

email: president@hillsidefederation.org
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FOUNDED IN 1952

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Franklin Hills Residents
Franklin Ave/Hwd.Blvd.West
Glassell Park Improvement
Glenridge Homeowners
Highland Homeowners
Hollywood Dell Civic
Hollywood Heights
Hollywoodland Homeowners
Holmby Hills Homeowners
Laurel Canyon
Lookout Mountain Alliance
Los Feliz Improvement
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mount Washington Association
Mt. Wash. Homeowners Alliance
Nichols Canyon
No. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon
Outpost Estates
Pacific Palisades Residents
Residents of Beverly Glen
Roscomare Valley
Shadow Hills Property
Sherman Oaks
Studio City Residents
Tarzana Property Owners
Torreyson-Flynn
Upper Mandeville Canyon
Whitley Heights Civic

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Jerome C. Daniel
Patricia Bell Hearst
Gordon Murley
Polly Ward

CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM
Brian Moore

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

REAL PLANNING NEEDS GUIDELINES

For far too many years the Planning Department has been 'reactive' instead of 'proactive' and time has come to hold decision makers accountable for allowing growth without providing infrastructure.

Last year the City Planning Commission came up with 14 Principles to be used as a criteria for determining whether a project is viable and should be approved. They include the following:

1. **Demand** a walkable city
2. **Offer** basic design standards
3. **Require** density around transit
4. **Eliminate** department bottlenecks
5. **Advance** homes for every income
6. **Locate** jobs near housing
7. **Produce** green buildings
8. **Landscape** in abundance
9. **Arrest** visual blight
10. **Neutralize** mansionization
11. **Nurture** planning leadership
12. **Identify** smart parking requirements
13. **Narrow** road widenings
14. **Give** project input early

All of them have value but a few jump across the page and are worth mentioning specifically. It's all fine and well to (1) 'DEMAND a Walkable City' but LA needs a much larger transit infrastructure than our elected officials feel is worth paying for.

Continued on page 2...

*Important Information
Enclosed*



NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 5, 2008
Social Hour at 7 PM/Meeting at 7:30 PM

**HEATER HAS BEEN
REPLACED - ROOM IS
WARM AND TOASTY**

UNIVERSAL CITY NISSAN
3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West
between Lankershim and Universal Center
Drive bridge off ramps; park on street or in
underground garage; take elevator to "S"
street level or enter through showroom turn
left; follow signs to 2nd floor conference room

AGENDA

Introductions: Members/Guests

Minutes: February

President's Report:

A. Issues and Motions

B. Las Lomas update

C. Nominations Committee

Report: Dr. Niles Chapman

D. 405 widening EIR soon to be released

Presentations:

A. Autry/Southwest Museums

B. Preferential Parking Districts

C. Camino de la Cumbre

Executive Committee's Reports:

A. Vice-President

B. Treasurer

Adjournment:

Continued from page 1...

2) "OFFER basic design standards" would visually enhance LA and is way overdue but for the most part our elected officials do not unanimously support the concept because they don't recognize the cumulative value. As they say in the old country "you can't teach good taste".

(5) "ADVANCE homes for every income" is probably the most important Principle but implementing it is a whole other story....

(8) "LANDSCAPE in abundance" is a must because it covers up poorly designed and massive buildings but the Planning Department approves so many reduced side and front yard setbacks, there's not enough room to create any kind of buffer.

(10) "NEUTRALIZE mansionization" was recently addressed in an ordinance but so much damage has already been done, let's see if the Planning Department continues to allow variances that give it all back..

(12) "IDENTIFY smart parking requirements" is another issue relating to belated infrastructure which the City refuses to take seriously and instead permits more growth without demanding that developers provide their own parking for their patrons. The rule should be if they can not identify their required parking, they don't get a permit.....

These Principles are great ideas but none of them can succeed in a vacuum without the Planning Department incorporating these guidelines and our elected officials seeing the forest through the trees, unanimously prioritizing an investment to upgrade an antiquated infrastructure into the 21st century.

