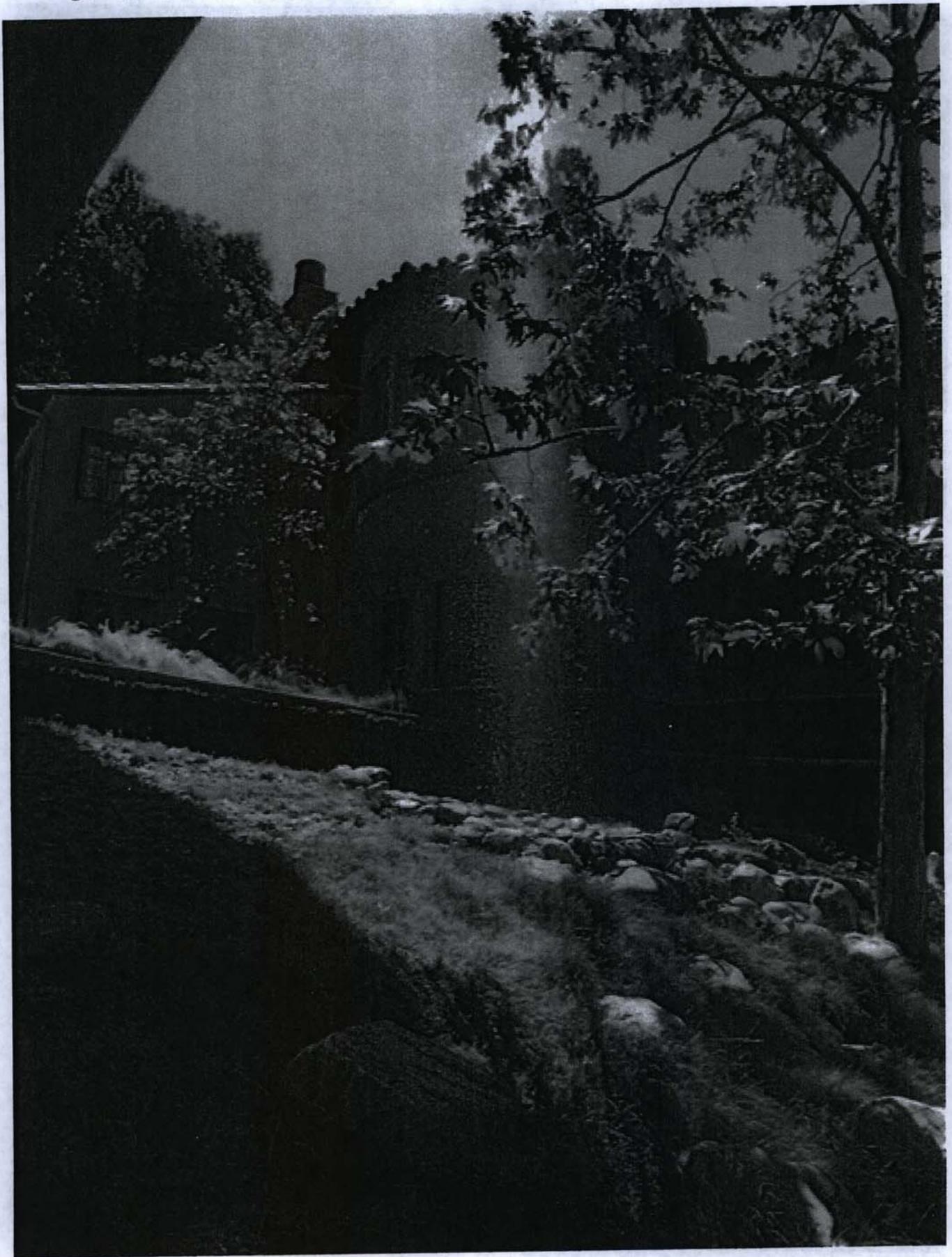
7-18-2018



7-18-2018 - AFTER SUICIDE - POLICE HAVE TO BLOCK A LANE ON ARROYO BLVD



2 DRAINS UNDER PARKING AREA

