

eComments Report for City Council Meeting Agenda of March 2, 2021

Item	Name	E-mail	Address	Comment	Received
1. (21-0153) Recommendation to adopt resolution in Support of the Certification and Publication by the National Archivist of the State of Virginia's Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA); and in Support of the Joint Resolution Introduced in Congress on January 21, 2021 to Eliminate the Arbitrary Deadline Towards Full Constitutional Ratification. (Citywide)	Maria Pizarro	mi_maria@hotmail.com		The Constitution already prohibits sexual discrimination and the Supreme Court has held that the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause protects women from discrimination. The ERA doesn't apply to private sector so it wouldn't help issues like violence against women, unequal pay, or sex harassment in the workplace. More importantly, it would ban opportunities on the basis of sex. Several state/federal programs currently in place promote female empowerment, like benefits for women-owned small businesses (WOSBs). This violates ERA and anyone could successfully litigate that women unequally benefit. So WOSBs would lose out on gov't set-aside contracts. Prisons? The ERA would require same-sex prisons. The thought of women being locked up with men provides a long list of terrible outcomes. Wars? All women would be required to register for the DRAFT. I support women who want to serve in military, but not women being REQUIRED to fight. Supporting ERA may FEEL good, but it doesn't DO good	3/1/2021
1. (21-0153) Recommendation to adopt resolution in Support of the Certification and Publication by the National Archivist of the State of Virginia's Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA); and in Support of the Joint Resolution Introduced in Congress on January 21, 2021 to Eliminate the Arbitrary Deadline Towards Full Constitutional Ratification. (Citywide)	Padric Gleason Gonzales	padric.gleason@gmail.com		The Equal Rights Amendment has now reached the required threshold for ratification, thereby amending the U.S. Constitution to guarantee equal treatment of women under the law in the United States... EXCEPT Congress must repeal the arbitrary time limit imposed in 1972. This motion should also instruct the Federal Legislative Committee to support Senate Joint Resolution 1 (S.J. Res. 1) and House Joint Resolution 17 (H.J. Res. 17), Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.	2/25/2021
PUBLIC COMMENT:	Padric Gleason Gonzales	padric.gleason@gmail.com		I oppose the RV parking lot proposal at 3701 North Pacific Place. This Council should implement the Riverlink Plan that was approved in 2015 and reject attempts to build irreversible commercial or industrial developments along the LA River. The decades of abusing our water resources and turning our backs on waterways are over. Be mindful of pollution. Build parks and green spaces along our riverine and marine assets.	2/28/2021

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<p>16. (21-0167) Recommendation to request City Attorney to prepare a resolution in support of women, LGBTQIA+ and other employees who have filed complaints of harassment by various employees of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and supports the calls for a Joint Legislative Audit Committee.</p>	<p>Ellen Mackey</p>	<p>emackey@afscme1902.org</p>		<p>Good evening Mayor Garcia and Council members. My name is Ellen Mackey; I am an ecologist and Chair of MWD's AFSCME 1902 Women's Caucus. We'll be sending a copy of our comments and attachments for your archives. I am here to speak on item 16.</p> <p>I am introducing The AFSCME 1902 Women's Caucus. An LA Times article on 2-12-21 detailed some of the Women's Caucus issues.</p> <p>The Women's Caucus Mission is to proactively address a culture of sexism, racism, retaliation, harassment, and sexual harassment that permeates much of Metropolitan.</p> <p>To inform you I'm incorporating by reference all Women's Caucus MWD board comments from July, October, November, December 2020, & February 2021, including comments by myself, Gina Chavez, Lee King, Miranda Grow, and LA Times articles from 2-12-21 & 2-20-21.</p> <p>In addition, I invite you to listen to an interview with Claudia Shambaugh on KUCI, Ask a Leader, from 2-23-21 https://askaleader.com/?p=2172; you'll hear more about our experiences, first hand. Thank you</p>	<p align="right">3/2/2021</p>
<p>16. (21-0167) Recommendation to request City Attorney to prepare a resolution in support of women, LGBTQIA+ and other employees who have filed complaints of harassment by various employees of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and supports the calls for a Joint Legislative Audit Committee.</p>	<p>Padric Gleason Gonzales</p>	<p>padric.gleason@gmail.com</p>		<p>One of the reasons that my husband and I moved to Long Beach was because of its support for LGBTQ equality. Please support this motion to live our values by supporting victims of harassment.</p>	<p align="right">2/25/2021</p>