JOAN LUCHS
President



DUES REMINDER

2008
HILLSIDE
FEDERATION

**MEMBERSHIP FEES OF \$150
MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 20**

**Organizations whose checks have not been
received by that date will be ineligible to vote
at the April 2, 2008 meeting**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE

Nominating Committee Chair Dr. Niles Chapman presents the following slate of nominees for the Executive Committee election to be held at the April 2nd meeting. Nominees are as follows:

Chairman: Lynette Berg Robe

President: Joan Luchs

Vice Presidents: Conrad Schoeffter
Charley Mims

Executive Secretary: Elizabeth Tigar

Recording Secretary: Ann Walnum

Treasurer: Dan Palmer

The slate will be noticed in the April Newsletter, and nominations from the floor will be accepted at both the March 5th and April 2nd meetings.

Names of the newly elected officers will appear in the May newsletter and induction of the newly elected officers will be held at the May 7th meeting.

AUTRY NATIONAL/SOUTH WEST MUSEUMS' EXPANSIONS DRAW A LOT OF CONCERN

The draft environmental impact report (EIR) is now released on the expansion of the Autry National Center in Griffith Park. Phase I of this expansion would significantly increase the size of the current building and create open storage spaces for the collection of American Indian artifacts from the collection of the South West Museum of the American Indian which is being transferred from its current Highland Park location.

Phase II of the expansion would for the first time ever add an above-ground parking structure (topped with offices) within Griffith Park. The proposed final EIR has been filed with the City of Los Angeles by the Autry National Center.

The draft EIR addresses issues with the expansion in Griffith Park. How many more visitors will come to an expanded facility? What will be the impacts to the Park? What will be the impacts on traffic in the Park and to the surrounding areas? Among their concerns, the local community is most interested in the impact of increased traffic. The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC) has provided the majority of the funding needed to have a professional traffic engineer review the traffic study included in the draft EIR. This review has raised many concerns about what mitigations will be needed to offset the traffic impacts identified in the draft EIR. GGPNC (neighborhood council) wants these concerns addressed before the Department of Recreation & Parks approves the EIR.

Other issues in our community include the bulk and design massing at the Griffith Park facility; the effect on flora and fauna in the Park; the possibility that the planned expansion could lead to destruction of a major historical landmark in the Arroyo area of Highland Park and the lease agreement between the Autry Museum and the City which currently expires in 2037 and is far below market rate at \$1.00 per year. It has been reported that the value of this lease is approximately \$11,000,000 to the Autry facility. In addition to the lease revenue there are concerns that the added traffic generated by the Autry will require more maintenance of Park roadways and more demand for services from Park Rangers and others.

Other groups in the Mount Washington area are concerned that the historic location of the South West Museum of the American Indian in Highland Park will be relegated to a minor role in the display of its artifacts or even closed altogether. John Gray, the Chief Executive Officer of the Autry National has stated in past meetings that they intend to improve the Highland Park facility and use it for educational activities and limited museum displays. He believes that given the lack of climate controls within the museum they cannot do more at that facility. Their plans do not currently include any major renovations or expansion of the Highland Park facilities.

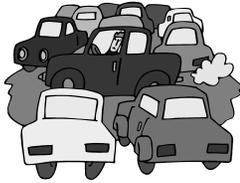
The Autry National Museum's plans include the use of artifacts from the collections of both the Autry Museum of the American West and the South West Museum of the American Indian in an integrative manner to tell a more complete story of the American Indian with the northern expansion of the Spanish... and later on the Mexican empires.....and then the expansion of the United States into the area of the South West.

Will the combination of these two local museums result in the saving of the Indian collection and a broader interpretive story of the West, or is it a subordination of the historic South West Museum and its collection to an American Western story while creating a burden on already stretched City resources?

Charley Mims,
Franklin Hills Residents Association



PREFERENTIAL PARKING IN JEOPARDY



Stage Set For DOT To Grab Residential Parking To Cover Up Dysfunctional Expansion

We are sure you and your neighbors have felt the swelling tide of congestion, as many new commercial endeavors have opened or massively expanded in the past few years, bringing with them a growing number of customer and employee cars that need a place to park.

