

Q3-2016
July - September
www.lbds.info

BUILDING A BETTER LONG BEACH

LONG BEACH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Inside This Issue



P1 / GENERAL PLAN UPDATE



P2 / DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE / Department News
Action Plan Development / Wayfinding Signage



P3 / SEASP / Housing Resource Fair
Historic District Design Guidelines
e-PlanCheck / Neighborhood Leadership Program



P4 / SAFE LONG BEACH NEWS
Meetings & Events



General Plan

UPDATE

The City of Long Beach is in the final stages of updating its General Plan. As part of this process, the Planning Bureau staff hosted numerous community engagement events, scoping meetings, and Planning Commission Study Sessions to offer several opportunities for residents and stakeholders to provide input on this important project. The proposed update will reflect the values of the community and set forth goals, policies, and standards for guiding the future vision of the City. The General Plan Land

Use Element (LUE) is the roadmap to the City's future, and outlines allowable land uses, building types, and heights. The update to the LUE will replace the current 1989 document, and provide greater flexibility and connectivity between existing communities by establishing the concept of PlaceTypes, which distributes the City into distinct neighborhoods to allow for a mix of compatible land uses. The Urban Design Element (UDE) looks at how people and places interact with the public realm. The proposed UDE would be a new element of the City's General Plan meant to shape the urban environment by preserving the character of the existing neighborhoods while allowing for the continued

evolution and improvements of the City in areas targeted for development. This update is essential to enhancing the City's urban environment, and will have a major impact on housing availability, mobility, and economic vitality in Long Beach. To view the LUE and UDE draft plans, or the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), visit: http://bit.ly/DraftLUE_UDE. Written comments on the draft plans can be made, and will be received through December 30. Comments should be submitted to Christopher Koontz, Advance Planning Officer, Long Beach Development Services, 333 W. Ocean Blvd., 5th Floor, Long Beach CA 90802, by e-mail at christopher.koontz@longbeach.gov, or at 562.570.6288.

Director's Message



With summer behind us and the holidays just ahead, Long Beach Development Services looks to the forthcoming projects, programs, and initiatives that continue to add to the revitalization and sustainability of our City. These efforts are a testament to our commitment to ensuring the right balance of new development and essential services that enhance our neighborhoods and people's lives for the better.

Significant growth can be seen throughout our community—with excavation activities for the new Civic Center 80% completed; the grand opening of the new Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library; and a new 266,000-square-foot retail center, Long Beach Exchange, that has been approved at Douglas Park on Carson Street and Lakewood Boulevard.

In addition to the Department's great development strides, staff continues to work diligently on a number of programs and services for Long Beach residents and business owners; including, the issuance of start-up grants to help assist new businesses, several neighborhood clean-ups, and tree plantings coordinated by staff to help keep our community clean, beautiful, and safe.

Our staff has also kept busy delivering customer service excellence at the public counter. Since July, we have assisted 14,800 customers at the Permit Center and issued nearly 3,000 permits!

We look forward to closing the year remaining focused on our mission to strengthen and enhance the livability of our City. Thank you for your continued partnership and support in helping to Build a Better Long Beach.

Sincerely,

Amy J. Bodek, AICP
Director

Department News

The Department recognizes that operational efficiency and effectiveness begin with a solid foundation. To strengthen the functions of the Department, Development Services is pleased to announce the following staff hire.

Oscar Orci – Deputy Director

Oscar represents the Department as the second-in-command on a variety of topics, as well as directs and guides the Department in achieving its overall goal of building a dynamic, safe, and sustainable City. He oversees the Code Enforcement Bureau, the Building and Safety Bureau, and the Housing and Neighborhood Services Bureau. Oscar has over 20 years of experience in community development and municipal management, and will be a great asset to the Department and to the City. Oscar can be reached at 562.570.6369 or oscar.orci@longbeach.gov.

