



City of Long Beach
Working Together to Serve

R-26
Office of Gerrie Schipske
Councilwoman, Fifth District
Memorandum

Date: June 15, 2010

To: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

From: Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske, Fifth District (S)

Subject: AGENDA ITEM: Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department Safety Review and Fee

DISCUSSION

On Saturday June 5, 2010 approximately fifty residents living around Pan Am Park in the north side of the Fifth District attended a community meeting that I organized to discuss a shooting that occurred on Memorial Day at the park. The neighborhood had many questions and wanted to know what preventative measures would be taken to increase park safety on holidays.

In addition to Long Beach City Manager, Pat West, Chief of Police, Jim McDonnell, and Parks and Recreation Director, Phil Hester, attended the meeting and both departments brought key staff members that are involved in the Fifth Council District.

On June 1, Commander Laura Farinella, and Phil Hester provided the City Council with a brief report on the incident that occurred on Memorial Day.

- A) A large family from Compton held its annual barbeque at Pan Am Park on Memorial Day. This group has done so for about eighteen years without incident.
- B) The family did not obtain a permit from the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department -- which is required for all groups over twenty-five.
- C) A call for service came into the Police Department about an hour before the shooting with a complaint about loud noise. The Police Officer responded and told the group to turn the music down.
- D) An hour later a call was received by the Police Department about shots being fired in Pan Am Park.
- E) Police responded and the shooter escaped.
- F) Members of the family group are cooperating with the Police Department.

At the June 5 Community Meeting Chief McDonnell stressed that Pan Am Park is safe and this was an isolated incident of someone with gang affiliation coming to a family event and getting into a fight. Residents were encouraged to join Neighborhood Watch and to call the Police Department or Park Watch if they see suspicious activity.

It should be noted that currently the City of Long Beach does not fund Park Rangers for Pan Am Park -- rangers are only in El Dorado Park.

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RECOMMENDATION

Request that the City Manager review the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department's public permitting process and that:

Request the City Council to adopt the following public safety policies:

- A) Requirement that Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department to notify the Police Department whenever a permit is issued to a group of twenty-five or more.
- B) Establishment of a public safety fee to permits issued by the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department to a group of twenty-five or more, with those fees directed towards funding Park Rangers or a "park patrol" that can patrol parks and alert the police when there is a problem.
- C) Require that signs be posted notifying the public that a permit is required for groups of twenty-five or more and that violators will be fined and not allowed to use the park for a one year period.
- D) Require that signs be posted notifying the public that alcohol is not permitted.