What you may not be aware of is the city's plan to accommodate these new parking needs at your expense - **by reducing long-established preferential parking zones that are vital to many residents.** For some, especially the elderly, the disabled and those with small children, the ability to park near home is a health and safety issue. For all of us, and for the tradesmen and service people we depend on, the parking free-for-all that would follow such changes would represent a serious setback in neighborhood quality of life.

It hasn't been in the news but quietly city officials **responding to pressure from pro-growth politicians and business lobbyists** who pull strings at City Hall, are laying the groundwork for a massive confiscation of residential parking stock. Parking Study Status Report issued by the Department of Transportation states:

"Preferential Parking restrictions favors the residents at the expense of adjacent commercial parking establishments. The resulting inefficient use of a scarce resource-on-street parking is stifling and killing the growth of local restaurants and even retail shops that create jobs..."

What the report fails to point out is that the lack of parking is a direct result of issuing expansion permits to businesses without requiring them to provide adequate parking for their patrons and employees, as is required by the current city code.

Defending the rights of residents against powerful developers is never an easy battle, and if we allow this parking theft to be implemented piecemeal, each area's residents will be picked off one by one. Homeowners and residents groups across the city need to come together to preempt this maneuver and insist that the city address the undeniably real parking crunch with a constructive and reasonable plan, one that requires future developments to provide their own parking spaces to meet their needs. These issues must be brought forward NOW before city officials reduce existing Preferential Parking inventory and weaken the purpose of PPD's created in 1986 instead permitting more commercial development without the necessary parking infrastructure to accommodate their patrons.

Two recent examples of unqualified but granted variances in the Beverly Wilshire Homes Association (BWHHA) are allowing permits which do not require adequate parking, and we are demanding their revocation. The result of such approval is to put existing Preferential Parking Districts (PPD) at risk. Granting these applications exemplifies poor judgement by the Planning Department... when they approve discretionary requests that do not meet the required findings nor the necessary parking to accommodate their customers.

What we need to do as residents facing a city-wide threat, is to collect evidence by identifying many projects in several neighborhoods which are putting both existing and future PPD's at risk. This pattern of permitting variances without adequate parking is a city-wide threat that exemplifies the Planning Department unwillingness to follow their own rules/criteria for granting discretionary requests. What we need to do, as residents facing a city-wide threat, is to collect evidence of this pattern of permissiveness on parking that is so often granted for expansion and development.

We hope you can identify one or more cases in your neighborhood where permits have been granted without adequate provision for parking and email or fax a list of such projects for discussion. Think about recent developments in your area where new or expanded construction have resulted in loss of parking lots or structures.

Diana Plotkin
Beverly Wilshire Homes Association

FEBRUARY MINUTES

DRAFT MINUTES: HILLSIDE FEDERATION

**General Membership Meeting:
February 6, 2008**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by President Joan Luchs at 7:45 PM at Universal City Nissan, 3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West, Los Angeles, CA 90068

MINUTES: A quorum not being present, approval of minutes was postponed. Self introduction were made by those attending and new member Don Seligman from the Los Feliz Improvement Association was introduced.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

1) 2008 EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION:

The Nomination Committee will announce a slate at the March 5th meeting for the Executive Board election to be held at the April 2nd meeting.

2) YAMASHIRO HISTORIC CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION:

On January 24th the Cultural Heritage Commission moved to take under further consideration the nomination of Yamashiro for historical status after the Commission takes a field trip. The owners have put the property up for sale with the condition that both Magic Castle and Yamishiro remain an Historic Monument Landmark.

3) CALTRANS UPDATE ON 405 SEPULVEDA PASS PROJECT:

As soon as the EIR is published, it will be agendized for discussion.

LAS LOMAS PROJECT

Anne Walnum (Mt. Washington) attended the February 4th hearing and reported that the owner offered to pay a supplemental fee to expedite the application process, but there was no discussion on the merits of the case. Joan stated that expediting the process will delay many other projects from being processed. Ron Galperin questioned the developers unwillingness to abide by the principles of development. A supplemental fee is intended to pay for processing and research on the project. The president promised to put this issue on the agenda.

