

Date: April 1, 2021

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager



From: Robert G. Luna, Chief of Police



For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Bixby Park and MacArthur Park – Expansion of Coverage of Public Safety Services**

The Fiscal Year 2021 (FY 21) Adopted Budget included an allocation of \$95,374 in the General Fund Group in the Police Department to support the expansion of coverage and services typically done by park rangers to include Bixby Park and MacArthur Park. This memorandum provides an update of the services provided by the Police Department (Department).

The Department is using a data-driven approach, while also incorporating the community's concerns, to strategically deploy resources in, and around, both parks. Commencing the week of October 19, 2020 and for the duration of FY 21, police officers will provide an estimated 475 hours of service and park rangers will provide approximately 280 hours of service. Coverage will be provided in five-hour blocks for an average of 25 hours per week. Due to the nature of the activity and complaints, police officers are needed in addition to park rangers to patrol the parks. Two-officer teams and the park rangers are working to address quality of life and homeless challenges. Offenses include drinking and smoking in public and camping. Numerous parking citations have also been issued. Additionally, the Health Department currently has three homeless outreach workers dedicated citywide and they are currently working on a plan to dedicate additional outreach staff at both parks and other parks in Long Beach using Long Beach Recovery Act funding. Officers and park rangers will continue to work with staff from the Health Department to link persons experiencing homelessness with City services, and with Public Works to fulfill several requests for refuse pickups.

To date, the Department has expended approximately \$27,065 toward these efforts. The Department will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of this approach and will dedicate this structural funding to enhance public safety at Bixby and MacArthur Parks on an ongoing basis.

If you have any questions, please contact me or my Chief of Staff Commander Pat O'Dowd at (562) 570-6424.

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