

# Director's Highlights

## Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services

### August 2022 Highlights

Prepared by Director Brent Dennis

1. The Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Budget was released by Mayor Garcia on Tuesday, August 2, 2022. The FY 23 Budget is \$3.2 billion that maintains current services and continues support for pandemic recovery. The proposed budget prioritizes investments in addressing homelessness, community safety, equity, inclusion health and quality of life support, business attraction, arts, culture and tourism, infrastructure, climate change, and unfunded operational needs. The proposed PRM budget is \$74.0 million, supporting 447.66 FTE's, offsetting revenues of \$42.1 million, and \$3.24 million of capital improvement projects.
2. The three Virtual Community Budget Meetings are scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The first possible budget adoption would be on September 6<sup>th</sup> with the last possible adoption of the FY 23 Budget on September 13<sup>th</sup>.
3. PRM will be presenting our Department budget to City Council on Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> following budget presentations by Police and Fire.
4. The 5-year Measure A Infrastructure Investment Plan includes over \$48 million of park improvement projects. 49 park improvement projects include 33 park projects, 10 new and improved playgrounds, 6 community center projects. Investment highlights include the Chavez Park Latino Cultural Center & Mercado, the Killing Fields Memorial Garden and Cambodian Veteran Memorial, and improvements to historic structures at Rancho Los Alamitos and Rancho Los Cerritos.
5. Other very welcomed PRM budget enhancements include funding for a new Parks Safety Ambassador Program that will allow us to lock restrooms at 39 park sites as well as gated mini-parks on a nightly basis; structural budget increases to support a 7-year tree trimming cycle for park trees, water for park irrigation needs, and enhanced landscape services. One-time funding of \$1.8 million for the removal of dead trees and significant staff funding support for Animal Care Services are other key additions.
6. We are pleased to welcome three new Parks and Recreation Commissioners to their first term of service that will begin with their August Commission meeting set for Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. Appointments by Mayor Garcia to the Parks and Recreation Commission included Silissa Smith, Chris Chavez, and Sylvester "Duke" Givens. The Department shared our gratitude to outgoing

Commissioners David Zanatta, Mariela Salgado, and Ron Sievers for their years of service.

7. August is "Clear the Shelter" month at Long Beach Animal Care Services. The nationwide program is sponsored by NBC/Telemundo.
8. Park Planning and Partnerships Bureau is busy with several park vision plans that include Martin Luther King Jr. Park, Ramona Park, Scherer Park, Houghton Park, and 14<sup>th</sup> Street Park. Community engagement opportunities are coordinated with Council District Offices and publicized on the City of Long Beach website.
9. Pickleball improvements continue to advance with dual striping of a tennis court at Marina Vista Park being accomplished to offer four new pickleball courts. Also, the Department's new partnership with the Salvation Army has led to the incorporation of pickleball lines on the two basketball courts inside the gym that will become the basis for a new Long Beach Pickleball league to begin there. The Citywide Pickleball Master Plan is also being released to City Council this month. Several pickleball capital improvement projects are included in the City's 5-year plan for courts at Veterans Park, DeForest Park, and at the Billie Jean King Tennis Center.
10. Recommendations for a North Long Beach Pool at Ramona Park is being followed up with an updated vision plan for the park to also consider the footprint of an expanded playground and additional parking. Measure A and specialty grant funding will be pursued to help realize the park improvements.