TREASURER'S REPORT

David Garfinkle reported on the check and CD bank balances. He also reminded everyone to send in their membership dues and return; the IRS questionnaire mailed out.

QUORUM REACHED

A quorum was reached at 8:22 and **MOTION made (Levy/Schoeffter) to approve November and January Minutes. Motion passed.**

OLD BUSINESS:

AUTRY / SOUTH WEST MUSEUMS

Charley Mims reported that the Autry Museum is moving ahead with its expansion plans. There is still a question whether there is any way to split the car trips between Highland and Griffith Park but Mims worries about freeway accessibility. Joan asked him for an article in March's newsletter on this issue. There are many diverse opinions regarding how this expansion should work. Joan will agendize this discussion of the Autry National and South West Museums next month so both sides views may be heard.

SB1818

David Garfinkle commented briefly on the City Council's hearing and his dismay at the minimal allotment of time given for public comment. He noted that many developers contribute to City Council promising to increase affordable housing inventory, but in the end the City loses more units than it gains.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mark Montgomery (Benedict Canyon) raised the issue of sidewalks being torn up due to tree roots. He was asked when introducing a new topic to contact the President to get any new issue agendized for a subsequent meeting as described in the ISSUES & MOTIONS notice that appears in each monthly newsletter.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Barrere, Recording Secretary

FEDERATION OFFICERS PRESENT:

President	Joan Luchs, Cahuenga Pass
Vice President	Charley Mims, Franklin Hills
Vice President	Conrad Schoeffter, Hollywood Heights
Treasurer	David Garfinkle, Tarzana
Executive Secretary	Liz Tigar, Tarzana
Recording Secretary	Cassandra Barrere, Laurel Canyon

FEDERATION DIRECTORS

PRESENT:

Mark Montgomery	Benedict Canyon
Ron Galperin	Crests Neighborhood
Donald Seligman	Los Feliz Improvement
Ann Walnum	Mount Washington
Madeline O'Donnell	Nichols Canyon
Robert Levy	No. Beverly/Franklin/Cyn.
Dan Palmer	Residents of Beverly Glen
Robin Greenberg	Roscomare Valley



**MULHOLLAND SCENIC PARKWAY
DESIGN REVIEW BOARD**

**Meets the first and third Thursday of the
month at 6:30 PM**

**MARVIN BRAUDE CONSTITUENTS
SERVICE CENTER**

**6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys, CA
First Floor Conference Room**

Free parking under the building:
Entrance just east of Van Nuys Blvd.
On Sylvan Street

STRONG OPPOSITION TO CITY'S RECOMMENDATION TO WIDEN CAMINO DE LA CUMBRE ADJACENT TO BUCKLEY SCHOOL



At a December 13, 2007 City Planning hearing regarding the Buckley School project, it was announced that as a condition of the school's CUP, the Bureau of Engineering recommended that the school would be required to widen Camino de la Cumbre, which would include a 12 foot high retaining wall, 1700 linear feet, dug into the hillside and requiring extensive earth export and import and a massive number of truck trips.

As a liaison between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the community, my organization, The International Society for the Preservation of the Tropical Rainforest, the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, and SOHA were epicentral in the establishment of both Fossil Ridge and Oak Forest Canyon State Parks, which surround the Buckley campus. The two parks together are the largest wildlife reserve on the north face of the Santa Monica Mountains east of the 405 freeway all the way to Griffith Park and serve as a crucial wildlife corridor as wildlife traverses our mountains from one sanctuary to another.

There is considerable community concern over the city recommendations, as Camino de la Cumbre runs through and is the entranceway to the parklands. I appreciate the community's anguish; a certified arborist's report specifies that the widening would result in the removal of 104 trees and encroachment, with probable mortality, of additional 25 trees, totaling 129 mature trees. These include 21 mature coast live oak, and 50 mature California black walnut, which come under the Los Angeles Protected Tree Ordinance. This biomass, which adorns the hillside contiguous to the street, is virtually every tree and shrub that buffers the parks and community from the school.

