



**Date:** April 13, 2017  
**To:** Patrick H. West, City Manager   
**From:** Marie Knight, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine   
**For:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**Subject:** **Update Regarding Restoration of Senior Meal Program at Cesar E. Chavez and Silverado Parks**

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### **Background**

In July 2005, Human Services Association (HSA), a non-profit organization under contract with the County of Los Angeles (County), began serving congregate meals for seniors at several Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) facilities. In 2012, due to funding cuts at the federal level, HSA notified PRM of its intent to eliminate the senior lunch programs at the lowest attended sites, Cesar E. Chavez and Silverado Parks, beginning in June of that same year.

On March 1, 2016, the City Council requested staff to prepare a report on the feasibility of restoring the senior meal program at Cesar E. Chavez and Silverado Parks, as well as transportation challenges for seniors.

On February 21, 2017, PRM staff provided a report to the City Council that outlined the costs related to restoring the meal program and the current state of the transportation services provided by Long Beach Transit. The City Council continued the item to April 18, 2017, requesting that staff research what other options may be available to restore meal and transportation services to the two sites. The following is a status report:

### **Senior Meals**

In the past two months, staff researched options for providing senior meals at these two sites. Staff first reached out to HSA to see if they were in a better financial position to return services to these two sites. Unfortunately, their funding has not increased and, as previously reported, the total cost to restore meals at both sites using HSA is \$102,750. Staff then researched what other organizations may be in the area providing meals to other programs. Multiple community organizations were contacted to ascertain if they had either the capacity to add additional sites, or knew of other programs that could be of assistance. These organizations included Empowered 4 Life, Food Finders, Workforce Development Aging and Community Services in Los Angeles (which contracts with congregate meal providers), and Women in Action, Reaching Out.

Staff is excited to report that *Women in Action, Reaching Out*, a local non-profit organization, has offered to provide meals to our seniors at Cesar E. Chavez and

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Silverado Parks. *Women in Action, Reaching Out* has been operating in Long Beach since 2012. They provide meals and snacks to seniors, teens, and youth residing in the Carmelitos Housing area on a year-round basis. In addition, they provide after-school meals at a park in Compton. Meals are also provided to seniors who participate in activities at the Long Beach Expo Center, located in Bixby Knolls. Mrs. King, CEO of *Women in Action, Reaching Out*, is very passionate about her service to the community and is dedicated to provide the best service possible.

Meals will be served Monday through Friday, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meals will be served either hot or cold, and come pre-packaged to meet USDA serving sizes. The organization will be requesting a suggested donation of \$1.00, although this is not mandatory. Staff is working with the organization to obtain the proper insurance, health permits, and agreements. It is anticipated this program will begin on April 24, 2017.

Staff will continue to research and identify additional locations that may provide senior meals, such as local churches or other service-providing agencies, in case there are other options available for our residents. Furthermore, staff is in conversation with Meals on Wheels Long Beach to explore the opportunity of enhancing the meals program at these two sites to include homebound seniors.

### **Transportation**

On August 26, 2012, Long Beach Transit (LBT) discontinued the Passport service to Cesar E. Chavez Park. It was replaced with Route 151, for which standard fares apply. There were no major changes to Route 191, which stops in front of Silverado Park.

Staff has been researching alternative transportation options for seniors to get to these two sites. One option could be the Immediate Needs Transportation Program (INTP) operated by LA Metro. Through this program, there may be an opportunity to receive free bus tokens and taxi vouchers for seniors participating in the meal program. A representative from INTP informed us there is currently a waiting list. Staff is preparing the necessary information to be placed on the waiting list.

Staff has also been working with Human Services Association regarding its Rider Relief Transportation Program (RRTP), which provides seniors access to reduced cost monthly bus fares. A representative from RRTP will be visiting the sites to provide information to seniors. The representative will also be able to immediately offer coupons to those who qualify for the discount. RRTP will be visiting Cesar E. Chavez Park on May 2, and Silverado Park on May 10.

Finally, on March 23, 2017, LBT hosted a community meeting to discuss the Systemwide Transit Analysis and Reassessment (STAR) Initiative, which will evaluate LBT's current transit operations, such as on-time performance, ridership, route efficiency, staffing, facilities, and service amenities. It will set

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priorities that will carry LBT into the future. Two of our Senior Citizen Advisory Commissioners attended the meeting to propose the reinstatement of the Passport program and a route to include Cesar E. Chavez Park.

Again, this is a summary of progress to date. Staff will continue to research options for meals, as well as transportation, and will transmit any further updates to the City Council. The Senior Citizen Advisory Commission is meeting on April 19, at which time staff will present the proposal and solicit input from the Commission.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Marie Knight, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department, at (562) 570-3170.

MK:gk

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