

From: Michelle Baker [mailto:michellebaker199@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:38 AM
To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Budget FY 22: SAFETY

-EXTERNAL-

Please put this email with pictures in the written comment for the city council meeting today.

Thank you!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Friends of Bixby Park** <friendsofbixbypark@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Aug 10, 2021 at 8:35 AM
Subject: Fwd: Budget FY 22: SAFETY
To: Tom Modica <Tom.Modica@longbeach.gov>, Robert Garcia <robertgarcialb@yahoo.com>, Suzie Price <suzie@suzieaprice.com>, Cindy Allen <Cindy.Allen@longbeach.gov>
Cc: Brent Dennis <Brent.Dennis@longbeach.gov>, East Division LBPD <LBPDCommander-East@longbeach.gov>, Mb <michellebaker199@gmail.com>

Good morning, Mr Modica, Mayor Garcia, Councilmember Price and Councilmember Allen.

Long Beach...Olympics 2028...amazing!!!

Bixby Park...the beautiful gateway to our beaches from any direction one enters. A place for families and seniors to play and relax, the heart of yoga.

Bixby Park... where the public bathrooms have to be shut down as it was the only way to keep away drugs, filth and violence.

Bixby Park, where people can leisurely spend time at a prime location.



This is the city we want to show the world? A city where not even a major residential park is safe enough for its residents?

We desperately need a full time uniformed presence at this historical and beloved park, so that we can open the bathrooms for proper use, while keeping the drugs and potential violence and negative interactions away.

The Park Rangers were created for this reason, keeping a park safe.

We are once again requesting to please, hire and train more of them.

As we are coming out of Covid (hopefully), we need to examine all the expenditures and to balance budgets, and invest into people, Long Beach residents, hard-working taxing paying, law abiding people. Their joy and safety and confidence in the system. Parks and beaches are in greater use now that the lockdown has ended. Park Rangers represent PD at a fraction of the cost, and will be that community policing presence everybody has been pleading for.

Accidents have happened in the park, so far they have been contained. We are concerned something worse might happen, and inaction to prevent it when we have thrown up so many red flags would just be a tragedy. Many residents here are losing hope, considering leaving and taking our tax dollars with us.

It's your responsibility as our representatives to act...our area here at Bixby Park and the main entrance to the beach at Junipero has become the wild west with very little police presence.

A designated Bixby Park ranger would send a positive message to those of use who live here and are trying so hard to keep our neighborhood, safe, clean and welcoming.

Please, once again, we kindly ask to give Bixby Park full time Park Rangers.

Hopeful,
Friends of Bixby Park

Enjoy Bixby Park!

Visit Us:

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Friendsofbixbypark/>
Our Website: www.friendsofbixbypark.org
On Instagram: [friendsofbixbypark](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofbixbypark)

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From: **Friends of Bixby Park** <friendsofbixbypark@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 10:30 AM

Subject: Budget FY 22: SAFETY

To: Tom Modica <Tom.Modica@longbeach.gov>, <mayor@longbeach.gov>, Suzie Price <suzie@suzieaprice.com>, Cindy Allen <Cindy.Allen@longbeach.gov>

CC: Brent Dennis <Brent.Dennis@longbeach.gov>

Mr Modica, Mayor Garcia, Councilmember Price and Councilmember Allen,

Has it been a year already since we begged to get some safety relief at Bixby Park and got some money from the budget to pay for Park Rangers?

A year later we can say with confidence that we all feel safer having them around.

Those 30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the afternoon, 4 days a week, when the Park Rangers are in the park, Bixby Park is safe...no drug activities, no pot smoking, no bike chopping, no alcohol at the skatepark... Everybody is grateful for them.

Unfortunately, beyond that Park Rangers' hour, there are still many issues that require uniformed presence in the park.

- Are you aware that the public bathrooms have been shut down months ago because of drugs, vandals, and people with mental issues turning them into unsanitary bombs?
- Are you aware that **Farmers'** Market vendors were threatened with a knife more than once by a park resident transient?
- Are you aware of another park resident transient swinging an axe during Farmers' Market and destroying the steps of the bandshell?
- Are you aware of another park resident transient dead by overdose at the park?
- Are you aware of the litter and drug addicts living in their cars making the neighborhood unsafe

Bixby Park is the gateway to our beaches, a historic landmark, **a green escape** for many neighborhoods, can we please keep it **safe** full time.

You just received \$5 million for "safety" that should include a full-time park ranger who can work out of the community center.

While planning the Budget for 2022, we are asking you to provide Bixby Park with full time Park Rangers to maintain constant safety and prevent/avoid any more dangerous happenings**s**.

As repeated over and over:

- Park Rangers cost a fraction of the Police.
- With Park Rangers present we will not have to waste PD time with calls not considered police priorities, but still require a uniform presence.
- In our current times where you advocate for community policing, what better way than delegating a park ranger to build those relationships with the community.

More Park Rangers will save money and keep District 2 and 3 safer. **Please, train more. I am sure they would benefit other parks as well.**

Our community is asking for full time park rangers and will not give up until we get them.

Us, the Friends of Bixby Park!

Visit Us:

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Friendsofbixbypark/>
Our Website: www.friendsofbixbypark.org
On Instagram: [friendsofbixbypark](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofbixbypark)

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