Wildlife of both parks and other reserve areas depend on these trees for perch, cover and nesting. Their removal would leave the canyon road and park entrance completely barren. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which is opposed to the street widening and street lights imposed, will be addressing this issue directly. The destruction of the trees is also in opposition to the mayor's One Million Tree Planting Initiative, which my organization's constituency fervently supports.

Widening Camino de la Cumbre would only encourage more traffic and higher speeds on this winding, curving road. The widening of the Buckley area of Camino would, at additional speeds, create a dangerous problem for drivers and residents when the road bottlenecks back down to its narrower width further on both up and down Camino where cars are parked on one side permitting passage of one car at a time.

There is deterioration of the street's curb berm and drainage gutter, which the school has already agreed to remedy as a condition of its CUP. The great many residents of Camino de la Cumbre I have heard from feel the current width of 14' is sufficient to the needs of the community and are strongly opposed to the larger project.

The city also recommended that Buckley install 13 streetlights on Camino de la Cumbre. There exists a plethora of data in the scientific literature on the variety of impacts city and suburban light pollution have on nocturnal wildlife by disturbing biological rhythms, including significant reduction of hunting and foraging success.

Buckley School, of course, opposes the city recommendations, as does the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The community would greatly appreciate the Federation's continued support of these parklands by opposing the street widening, lighting, and unacceptable environmental impact involved.

Arnold Newman, Ph.D.

Executive Director

**The International Society for the Preservation
of the Tropical Rainforest**



LAS LOMAS OWNER INVESTIGATED FOR PERJURY

Las Lomas is a proposed mini-city of 5,553 homes in hilly terrain north of Sylmar. Though the site lies outside of the boundaries of the city of Los Angeles, the developer has asked the city to annex the land and approve the project. The Los Angeles City Council is expected to decide later this year whether to grant this request or stop processing the application, which would effectively kill the project in its current form.

Opposition to the project comes from many quarters, notably Councilman Greig Smith and Assemblyman Cameron Smyth (R-Santa Clarita). The two are now asking for a determination whether Las Lomas President Dan S. Palmer Jr. has perjured himself when he represented to the city that he owns the land. Nearly half of the 555 acre site actually belongs to Fred McHaddad's family, an elderly Van Nuys resident. Mr. Palmer merely holds a purchase option along with authorization from Mr. McHaddad to obtain the necessary permits to develop the land. Having now discovered that there are two owners when Mr. Palmer's application says otherwise makes him ineligible to apply for annexation.

Councilman Smith and Assemblyman Smyth are also asking the state's Department of Real Estate to investigate possible fraud. At issue is Mr. Palmer's application to consolidate the entire site into one large parcel. This would only be possible under a single owner, i.e. Mr. McHaddad who would first have to deed his land to Mr. Palmer. McHaddad has recently published a letter expressing his fear that Mr. Palmer is trying to take his property.

Hopefully, these and other efforts will ultimately succeed in preventing this out-of-scale project whose size would rival the Playa Vista project near Marina del Rey and unduly burden Los Angeles' infrastructure in many ways.

Stopping This Development is Crucial

Important as resolving the above described dispute, of even greater significance is stopping it altogether. The impact of a 5500 to 10,000 home community

adjacent to five of Southern California's busiest freeways cannot be tolerated! Without any notice to the community, one wonders why the Planning Department feels obligated to process an application for development that is outside and not even adjacent to the City of Los Angeles?

Los Angeles Doesn't Need Dumb Growth

.....said the Los Angeles Times in an editorial on February 21, 2008. In a humorous manner, the Times asks a series of questions, closing with the statement....."But if the city doesn't want Las Lomas ---- and it shouldn't, ---- continuing the process is anything but smart."

Conrad Schoeffter, Hollywood Heights



**VIEW
FEDERATION
WEBSITE
at**

www.hillsidefederation.org

**February Newsletter, News and Update
Links are available**

**If there is something else you'd like to see, or
if you want to send an article for the
newsletter, let us hear from you.
Call Joan Luchs at (213) 368-6120
with your suggestions.**

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCAM



As previously noted in our Newsletter and website, in 2004 California passed **SB1818**, which mandates that cities and counties provide a bonus to developers who include some affordable housing units in their developments. Each jurisdiction must adopt an ordinance to implement the state law. On February 20th the City Council passed the ordinance to implement **SB 1818**, with only Councilmembers Zine, LaBonge, Rosendahl, and Hahn voting against it.

