

# Director's Highlights

## Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services

### January 2022 Highlights

**Prepared by Director Brent Dennis**

1. Our Employee of the Month for December and January will be announced at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting in February.
2. The post-holiday COVID surge has had an unfortunate impact upon our entire Parks, Recreation, Marine, and Animal Care Services team. Over 60 team members were directed into a defined isolation period after testing positive for COVID. Great credit to our overall PRM Department team for rallying together to help maintain all our operational levels of service. Community Recreation Services team members continued providing after-school programming and parks and beach maintenance continued essential maintenance duties. All meetings have returned to virtual formats and many PRM team members who are able to have returned to teleworking.
3. The January 29<sup>th</sup> Parks and Recreation Commission orientation retreat will be rescheduled later this year when it is safe to return to in-person meetings.
4. Redistricting has been finalized and our monthly Council District briefings are underway with a focus upon the array of transitions of parks and recreational facilities between districts as boundaries have changed. Park Planning and Partnerships Bureau Manager, Nancy Villasenor has joined all briefings to share specifics on park planning and construction projects as well as community outreach and engagement plans.
5. The "Hoops After Dark" basketball program has been suspended due to COVID for the next few months with the hope of resuming the games and accompanying educational programming in the month of March. Partners of Parks has been a key supporter in the facilitation of the initiative.
6. Overall, the department assets weathered the recent weather events that hit the Long Beach area during the holiday weeks. Minor tree failures and several reported facility roof leaks seemed to be the extent of impact from Mother Nature. The Marine Bureau's beach maintenance team did a great job in fortifying the beach berms in advance of the King Tide and associated stormy weather.

7. The Martin Luther King Parade planned for Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup> has been postponed due to the current surge of COVID, likely to be rescheduled in the month of February during Black History Month. Plans for a carnival in MLK Park were withdrawn after the potential impacts upon the park were realized.
8. Long Beach City Council approved the naming of the "Dr. Thomas J. Clark Community Center" for El Dorado Park West.
9. Sunnyside Cemetery recently received its first major burial since the transfer to the Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department last year.
10. Centro CHA will be moving into an office at the Jenny Oropeza Community Center in the coming month with the expectation to provide classes, workshops, and job-training programs for the community in concert with our Community Recreation Services programming and events. Centro CHA Board of Directors did decide to forego the temporary utilization of a suite of office space at the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Senior Center that had been codified in an agreement approved last year.
11. The Safe Playgrounds/KidZone Ordinance is expected to be presented as a recommendation from the City Attorney's Office to City Council at a meeting in late February or early March.
12. Plans for a virtual celebration and dedication of Lincoln Park due to COVID are set for Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at a time and with specific details yet to be determined.