Provide Input on 2017 Action Plan Development

In August 2016, as part of the development of the City's Five-Year Consolidated Plan, the Grant Administration Division staff held the first of a series of community workshops to offer opportunities for the public to provide input on prioritizing housing and community needs for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds. The Consolidated Plan is a comprehensive planning document that assesses overall needs for affordable housing, homeless shelters and services, infrastructure improvements, and community and economic development. Additionally, staff has developed a Draft Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) that establishes the City's Fair Housing Goals and Priorities to address identified fair housing issues. The AFH will inform future planning documents, including the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, and is now available for public comment at: www.lbds.info/afh. The Long Beach Community Investment Company (LBCIC) will host a public hearing on November 30 to collect public input and recommend the AFH document be approved by the City Council. For more information on the Consolidated Plan development, visit: www.lbds.info/consolidatedplan/, or contact Alem Hagos at 562.570.7403 or alem.hagos@longbeach.gov.



Wayfinding Signage Program

The need for establishing City entryway signs has been identified in the City's Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017 budget. The project includes a robust public outreach process consisting of numerous stakeholder meetings and the distribution of a Wayfinding Signage survey. The survey, made available in English, Spanish, Khmer, and Tagalog, offered an opportunity for the public to provide valuable feedback for developing a consistent and practical new program for City gateway signage, as well as wayfinding signage for Downtown parking and waterfront destinations in Long Beach. A wayfinding system is essential to the way people orientate and navigate the built environment, and a clear and intuitive system promotes accessibility, safety, and economic benefits. For more information on this project, go to: www.lbds.info/wayfindingsignage/.

Southeast Area Specific Plan



In July 2016, the Planning Bureau staff prepared the Hearing Draft Southeast Area Specific Plan (SEASP) to replace the existing Southeast Area Development and Improvement Plan (SEADIP). This new plan is the culmination of years of intensive outreach and planning. SEASP will protect more than 59 acres of land as permanent open space that were previously designated for development; add seven miles of bicycle lanes, and nearly seven miles of sidewalks, plazas, and promenades; and create new internal street grids to enhance mobility. The new plan will also provide a mix of housing, employment, and open space to fit the needs of current residents and future generations. Since the adoption of its first Planned Development District (PD-1) in 1977, the City has gained more than 110,000 new residents and has continued to evolve into a great place to live, work, and play. The SEASP Draft Plan and DEIR have been reviewed by the public and are expected to go before the Planning Commission early next year. To view the SEASP draft, go to: <http://bit.ly/SEASPHD>. For more information on the SEASP, visit: www.lbds.info/seadip_update/.

Housing Resource Fair and Community Forum

In September, Development Services staff from the Housing and Neighborhood Services Bureau, the Code Enforcement Bureau, the Grant Administration Division, and the Neighborhood Relations Division, together with the Health and Human Services Department, hosted a Housing Resource Fair and Community Forum. The fair featured free housing and neighborhood resources and information on homeless services, code enforcement, the five-year Consolidated Plan development, *Safe Long Beach*, and several other City programs and initiatives. Housing Long Beach, the Long Beach Fair Housing Foundation, and Building Healthy Communities Long Beach were among the many groups that participated in this event. For more information on affordable housing in Long Beach, visit: www.lbds.info/housing_and_community_improvement/.



Historic District Design Guidelines

The City is currently preparing Historic District Design Guidelines to provide information on the types of alterations that are permitted under City regulations. The Planning Bureau staff held a community workshop to discuss the proposed design guidelines, which will impact how historic property owners care for, remodel, or possibly expand their home. To date, the City has prepared Draft Historic District Design Guidelines for the Belmont Heights, Hellman Street/Craftsman, Rose Park, Rose Park South, Wilton, Minerva, Eliot Lane, and Brenner Place districts. To view the Draft Historic District Design Guidelines, go to: <http://bit.ly/DraftHG>. For more information on historic preservation in Long Beach, call 562.570.6192 or visit: www.lbds.info/planning/historic_preservation/default.asp.

e-PlanCheck Program

The Building and Safety Bureau has launched a new e-PlanCheck (EPC) program to provide an efficient means for permit applicants to electronically submit construction documents to select City departments. The EPC saves customers' time and money, and helps the City go paperless by enabling staff to concurrently access and review files electronically. This program promotes a more business-friendly environment by creating a virtual one-stop-shop for permitting and development projects. For more information on the EPC, go to: www.lbds.info/eplanchecklongbeach. You may also visit the Development Permit Center, 333 W. Ocean Blvd., 4th Floor, or call Theresa Woolhether, Permit Technician at 562.570.7086.

