



July 18, 2017

Honorable Mayor and City Council
333 W Ocean Blvd,
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Support for Agenda Item R-29: Park Equity

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

The North Pine Neighborhood Alliance NPNA strongly and completely supports Item 29 on the July 18th Council Agenda titled "Park Equity" authored by Councilwoman Gonzalez.

The City of Long Beach and our neighborhood are some of the most diverse in the entire nation. When we say diverse, we mean income, renters and home-owners, ethnic groups, gender identification, age, languages, faiths, etc. WE are proud living in the downtown area of this diversity and are committed to actively encouraging and protecting such diversity.

The 162 different parks within the City are very important to the quality of life for us living in the downtown area since many of us live in multi-family buildings. But we experience repeatedly that the parks near our neighborhood have **not** had an equitable level of attention and programming as others have, especially in the eastern, lower density Long Beach neighborhoods.

The Open Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan, which was adopted in 2002, observed that "populations in the north, central and western areas of the City are underserved." Yet here we are 15 years later and still we have the problem with specific objectives and policies not implemented. That is unacceptable!

Many community organizations like NPNA have attempted to fill the gap in programming by providing residents in our underserved neighborhoods with the classes, activities and programs, but the strenuous permitting processes, the various permit fees, and at times, the outright denial of our efforts place us at a disadvantage. Within the boundaries of our neighborhood (defined by **MAJOR** traffic streets Long Beach Blvd, Pacific and Anaheim), our children and youth do not even have real park space! We love Cesar Chavez and Drake parks, but the necessity to cross major traffic streets and limited programming make open space a real issue for our families and residents.

We love our city of Long Beach and we are proud to work to make our city and neighborhood a better and better place for EVERYONE who lives here. We want everyone to have the

opportunity to experience the amenities our wonderful city offers in their neighborhood, regardless of where they live.

We ask each and all of you as our elected leaders to vote YES for Item 29 and then to actively work for timely implementation. We know together we can make our parks and recreation programs a fair and equitable system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leanna Noble".

Leanna Noble

NPNA Secretary on behalf of the NPNA Board of Directors

115 West 4th Street, Unit 401

Long Beach, CA 90802

northpineneighbors@gmail.com