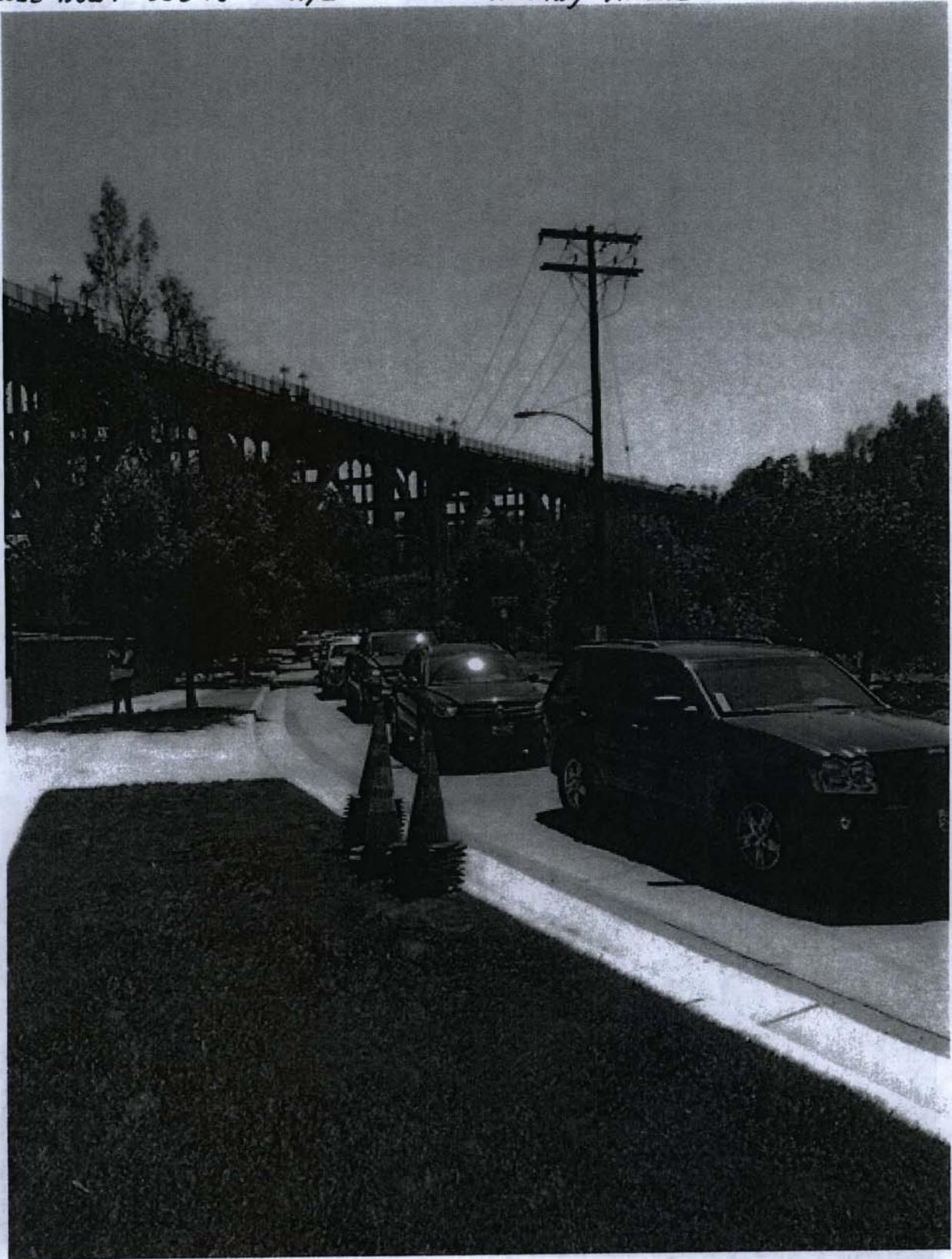


DEBRIS - VDA - NOWARNING -



ARROYO BLVD - ROSE BOWL EVENT - TRAFFIC - SMALL 60,000.

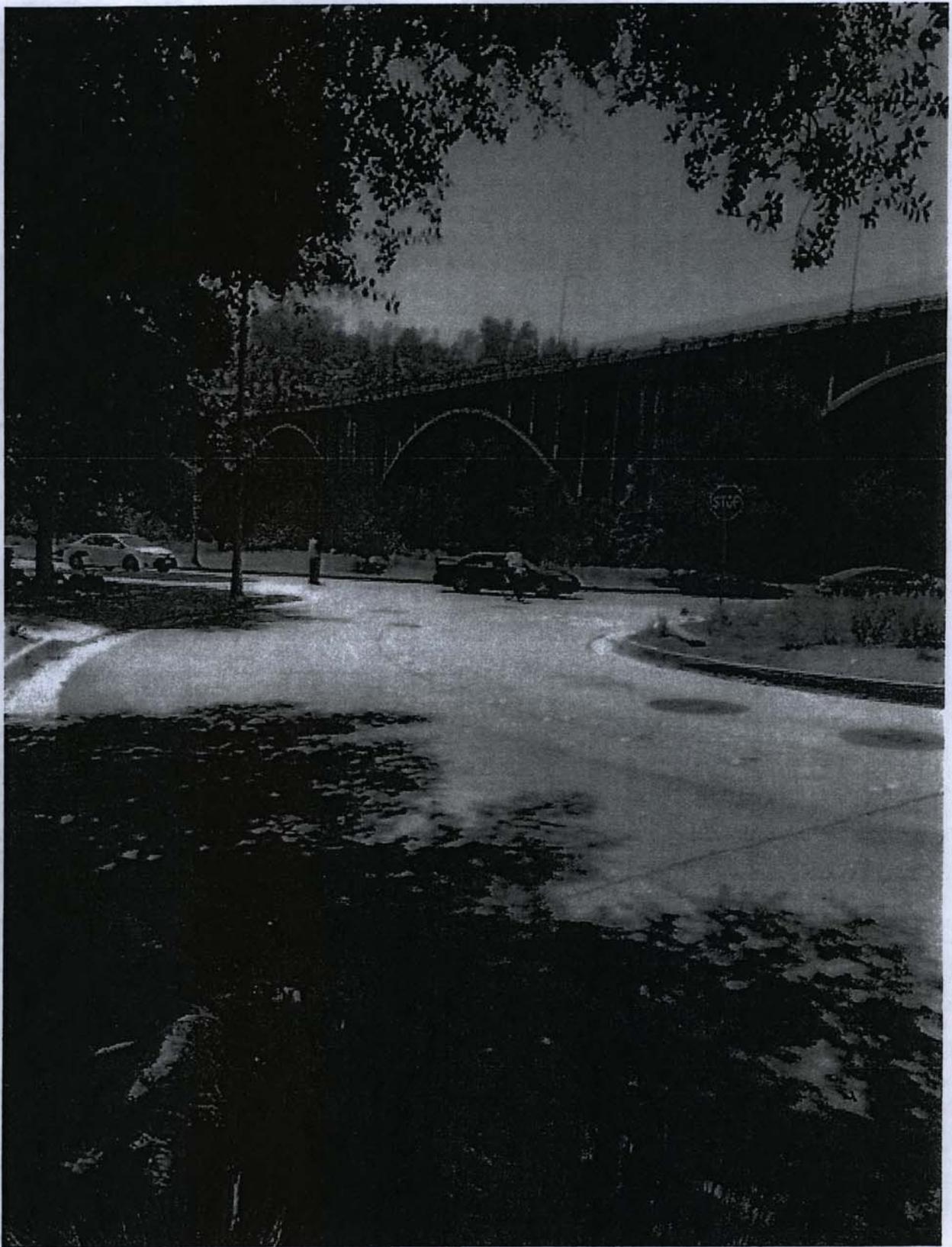
ROSE BOWL USE TO STAGE IN OPEN PARKING AREA -



