Date: October 23, 2015

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager

From: Amy J. Bodek, Director of Development Services

For: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: My Brother’s Keeper Local Action Update

On October 14, 2014, City Council requested a My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) Community Challenge report from the City Manager with methods on how the City of Long Beach can support the initiative to improve life outcomes and overcome barriers to success for boys and young men of color. The recommendations in the report focused on youth jobs and internships, violence prevention and community-oriented policing, along with a description of existing City programs that support MBK, particularly the Safe Long Beach Violence Prevention Plan. This report was transmitted back to City Council on January 20, 2015, for City Council consideration, and as a result, the City Council adopted a Resolution supporting President Obama’s MBK Community Challenge.

The Development Services Department was tasked with implementing the MBK Community Challenge. This Challenge aligns with the goals of the Safe Long Beach Violence Prevention Plan and will serve as an enhancement to Safe Long Beach. Accomplishments to date are outlined below.

On March 3, 2015, the City hosted the MBK Local Action Summit at Ernest McBride Park with over 180 participants representing government and non-government agencies, faith-based and community groups, community members and youth. Each participant provided input on the six milestones of MBK. The six MBK milestones are as follows:

1. Enter school ready to learn
2. Read at grade level by third grade
3. Graduate from high school ready for college and career
4. Complete post-secondary education or training
5. Successfully enter the workforce
6. Safe from violence and provided second chances

An MBK Task Force, an ad hoc work group of Safe Long Beach, which is made up of City, County, school district, and community leaders, was convened to develop an MBK Local Action Plan as prescribed by the White House. The MBK Task Force met on July 22, 2015, and August 10, 2015. Bloomberg Associates and PolicyLink have provided consultation to staff and the MBK Task Force on Plan development. Including the information provided by the consulting team and Task Force members, the City staff wrote a draft
of the MBK Local Action Plan. It should be noted that the Long Beach Unified School District is developing a District initiative for young boys and men of color, particularly focusing on the MBK milestones relating to strategies and outcomes occurring on school campuses and in the classroom. The elements of the District plan will also be captured in the MBK Local Action Plan.

On August 25, 2015, the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office convened five cities in Los Angeles County that have also accepted the MBK Community Challenge. The Chief Executive Office is leading the effort to develop a countywide MBK Local Action Plan with the intention of capturing the existing efforts of the five cities. The cities are: Culver City, Los Angeles, Compton, Hawthorne, and Long Beach. In this discussion, it was noted that the City of Long Beach is the only city in Los Angeles County that is currently addressing all six MBK milestones and the City’s plan appears to be further ahead in its MBK efforts, in comparison to its counterparts.

On September 21, 2015, a draft of the MBK Local Action Plan was reviewed at the MBK Task Force meeting. Task Force members provided recommendations to expand and clarify MBK milestones.

The next steps for the MBK Community Challenge are as follows:

- The Development Services Department will work with the consultation team to make the necessary revisions and updates to the MBK Local Action Plan.
- Subcontract a writer to finalize the content of the Local Action Plan.
- Subcontract a graphic designer to design the aesthetic elements of the Local Action Plan and the MBK marketing plan and collateral.
- Provide the MBK Task Force with a final opportunity to review the updated Local Action Plan.
- Finalize the MBK Local Action Plan.
- Publish the MBK Local Action Plan at a community unveiling event.

For further information, please contact Tracy Colunga, Neighborhood Relations Officer, Development Services, at ext. 8-4413.

AR: TC
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cc: Charles Parkin, City Attorney
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