Date: September 14, 2015
To: Patrick H. West, City Manager
From: Stephen P. Scott, Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
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
LBPD commitment to keeping parks safe. The attachment provides the specific number of calls for service received by the LBPD from August 2013 through July 2015.

It is anticipated that the increased communication with the residents and neighborhood organizations by LBPD, 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 LBPD for further service. The “If you see something, say something” initiative from the LBPD, 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, LBPD will continue to be responsible for public safety in the parks citywide. PRM, LBPD, 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 MARSDEN, 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)

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<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
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### INITIATED BY AN OFFICER

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

![Graph of CALLS INITIATED BY THE PUBLIC (INCLUDES PARK PATROL)]

### CALLS INITIATED BY AN OFFICER

![Graph of CALLS INITIATED BY AN OFFICER]

### BIXBY PARK PD STATS - OFFICER INITIATED

![Graph of BIXBY PARK PD STATS - OFFICER INITIATED]