



Ridgewood-Wilton Neighborhood Association

Letter From The President

Hello Neighbors!

We are faced with a strange problem that comes to a head shortly. I am rushing to let you know as much as I can and ask your help. We face an immediate deadline: tomorrow, September 17th at 5:00 pm.

A group called the Koreatown Task Force has suddenly appeared, out of the shadows, as it were, with a recommendation for redrawing Council District boundaries. They want to put the east side of Wilton Place and all of the area between that and Western Avenue into a Koreatown district! They pursued this claim while attempting no outreach either to us in the RWNA or to the people in the Saint Andrews Square Association (SASNA) just to our east. They concede not only this failure but also claim no community within these areas that would justify the proposed annexation. The SASNA Board labels their actions “deceptive” and states that there is no “community of interest” between Koreatown neighborhoods and ours.

Your Board’s response is similar. We are a community of single-family residences, mostly owner occupied although including tenants who equally share our concerns. Our interest in safety is universal, but we also add community, preservation, traffic and other issues that have little sway in the built up areas to the east of Western Avenue, issues we share not only with SASNA but also with Windsor Square to our west. We believe that we should share Neighborhood Council and Council District boundaries with areas that share our values and goals to avoid losing our voice in a sea of issues that concern us less.

Below I attach four items. Please remember the deadline, **tomorrow, September 17 at 5:00 p.m.**

- A link to the Redistricting Commission’s site where there is a “Community of Interest” form that you can fill out on line.
- A sample letter being circulated in SASNA to be signed individually and sent to the redistricting commissioners. I hope you will add your name and forward this letter.
- The letter I will send from your Board.
- The letter from the SASNA Board which I supported in the RWNA letter and which has considerable detail and background information.

I strongly urge you to immediate action on this question.

Thanks for reading,
Bob Reeves, President

Community of Interest Form Link: <https://laccrc2021.org/community-of-interest-form/>

Draft of Individual's Letter: (Send to redistricting.lacity@lacity.org)

Dear Commissioners

We support the CIS file, filed by the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood council on September 13, 2021, and consider Western Avenue to be the western true boundary of Koreatown as confirmed by City Council file 09-0606 in 2010. We are neighbors in a community of interest, having residences, businesses or employment in the District, supporting local businesses, serving on boards, sending children to schools and activities, all in District 4. Separating the community from the district takes away our effectiveness in serving our communities. This is also a multi generational community of interest, with many who have lived in the district for generations, and have their children living starting their own families in the district as well. Larchmont is our center, a place we activate and congregate. Separating us from our center by redistricting us and splitting up the GWNC leaves us less effective and prohibits us from retaining an infrastructure of community organizing that is successful and a model for other communities for years.

We agree with the position of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council to keep its communities whole and intact in one Council District, recognizing Western as the true boundary of Koreatown.

<signature>

RWNA Board Letter:

Dear Commissioners,

As the elected representatives of the Ridgewood-Wilton Neighborhood Association, we are writing to oppose redrawing of the boundaries of our area to add us to a Koreatown Council District.

The Ridgewood-Wilton Neighborhood Association (or RWNA) was formed in 1978 to advocate for residents located along Wilton Place, Wilton Drive and Ridgewood Place between Third Street and Beverly Boulevards. More than 80% of those residents have paid their voluntary dues to RWNA in the current year, providing proof of their affiliation and support.

We are an area of single family homes primarily occupied by owners, similar to the Windsor Square area immediately to our west. The Saint Andrews Square Neighborhood Association area, immediately to our east, also significantly mirrors our land-use, residential and other concerns. On the other hand, we do not share similar concerns with the areas further east, known as Koreatown, because of the very different patterns of residence and ownership.

Our siting within the area served by the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council and within Council District 4 has united us with communities of similar interests and provided us with forums and representation sensitive to and focused on our concerns.

We are very surprised to discover the existence and near adoption of a plan to split the RWNA area itself and further to add parts of it to a district with such differences that there is no common ground between us. We state categorically that no representative of any organization advocating for this change has contacted us or our members and residents, asked our opinions or considered our needs. Advocacy of this change, absent any attempt to reach those who will be affected, appears deliberately deceptive.



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We strongly request that you reject the actions and recommendations of the Koreatown Task Force and retain the current boundaries of our Association and those of our neighboring Associations within the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council as an accurate representation of commonality of interest. We also request that redrawn boundaries for our Council District should also include our area with the similar areas mentioned so that we may speak with a unified and focused voice.

We have seen a similar request prepared by the officers of the Saint Andrews Square Association and endorse it fully.

SASNA Board Letter:

Dear Commissioners,

We are the co-presidents of the Saint Andrews Square Neighborhood Association (SASNA). We are and have for 100 years been located within the area of Los Angeles known as Greater Wilshire. This naming was formalized by the City of Los Angeles in 2003, with the adoption of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (GWNC), on whose eastern edge we proudly sit. The SASNA boundaries are Beverly Boulevard on the North, Third Street on the South, Wilton Place on the West, and Western Avenue (the alley between Western and Manhattan Place on the East.

We were shocked and disappointed to learn in the last two weeks, for the first time, of a plan to abduct our 100 year-old historic neighborhood, to remove us from our home within the GWNC and Council District 4, and to add us to a Koreatown City Council district. To our terrible surprise, this scheme has apparently been in the works for almost a year. We also have just now learned that the City Council Redistricting Commission contracted with the KYCC for its outreach to Communities Of Interest. We can report with 100% confidence that there was ZERO OUTREACH done by KYCC to SASNA or its residents, nor was any done to the GWNC. We have been blindsided by this deception.

We agree with the position of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council to keep its communities whole and intact in one Council District. We further emphatically state that we share no Community of Interest with our Koreatown neighbors.

We were even more surprised to hear that the Redistricting Commission Ad Hoc Committee recommended changing the City Council maps at the September 13th redistricting hearing, from the current City Council Boundary Map to the Koreatown Task Force Redistricting Map, which shows our neighborhood, Saint Andrews Square (and other communities of the GWNC) within the Koreatown boundaries. This action is COMPLETELY against City Council File 09-0606, which established the boundaries of Koreatown along the current Western Ave border when Koreatown was officially named in 2010. This action also defies the long-established boundaries of the GWNC and Wilshire-Center Koreatown.



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Why is redefining Koreatown's boundaries even an issue? They have been defined. We repeat: Saint Andrews Square does not share any element of a Community of Interest with Koreatown.

When the GWNC understood the magnitude of the deception that is being practiced, they asked the leaders of the Koreatown Task Force to attend a special meeting of the GWNC. At that special meeting, the Task Force president and its lawyer admitted the following things on the record:

- The Task Force did no outreach to the GWNC or its neighborhoods.
- The Task Force did not outreach to the Wilshire Center Koreatown NC.
- The Task Force did not claim any ethnic Community of Interest with any GWNC neighborhoods, including SASNA.
- In fact, they conceded that there is no shared Korean ethnicity within Koreatown, and that the predominant ethnicity is Latino.
- They could not identify any landmark as a basis for claiming a Koreatown community of interest in our neighborhoods.

Instead, their entire claim to our geography was based on what their lawyer identified as "conversations" with unnamed persons.

We respectfully request that the Commissioners do not take into account the unverified change.org petition and the false actions of the Koreatown Task Force on Redistricting. We also ask that you investigate and admonish the KYCC, who facilitated this deception. Finally, we ask that you listen to the true stakeholders of SASNA, who are so unfairly being threatened by a secret plan of expansion that lacks any facts or basis

<Sorry for such a pile of information – Bob>