Under the guise of providing affordable housing, the State law and City ordinance seriously undermine current regulations for multiple family residences regarding density, parking, height limits, open space, and neighbor notification. The City's ordinance goes far beyond what is mandated by **SB1818**.

For example, under the State law, a new condominium development could qualify for a bonus of only 5% in the number of units normally permitted if at least 10% of the total units are set aside for moderate income housing; the City's ordinance provides a 15% bonus, three times that required for compliance. More critically, the proposed ordinance doesn't require new projects to provide as many affordable units as were demolished to make way for the new multiple housing project.

Bottom line: we lose affordable housing, particularly rent controlled apartments, and lose hard fought regulations of new developments. The new ordinance will have particularly egregious impacts on the Ventura-Cahuenga Blvd. Specific Plan and the new Universal City projects.

David Garfinkle
Tarzana Property Owners Association

REMINDERS: ISSUES & MOTIONS

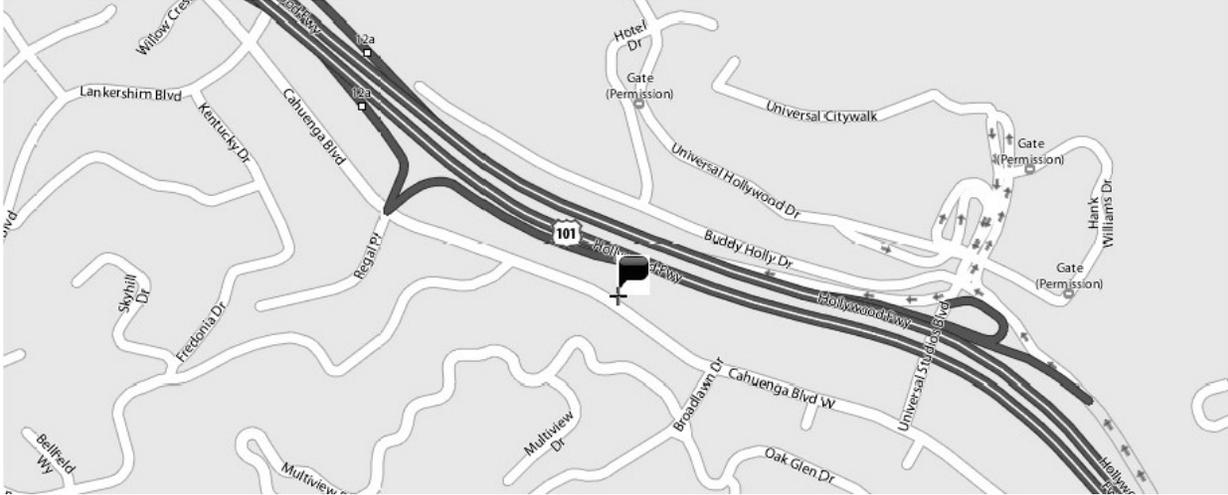
Federation meetings are scheduled to start at 7:30 PM and end by 9:30 PM. In order to end on time, issues to be brought to the Board require a complete outline and a background, including what is being requested, then emailed to president@hillsidefederation.org at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting along with a direct hone and fax number or phone and email address if available.

MOTIONS to be made at the meeting should be well thought out and printed so that they are clear and concise, with enough copies for all member associations. Each presenter will be given 5 minutes to make a presentation so that meetings can be kept on time. All requests to agendize an issue **MUST** be approved in writing by the President before the item will be placed on the Agenda.

NEXT MEETING

UNIVERSAL CITY NISSAN

3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West
Los Angeles, CA 90068
Office Building-Left on Showroom
Second Floor
Between Lakershim and Barham off ramps



THE FEDERATION

OF HILLSIDE AND CANYON ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

PO BOX 1673

HOLLYWOOD HILLS, CA 90078

213-368-6120

*Important Information
Enclosed*

