



November 10, 2022

COMMISSIONERS  
MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
City of Long Beach  
California

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommendation to approve the placement of a Tribute Bench to honor Elizabeth Muñoz at Shoreline Aquatic Park. (District 1)

**DISCUSSION**

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM), with the consent of the City Manager, has a policy on donating funds for minor park assets, including Tribute Benches and trees. The program provides an opportunity for residents to honor and recognize those close to them who have passed away by placing a personalized Tribute bench at a city park site.

Proposed locations for new or replacement benches in Tidelands PRM-managed areas will be presented to the Marine Advisory Commission (Attachment A). This provides a public forum for residents or other interested parties to comment on all newly proposed benches or replacement bench locations and determine a timeframe for installation. Following this recommendation, installation of the bench will be the responsibility of PRM staff. PRM does not warrant benches against vandalism or destruction and based on the condition of the bench after ten (10) years, a specific bench may be removed if deemed necessary, with the location being made available unless the original party makes an additional donation in the amount in effect at that time. PRM staff has reviewed and approved the requested bench location at Shoreline Aquatic Park (Attachment B).

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The program raises funds to support Partners of Parks, a 501 (C) 3, whose mission is to support Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine programs. Proceeds from the donation cover the full cost of the bench, allocate funds to support maintenance such as annual paint touch up and provide funds to support POP's scholarship program.

**SUGGESTED ACTION:**

Approve recommendation.

Sincerely,

ELVIRA HALLINAN  
MANAGER, MARINAS AND BEACHES

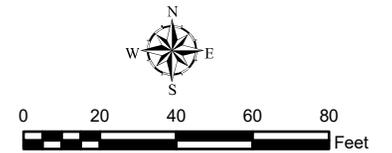
Attachments: List of Benches (A)  
Proposed Location (B)  
Application (C)

ATTACHMENT A: PROPOSED TRIBUTE OR COMMEMORATIVE BENCH LOCATIONS – November 10, 2022

	Park:	Location:	Requested for:	Requested by:	New/Replace
1)	Shoreline Aquatic Park	Waterfront Area	Elizabeth Munoz	Lucila Munoz	Replace



## Attachment B Proposed Elizabeth Munoz Tribute Bench Shoreline Park



Lucila Munoz  
Pittsboro, NC

September 30, 2020

Long Beach Partners of Parks  
ATTN: Park Bench Donation Program  
1150 E 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste 104  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Also via email to: [executivedirector@partnersofparks.org](mailto:executivedirector@partnersofparks.org)

Executive Director:

Below is an application for a park bench in memory of our sister, Elizabeth Munoz. The details about Liz are included in the application, in short, she was an understood person who helped her community. If you believe Booker T Washington's quote below, our sister, Liz, was the ultimate example of success. 😊

*Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome. Nothing ever comes to one, that is worth having, except as a result of hard work. If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.*

Thank you for your consideration help and please let me know if you need anything else.

Kind regards,

Lucila Muñoz (Lucy)

# PARK BENCH APPLICATION FORM

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Requestor: [Lucila Munoz](#)

Requestor Phone Number:

Requestor Email Address:

## BENCH INFORMATION

Name of Individual Being Memorialized: [Elizabeth Munoz](#)

Resident of Long Beach: [yes](#)

If Yes, How Many Years: [20+](#)

Requested Location of Bench: [Preferably waterview in the Waterfront area near the Shoreline Aquatic Park](#)

Please provide a history of the individual and include any significant life/community accomplishments:

[Elizabeth Munoz, the youngest sister of 5 siblings passed in April 2022 after a very short battle with cancer. She obtained a BA in Psychology with a minor in Applied Developmental Psychology from UCLA and a Masters in Social Work from Cal State Long Beach. Her life was dedicated to giving back to her community, particularly Long Beach, the city she loved and always returned to.](#)

[During her 26 year too short career, Liz worked as a Social Worker, a Mental Health Clinician, a Counselor, and a Therapist \(with LA County and independently\). She worked with the mentally ill, the displaced, preschoolers, autistic children, the homeless, victims of crime and anyone she found that needed help. Liz was an avid mentor to anyone in her field who needed guidance as well as a promoter of mental health to anyone who would listen. At the start of COVID, Liz was at the front line with the homeless community.](#)

[Liz did not have an accomplishment that made the National News Headlines, her accomplishment was how she lived her life and all the silent contributions she made to all she touched. The youngest of 5, she was 1<sup>st</sup> generation Mexican immigrant, Liz paved her own path with minimal support from laborer parents who had no knowledge of how to succeed in the US. She left home at 18 for UCLA and has been on her own and giving ever since. With the exception of 3 years she spent in Northern California, Liz dedicated her career to helping people the Los Angeles county with Long Beach as her home for over 20 years.](#)

[See her career journey here \(we have not had the strength yet to take it down\):](#)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/elizabeth-muñoz-lcsw-ppsc-1a932128>

[Why a bench for a relatively unknown person? Because she was more known than we were aware of. When she found out she had cancer, her friends set up a "GoFundMe" account which received in excess of \\$55,000 from 100+ people within 2 weeks. In addition, people we thought were "just acquaintances" sent her in excess of \\$25,000 directly. In cleaning her home, we found a box full of thank you letters and notes from the people she had helped as well as from parents whose children she helped. The things called out ranged from helping someone through a hard decision, through helping teenagers through suicidal ideations. Liz chose to be cremated and we would like to leave a "headstone" for the people she touched to be able to visit her.](#)

Please provide text for the bench plaque. Text is limited to four lines, 70 characters on each line (including spaces and punctuation).

1<sup>st</sup> Line: [In loving memory of Elizabeth Lopez Muñoz](#)

2<sup>nd</sup> Line: [Loving Daughter, Sister, Cousin, Friend and Social Worker](#)

3<sup>rd</sup> Line: [A fierce warrior who touched everyone she met](#)

4<sup>th</sup> Line: [1975 - 2022](#)

## **PARK BENCH SELECTION**

Please click the check box below to indicate bench preference:

Memorial Park Bench & Standard Plaque

Please acknowledge that you have read, understand and agree to the following:

Donation of a park bench confers no legal rights or benefits to the donor of a park bench. The City of Long Beach reserves the right to place park benches where suitable for the City.

The City of Long Beach does not warranty Park Benches against damage or destruction.

If, after 10 years, the condition of the bench so warrants, the City can remove the bench, thus placing the location back into available inventory for installation a future Park Bench.



[I have read and understand the items stipulated above. I ask only that after 10 years, we be given the opportunity to update the bench and reinvest in Long Beach to retain it.](#)

[Also – if this moves forward, I would appreciate being able to review the verbiage on the plaque.](#)

[Thank you in advance for your consideration.](#)

Applications can also be mailed or dropped off at: ATTN: Park Bench Dedication Program  
Partners of Parks  
1150 E 4<sup>th</sup> St Ste 104, Long Beach, CA 90802  
Updated: October 2019