Neighborhood Leadership Program

In August, the City celebrated the graduation of the Neighborhood Leadership Program (NLP) Class of 2016, a group of 21 residents dedicated to creating positive change in their neighborhoods. Led by the Housing and Neighborhood Services Bureau, the NLP is a multilingual program that helps provide the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to tackle existing community challenges. This year's class hosted a number of community events, including a public safety fair, a youth sustainability fair, a tree planting event, and a technology event focused around the *GO Long Beach* smart phone application. For more information about the NLP or to get involved, call 562.570.1010.



Safe Long Beach News

Public Meetings & Events 2016



Safe Long Beach, the City's Violence Prevention Plan, addresses a broad safety agenda aimed at reducing all forms of violence to attain the goal of building a safer Long Beach by 2020. The following represents the Department's latest collaborative *Safe Long Beach* efforts. For more information about *Safe Long Beach*, visit www.lbvpp.com.



The Cultural Heritage Commission meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 5:30 pm in City Hall Council Chambers.

The Long Beach Community Investment Company Board meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 4:00 pm in City Hall in the 3rd Floor Large Conference Room.

The Planning Commission meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:00 pm in City Hall Council Chambers.

Zoning Administrative Hearings are held the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 2:00 pm in City Hall in the 7th Floor Large Conference Room.

Agendas subject to change. For more information about meetings and events, please call 562.570.LBDS, or visit us online at www.lbds.info.

My Brother's Keeper Mentoring Program



In September, the Neighborhood Relations Division staff hosted a *My Brother's Keeper* (MBK) Mentoring Program luncheon for all City staff. The event kicked off the mentoring program, and called those interested to commit to volunteering as youth mentors at Franklin Middle School and Washington Middle School for the 2016-2017 school year. For more information on MBK, or to sign up to be a mentor, visit: www.mbklongbeach.com.

City Awarded \$600,000 Grant to Help Safe Long Beach Efforts

Long Beach has been awarded a two-year, \$600,000 grant from the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to strengthen police-community relations throughout Long Beach neighborhoods. The City Council formally accepted the grant at its public meeting in July. The BSCC grant award mirrors recent efforts spearheaded by President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, which was created to strengthen community policing and trust among law enforcement officers and the communities that they serve. The BSCC grant award will be facilitated by the Neighborhood Relations Division staff, and is aligned with the goals of the *Safe Long Beach* Safe Communities strategy. The grant will be used to help ensure fair and impartial policing, and enhance collaborative approaches to reinforce police-community partnership, trust, and communication. The grant will also provide funding for Community Police Academies, Community- and Youth-Police dialogues, and implicit bias trainings for sworn officers in the City.

Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign

As a part of the City's *My Sister's Keeper* Program, the Neighborhood Relations Division staff coordinated a human trafficking awareness campaign in partnership with the YMCA of Greater Long Beach (YMCA). *My Sister's Keeper* is supported by the California Gang Reduction, Intervention, and Prevention Program (CalGRIP) grant, which assists anti-gang efforts and the prevention and the reduction of victimization among at-risk female youth and adults. The YMCA volunteers created public service announcements (PSAs) to shed light on the different aspects of human trafficking awareness and prevention. *If You See Something, Say Something*. To anonymously report suspected human trafficking, call 888.373.7888.




 LBDSVideos

 @LongBeachBuilds

 LongBeachBuilds

CITY OF LONG BEACH

LONG BEACH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
333 W. Ocean Blvd., 3rd Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802

This information is available in alternative format by request at 562.570.3807. For an electronic version of this newsletter, visit our website at www.lbds.info.