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17. (21-0168) Recommendation to direct City Manager to identify within 90 days the additional resources needed to implement changes from the Long Beach City Auditor's Library Services Performance Audit of 2020 Operations to meet the access and equity flaws identified.	Susan Redfield	stredfield@aol.com		As past President of the Long Beach Public Library Foundation, I support this item and thank the City Council for bringing it forward. The Library is needed now more than ever to support Long Beach families affected by the challenges of distance learning and record unemployment. The City Auditor's recent report on the Library highlighted the barriers to accessibility and equity caused by cuts made to the Library's budget through the years. The City's librarians and library staff do amazing work with the resources they are given and need additional support to meet the incredible demand. Thank you for exploring additional resources to help the Library continue to bridge educational, digital, economic, cultural divides. Sincerely Susan Redfield (2510 Maine Avenue, Long Beach 90806)	3/2/2021
17. (21-0168) Recommendation to direct City Manager to identify within 90 days the additional resources needed to implement changes from the Long Beach City Auditor's Library Services Performance Audit of 2020 Operations to meet the access and equity flaws identified.	Barbara Schwerin	barbaraschwerin@gmail.com		Hello, as a board member for the Long Beach Public Library Foundation, I support this item and thank the City Council for bringing it forward. The Library is needed now more than ever to support Long Beach families affected by the challenges of distance learning and record unemployment. The City Auditor's recent report on the Library highlights the barriers to accessibility and equity caused by cuts made to the Library's budget through the years. The City's librarians and library staff do amazing work with the resources they are given but also need additional support to meet the incredible demands on their time and resources. Thank you for your consideration of this important item.	3/1/2021
17. (21-0168) Recommendation to direct City Manager to identify within 90 days the additional resources needed to implement changes from the Long Beach City Auditor's Library Services Performance Audit of 2020 Operations to meet the access and equity flaws identified.	Melinda Dodge	melinda@beingthechurc hlab.org		As a Long Beach faith leader and resident, I am in full support of this recommendation to our City Council. Our libraries provide much needed resources as we strive collectively and collaboratively toward communal health. We must strategically identify and allocate the additional resources needed to eliminate barriers to equity and access. Our library needs increased support (staffing) and more accessibility (opening hours). Several of the City's strategic plans regarding early education, the digital divide, and the recent Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults identifies the Library as key to accomplishing goals, yet the Library continues to have one of the smallest budgets of any city department. Please support this recommendation, and our Long Beach Public Library! Thank you. Rev. Melinda Teter Doge Pastor of Community & Connection Being the Church Movement, Long Beach	3/1/2021

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17. (21-0168) Recommendation to direct City Manager to identify within 90 days the additional resources needed to implement changes from the Long Beach City Auditor's Library Services Performance Audit of 2020 Operations to meet the access and equity flaws identified.	Lisette Flores	mlisetteflores@gmail.com		As President of the Long Beach Public Library Foundation Public Affairs Committee, I support this item and am grateful to the City Council for bringing it forward in such a timely manner. The Library is in need of this support now more than ever due to this season of distance learning and record unemployment. The City Auditor's recent report does a terrific job of highlighting the barriers to accessibility and equity caused by cuts made to the Library's budget through the years. The City's librarians and library staff do amazing work with the limited resources they are given and need additional structural funding to meet the overwhelming demand. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, M. Lisette Flores	3/1/2021
17. (21-0168) Recommendation to direct City Manager to identify within 90 days the additional resources needed to implement changes from the Long Beach City Auditor's Library Services Performance Audit of 2020 Operations to meet the access and equity flaws identified.	Padric Gleason Gonzales	padric.gleason@gmail.com		I was shocked to learn that only 3% of the Long Beach Library's materials are available in non-English languages. This is despite the fact that almost HALF of residents speak another language, specifically Spanish, Khmer, and Tagalog. It's long past time for the City's public services to provide materials outside of the English language.	2/28/2021
20. (21-0170) Recommendation to adopt resolution authorizing City Manager, or designee, to submit a grant application to the California Department of Parks and Recreation for funding under the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program, for the first phases of the Drake Chavez Vision Plan Implementation Project and MacArthur Park Vision Plan Implementation Project (Projects); and, if awarded, execute all documents necessary to accept the funds in an amount up to \$8,500,000 for each Project, for a total grant funding amount of up to \$17,000,000 for the Projects. (Districts 1,6)	Steve Gerhardt	steve@walklongbeach.org		The funds being sought would be transformational for both of these neighborhoods -- Willmore City/Drake Park and Cambodia Town/Anaheim Corridor. Should the grant funds be secured, the implementation and construction of the visions for these two parks should follow the same intensive and intentional public process as the development of the vision plans on which the improvements are based. Walk Long Beach is strongly supportive of this effort to create destination public open spaces for each of these dense and vibrant neighborhoods. We hope the City is successful in its grant application, and look forward to continuing the hard work to bring these visions into reality.	2/26/2021

