



Date: September 14, 2015
To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.H.W.*
From: Stephen P. Scott, Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine *S.P.S.*
For: Members of the Budget Oversight Committee
Subject: **Park Patrol Program Update – Bixby Park Calls for Service**

This memorandum is provided in response to the Budget Oversight Committee's follow-up questions regarding the pilot Park Patrol Program (Program) at Bixby Park and specifically its impact on the calls for service received by the Long Beach Police Department (LBPD). This memorandum is provided by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine in collaboration with the LBPD.

BACKGROUND

Since August 2014, PRM has piloted an unbudgeted park safety program at Bixby Park to address community concerns of misconduct and illegal activity. Staff assigned to the Park Patrol Program provide information to park and facility patrons; educate on park rules, regulations and permits; and contact the LBPD when law enforcement services are required. LBPD is responsible for public safety in the park. Program staff are specially trained recreation personnel and do not have the ability to cite or arrest. They identify and report to LBPD any illegal or troubling activities, while proactively and positively engaging with park patrons.

PRM'S EVALUATION

Program staff's interaction with the hundreds of community members has been positive. Program staff engage with park patrons, especially the regular park users. Patrons have started to self-regulate and increased compliance of park and facility rules and regulation has occurred. Community contact data was tracked and categorized for the patrols occurring at Bixby Park over the last year. In one-third of the almost 2,000 contacts with the community, Program staff provided park users with information and referral services to recreation and social service programs. Alcohol and smoking-related issues make up 41 percent of all contacts. It appears this activity may be decreasing, but without previous information to compare it to, we can only rely on anecdotal evidence. Of the almost 2,000 contacts with the community, only 2% resulted in a call to the LBPD.

LBPD CALLS FOR SERVICE

From August 2014 through July 2015, calls for service initiated by the public increased by 22% as compared to the year before the pilot program. This includes the calls made by Program staff. Proactive activity initiated by police officers increased by almost 50% in the 12-month period demonstrating the

LBDP commitment to keeping parks safe. The attachment provides the specific number of calls for service received by the LBDP from August 2013 through July 2015.

It is anticipated that the increased communication with the residents and neighborhood organizations by LBDP, PRM, and the Health and Human Services Department (Health) staff regarding the issues within the park during the pilot program increased the community's awareness of suspicious activities at the park and motivated them to contact the LBDP for further service. The "If you see something, say something" initiative from the LBDP, along with services provided by PRM and Health has had a positive impact with area residents and park users.

CONCLUSION

This targeted collaborative effort with City Departments and the community has built a foundation of ownership and engagement by park users and the community. As PRM's temporary program winds down, LBDP will continue to be responsible for public safety in the parks citywide. PRM, LBDP, and Health will continue working together to educate park patrons and encourage the continued ownership and engagement of park users. Any resources available for PRM would provide a greater return if dedicated to park programming.

ATTACHMENT

CC: MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
TOM MODICA, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
ARTURO SANCHEZ, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
JYL MARDEN, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER
ROBERT G. LUNA, CHIEF OF POLICE
JOHN GROSS, DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
LEA ERIKSEN, BUDGET MANAGER

Long Beach Police Department Bixby Park Calls for Service

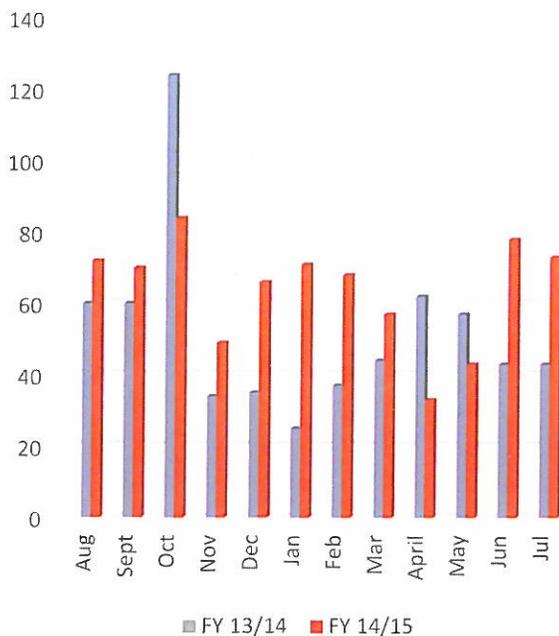
INITIATED BY THE PUBLIC (Includes calls made by Park Patrol Program Staff)

Fiscal Year	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Total
FY 13/14	60	60	124	34	35	25	37	44	62	57	43	43	624
FY 14/15	72	70	84	49	66	71	68	57	33	43	78	73	764

INITIATED BY AN OFFICER

Fiscal Year	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Total
FY 13/14	54	64	46	49	33	62	76	79	95	82	61	81	782
FY 14/15	94	98	129	99	95	95	122	132	87	78	76	65	1,170

**CALLS INITIATED BY THE PUBLIC
(INCLUDES PARK PATROL)**



CALLS INITIATED BY AN OFFICER

BIXBY PARK PD STATS - OFFICER INITIATED

