

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0535

August 4, 2015

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

I write today to express concern over incidents surrounding the HARD Summer Music Festival that took place the weekend of August 1-2 at the Pomona Fairplex. The events surrounding the festival were unacceptable and tragic, resulting in the deaths of two teenagers, and the Board of Supervisors must do something to prevent this from happening again.

As you know, the Pomona Fairplex is a premiere entertainment center and is home to the annual Los Angeles County fair. While the Fairplex is a large and important venue for entertainment, it is also near a residential area filled with homes, schools, and recreational areas. These are communities that value spending time with family, raising their kids, and engaging their neighbors.

The HARD music festival undermined the peace and tranquility of this community. As a resident, I witnessed firsthand the excessive noise and bumper to bumper traffic resulting from patrons driving to and from the venue. Families were also unable to use the large community park adjacent to the Fairplex due the lack of parking and traffic resulting from the event. Furthermore, the surrounding community was subject to indecent exposure and abuse of private property, including public urination and litter, and numerous fights. Most troubling of the festival was the associated drug use that led to the deaths of two teenage girls. The behavior surrounding the festival was unacceptable and put this community at unnecessary risk of harm.

In June, I wrote to the City of Pomona expressing strong support for granting a public hearing for the appeal filed by the residents of Pomona regarding the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) by the L.A. County Fair Association. I ask that the Board of Supervisors support a public hearing and take their actions a step further by initiating an Environmental Impact Review (EIR) and traffic study to assess the impacts of the Fairplex's activities on the local communities. I also urge the Board to support Supervisor Solis's motion to ban electronic music festivals on county land until an investigation into the teens' deaths concludes.

We must work together to ensure the safety and security of our communities so we do not experience another tragedy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Norma J. Torres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress