



Dee Andrews
City of Long Beach
Councilmember, Sixth District

R-12

Date: September 22, 2015
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Dee Andrews, Sixth District *DA*
Subject: Healthy Active Community Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the use of Sixth Council District Fiscal Year 2015 one-time infrastructure funds in the amount of \$10,000 to fund community improvement, healthy eating, and community engagement activities in the Sixth Council District for a two-year period.

DISCUSSION:

The Sixth Council District is the proud home of approximately 50,000 residents and is host to many outstanding institutions and public facilities including Long Beach Poly High School, Long Beach City College/Pacific Coast Campus, MacArthur Park, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, McBride Park, Chittick Field, and the Mark Twain Library. The District is also rich in culture, due in large part to its ethnic diversity. While there is much to celebrate, there are continuing challenges such as healthy eating choices and access to healthy food.

The midtown neighborhoods frequently lack full-service grocery stores and farmers' markets where residents can buy a variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products. Instead, residents – especially those without reliable transportation – may be limited to shopping at small neighborhood convenience and corner stores, where fresh produce and low-fat items are limited, if available at all. One of the most comprehensive reviews of U.S. studies examining neighborhood disparities in food access found that neighborhood residents with better access to supermarkets and limited access to convenience stores tend to have healthier diets and reduced risk for obesity.

Currently, the available resources are not sufficient to move the community beyond the current status quo. For this reason, I would like to use a portion of the District's FY 15 one-time infrastructure funds, working through the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine (PRM), to provide a much needed community farmers market that provides healthy choices for the Midtown area, as well as, healthy activities that encourage residents to exercise. PRM will work with the operator to identify the approved uses and distribution schedule of the one-time infrastructure funds.

Your support on this item would be greatly appreciated.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The amount of \$10,000 is currently budgeted in the Capital Projects Fund (CP) in the Public Works Department (PW). City Council authorization is requested to reassign the intended use of this funding from the Sixth Council District's FY 15 one-time infrastructure projects to the Healthy Active Community Program in collaboration with the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department (PR).