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20. (21-0170) Recommendation to adopt resolution authorizing City Manager, or designee, to submit a grant application to the California Department of Parks and Recreation for funding under the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program, for the first phases of the Drake Chavez Vision Plan Implementation Project and MacArthur Park Vision Plan Implementation Project (Projects); and, if awarded, execute all documents necessary to accept the funds in an amount up to \$8,500,000 for each Project, for a total grant funding amount of up to \$17,000,000 for the Projects. (Districts 1,6)	Padric Gleason Gonzales	padric.gleason@gmail.com		I strongly support this item. The Drake Chavez Vision (and accompanying LB-MUST) and MacArthur Park Vision are necessary upgrades to our city's green space. This Council should support the expansion of green space in all cases, especially on the westside and in central Long Beach. This Council should also expand park access along the LA River and in North Long Beach. There's simply not enough green space equitably distributed throughout our city.	2/25/2021
21. (21-0171) Recommendation to receive a report and confirm the proposed Long Beach Animal Care Services' Strategic Plan. (Citywide)	Laura Sellmer	laurasellmer@gmail.com		I respectfully urge Council to receive and file the plan, NOT receive and affirm the plan, At EVERY public presentation (and also in private conversations) during Feb, LABCS stated this motion before Council will be receive and FILE. The public was told this pan is a draft and the Task Force only approved a draft, The plan has never been released as final, nor has any time been allotted to INCORPORATE any public comments. I urge Council to receive and file,	3/2/2021
21. (21-0171) Recommendation to receive a report and confirm the proposed Long Beach Animal Care Services' Strategic Plan. (Citywide)	Kristie Mamelli	kmamelli@gmail.com		Iâ€™d like to talk about the Strategic Planâ€™s take on adoptions. Back in a 2014 Town Hall Meeting, Mayor Garcia promised over 200 animal advocates to have a robust adoption program. When you look at Strategic Priority 4 - Lifesaving Programs, an adoption program is not mentioned. A well-articulated, fully developed adoption program is one of the KEY programs that every animal shelter should have, and that is noticeably missing from this plan. In fact, adoptions are only briefly mentioned in this plan, and that is on page 8. In the action steps, the only steps articulated in the plan are: Online surveys on customer satisfaction, improved advertising for cats, a social media plan, communications volunteers, better photos, a website redesign, a Facebook group, a signage plan, monthly in-service day to educate rescues, a shelter beautification plan, etc. Those are good plans, but where are the most important ones that directly increase adoptions? Shelters must have WEEKLY OFFSITE adoptions.	3/2/2021

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21. (21-0171) Recommendation to receive a report and confirm the proposed Long Beach Animal Care Services' Strategic Plan. (Citywide)	Beverly Leifer	bevleifer@yahoo.com		The LBACS strategic plan does not address or establish a formal adoption program. This plan depends too much on outside entities. LBACS must develop and implement its OWN adoption program, with written procedures and standards. This is what has been promised since the mayor first took office. An adoption program should be priority and part of the goals. This plan doesn't even mention direct adoptions.	3/2/2021
21. (21-0171) Recommendation to receive a report and confirm the proposed Long Beach Animal Care Services' Strategic Plan. (Citywide)	Michelle Baker	michellebaker199@gmail.com		Absolutely not. There are many issues with the strategic plan that need to be addressed. There has been no response from LBACS on our concerns.	2/23/2021
NEW BUSINESS:	Christopher Chavez	cjchavez05@gmail.com		<p>I support Item 21-0182, which would start the process of creating El Mercado de Long Beach. This project will better serve Long Beach's Latino/a/x community, which comprises over 42% of the city's population. Working with a trusted community partner like Centro C.H.A. is vital in ensuring the Mercado is culturally appropriate, inclusive, and helps address the Latino/a/x community's needs.</p> <p>It is also important to note the Mercado could help provide a convenient, accessible location for community organizations and services. Creating spaces like the Mercado de Long Beach is important for historically under invested neighborhoods. Cesar Chavez Park is in a Census tract that ranks in the 90-95th percentile of CalEnviroScreen 3.0's disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>Lastly, while Measure US is a potential source of funding for the project, I urge the city to carefully consider how any project addresses the community's environmental, health and/or youth and economic needs, given limited funding.</p>	3/2/2021