



July 1, 2008

The Honorable Tom LaBonge  
City Council District 4  
200 North Main Street  
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Councilmember LaBonge:

The 2008 Griffith Park Holiday Light Festival is upon us and discussions are already underway between the DWP and the community on the elements of the Festival. However, before any decisions can be made as to the form and function of the Festival, it is imperative that the DWP and the Festival cease to violate State law by excluding cyclists from the same streets that are open to the motoring public.

I contend that the current ban on cycling in the LADWP Festival of Lights at Griffith Park is a violation of California Vehicle Code because the city does not have the express authority (per CVC 21) to regulate bicycling on non-freeway roads. An outline of this position is attached.

Suggestions by DWP reps that the ban on cyclists is for safety purposes are simply absurd and irrelevant. Festival auto traffic is typically so congested that riding the Festival by bike is safer than the access streets used by a cyclist to get the Festival.

Regardless of the DWP's well-intended perception of safety issues, keep in mind that cyclists not only ride the 6500 miles of LA streets but also ride over 1000 miles of Freeway & Highway throughout the State of California. This access is guaranteed and protected by State Law.

Ultimately, it is State Law that trumps any desire to restrict cyclists to a "special" night. I ask you to remedy this situation by intervening on our behalf and by acting to prevent the DWP and its Festival Partners from violating the cycling community's right to enjoy access to our streets.

I do not intend to discount your commitment to the Holiday Light Festival nor to our community but instead simply urge you to support cycling as a legal and viable transportation choice on the streets of Los Angeles, all of them!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephen Box'.

Stephen Box