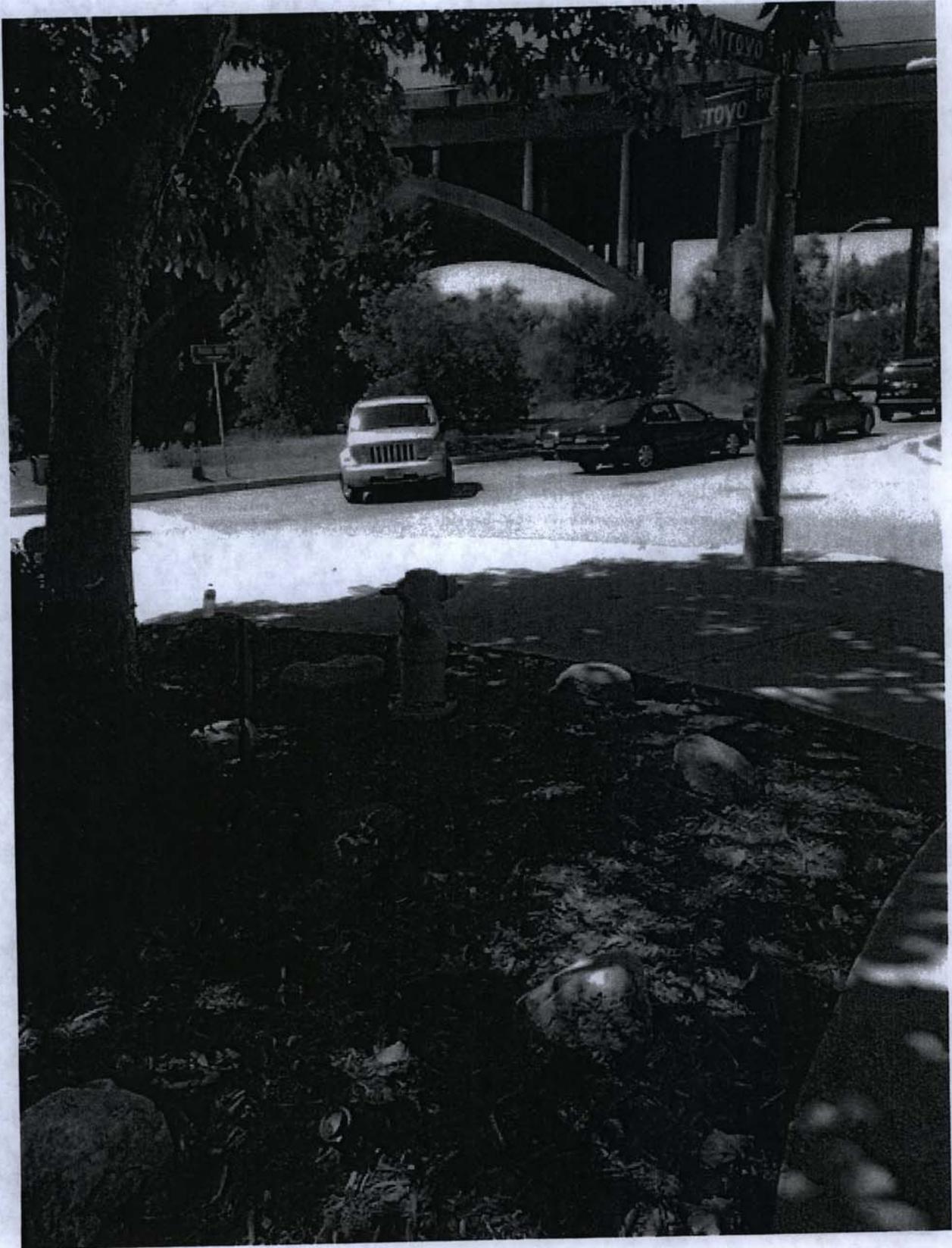
Rose Bowl Traffic

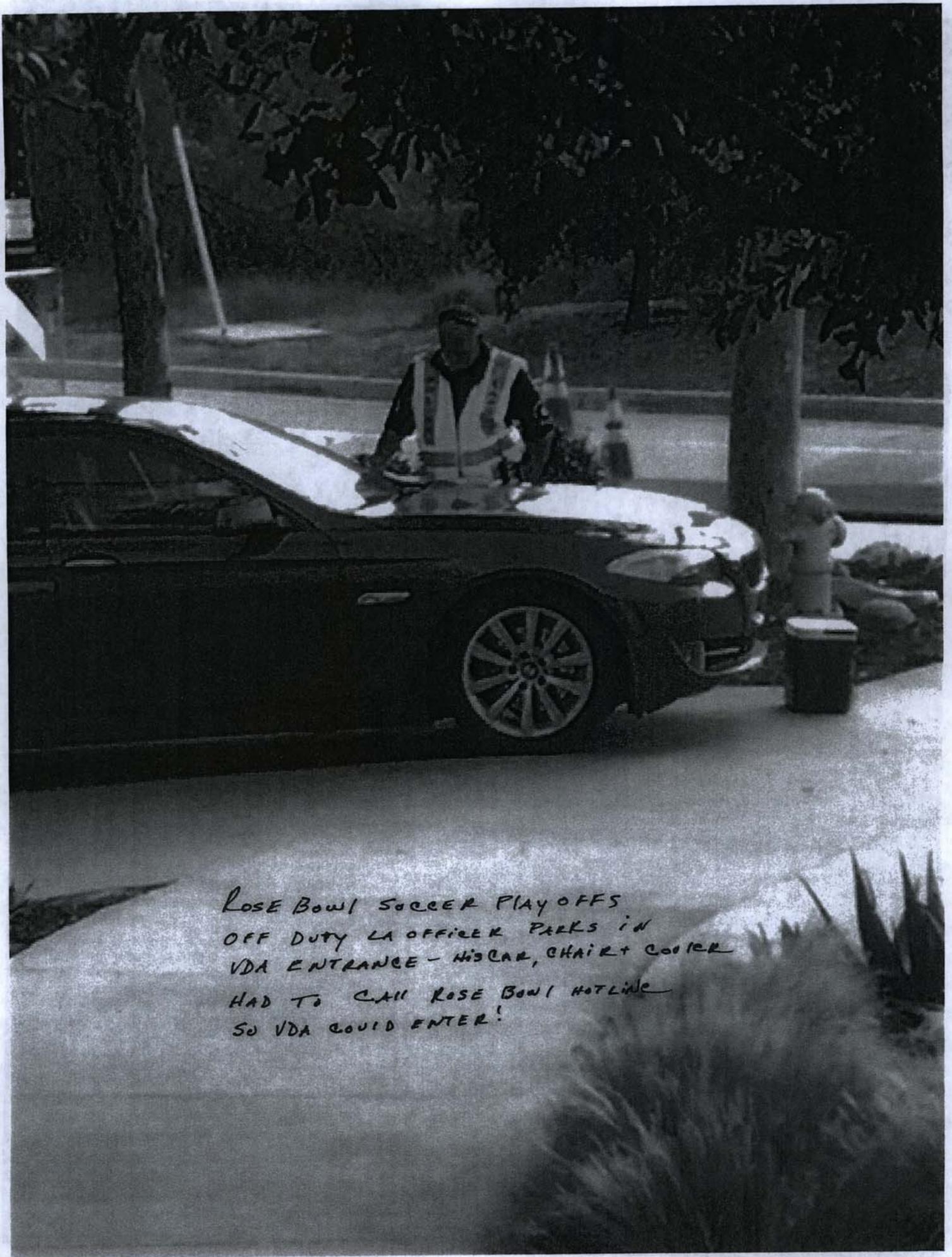


ROSE BOWL TRAFFIC



Base Ball Tracks

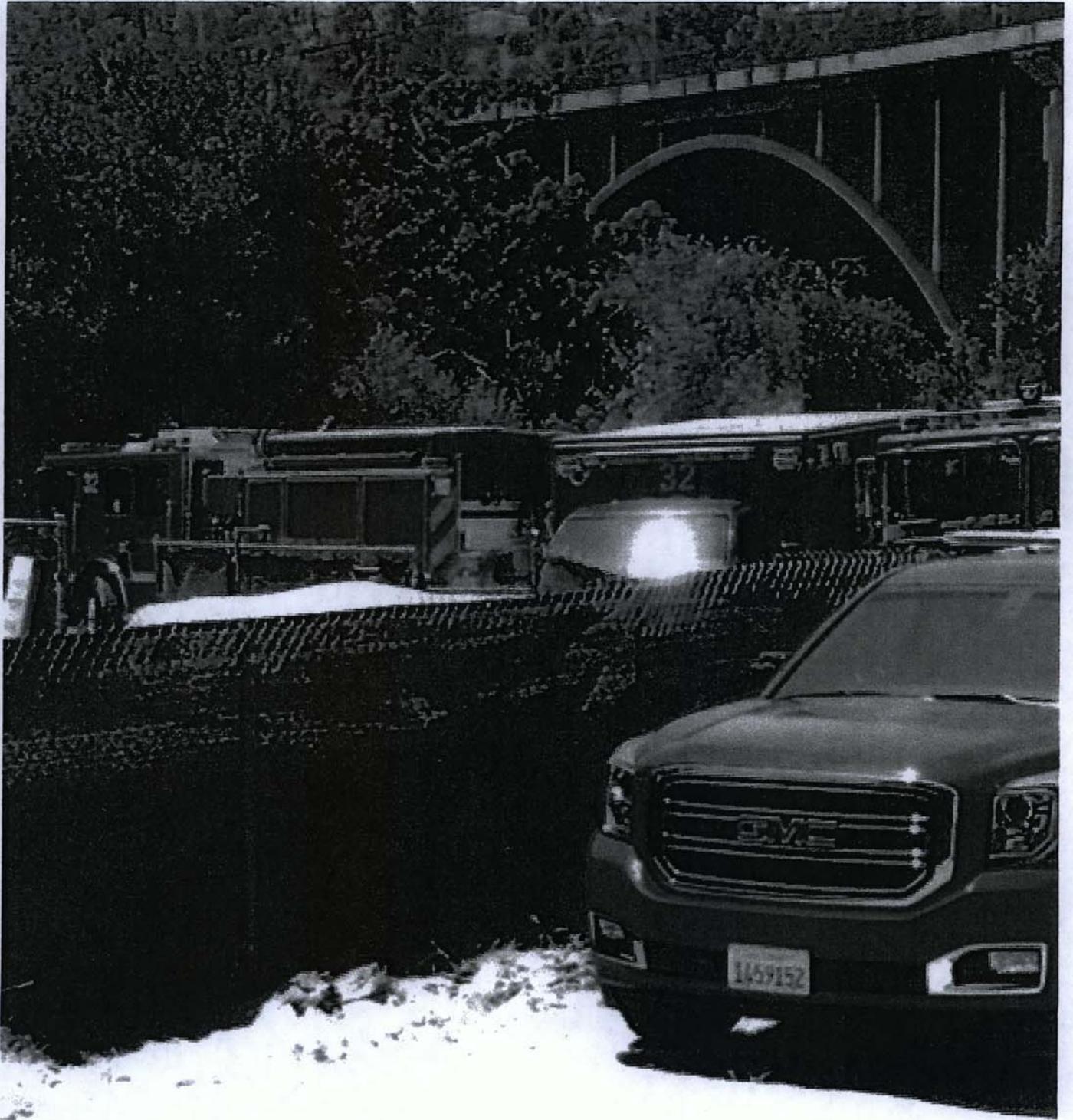




ROSE BOWL SOCCER PLAYOFFS
OFF DUTY LA OFFICER PARKS IN
VDA ENTRANCE - HIS CAR, CHAIR + COOLER
HAD TO CALL ROSE BOWL HOTLINE
SO VDA COULD ENTER!



SAME OFFICER PARKED
ON SIDEWALK FOR
2 DAYS DURING ROSE BOUL.



FIRE DEPARTMENT UNABLE TO STAGE

Jomsky, Mark

From: tperk1211@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, July 22, 2018 12:52 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark

July 22, 2018

To whom it may concern,,

My name is Tracey Perkins and I am a resident of Vista Del Arroyo. I am writing to you once again to express my concerns regarding the proposed Desiderio Park bathroom. The one that is to be erected by the Tot-Lot park located under the Colorado Street Bridge.

First let me begin by stating that I unfortunately witnessed one of the suicides off the Colorado Street Bridge last year. I am an adult who, months later, is still having reoccurring nightmares. If I am having trouble coming to terms with such an horrific event imagine what a child playing in the park will experience.

