



**4-4-22**

**RE: Dr. MLK Jr. Park Vision Plan - Support Agenda Item 31 – April 5, 2022 Agenda**

Dear Honorable Long Beach Mayor and City Councilmembers,

I am writing in support of District 6 Councilwoman Suely Saro's Agenda Item 31 to identify funding and begin pre-planning efforts to develop a park vision plan for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

Martin Luther King Jr. Park offers green space, community programs such as the community Peace Garden, and is a source of cultural and historical significance to the Black/African-American community. The statue of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a civil rights leader who advocated for human rights, stands in the park, and every year the community comes together to host a festival following the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. parade.

The park has not seen improvements or renovations in over a decade. A vision plan for the Dr. MLK Jr. Park is needed to revitalize and upgrade our resources to improve the health and wellbeing of the residents in our community while honoring Dr. King's legacy.

I urge you to support this item by voting yes on Agenda Item 31 to identify funding and begin pre-planning efforts to develop a park vision plan for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

Sincerely,

Maleka Chris, Executive Director