Secondly, I am absolutely appalled that the city of Pasadena is still considering erecting a public restroom right under what is know as Suicide Bridge. Not only is it extremely irresponsible on the cities part to allocate funds for such a needless structure when provisions adamantly need to be taken with the bridge itself to prevent further suicides from occurring, but the money already spent for the design process lacks fiscal soundness. Furthermore, everyone of you should be ashamed of yourselves for even pursuing the restroom project when you know full well that more important matters are at hand. It is the City of Pasadena's responsibility to protect the public, both physically and mentally, from dangerous conditions. What if a jumper actually lands on someone in the park? Have any of you actually been in the area when a suicide is taking place? The entire area is blocked off. No one can come or go because numerous firefighters are manning a gigantic inflatable rescue cushion. Imagine a hysterical toddler with its family, they have just witnessed a suicide, wanting nothing better than to leave, but they can't due to rescue personnel. The City of Pasadena needs to concern itself with implementing provisions to prevent suicides off the Colodorado Street Bridge before it concerns itself with providing an unnecessary and conceivably problematic bathroom. Ask yourself, is a child's lifetime of dealing with witnessing the trauma of a jumper something you can live with because you chose to allocate funds for a public restroom over the safety of your public?

Does the City of Pasadena not recall back in 2013 explicitly telling the neighboring communities that there was NOT going to be any bathroom? Whom has taken such liberties upon themself to deviate from the course that was first proposed to neighboring residents?

I urge to City of Pasadena to operate responsibly by allocating funds to the prevention of suicides over building an unnecessary and superfluous bathroom.

Respectfully,
Tracey Perkins
Vista Del Arroyo Resident

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