

Date: October 6, 2022

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager *T.M.*

From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services *KC*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Update on the Office of Youth Development**

This memo serves as an update from the Office of Youth Development (OYD), located in the Department of Health and Human Services, on the implementation of the Long Beach Youth and Emerging Adults Strategic Plan (YSP) as it relates to three key action items: 1) the formation of the Youth Advisory Council, 2) the release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Employee Mentoring Program, a Long Beach Recovery Act (LB Recovery Act) funded program, and 3) the implementation of My Hood, My City, a LB Recovery Act funded project.

Youth Advisory Council: One of the first action items under goal one of the YSP is to establish a Youth Advisory Council (Council). The OYD staff reviewed 61 applications and interviewed 39 for the Council. In August 2022, one youth representing each council district and two at-large members representing areas disproportionately impacted by violence, poverty, and COVID-19 were selected to join the 11-member body. The Council members will serve a 12-month term, meet monthly to help drive the implementation of the YSP, and will receive a \$50.00 stipend per month for their participation. The primary role of the Council is to advise and guide City staff and community partners in the implementation of the YSP and the disbursements of the Measure US-Youth Fund. The Council will review and prioritize the YSP's goals and objectives and work with OYD staff to develop a spending plan that informs the implementation of these priorities.

Employee Mentoring Program Request for Proposal: The City of Long Beach (City) has released an RFP for the Employee Mentoring Program. In partnership with the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD), Long Beach Public Libraries, Long Beach Police Department, Department of Parks, Recreation & Marine, and Pacific Gateway Workforce Innovation Network, the OYD is launching a City Employee Youth Mentoring Program. This program will create mentoring connections between 100 City employees and 100 LBUSD middle school students. The program will take place in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years and will focus on students from middle schools in neighborhoods affected by disproportionate amounts of violence, poverty, and COVID-19. The City is seeking to contract with a third-party mentoring organization to facilitate the program and mentoring connections. The RFP was released on September 30, 2022 and will accept solicitations through October 28, 2022.

My Hood, My City: My Hood, My City provides youth-led storytelling through neighborhood tours that raise awareness, pride, and knowledge regarding the cultural and structural makeup of neighborhoods in North, West, and Central Long Beach. Through LB Recovery Act funding, the Health Department contracted with the Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) to operate this project. The YLI identified 5-10 youth ages 14-24 in each neighborhood. Their first orientation

meeting took place in July 2022. Since then, the youth have explored different multimedia platforms with YLI staff including technical software, graphic designing, photography, videography, and strengths-based storytelling. Youth also participated in a workshop provided by the Department of Development Services where they learned about the department's cultural historical report and the City's General Plan.

Using these new skills, the youth developed digital assets of each neighborhood to be featured on the City and YLI websites, social media channels, and newsletters. They also developed neighborhood strength and asset-based tours. These tours will highlight the resiliency and cultural capital of Long Beach neighborhoods and will be available in digital form.

In addition to providing tours digitally, the My Hood, My City project youth leaders will host live neighborhood tours later this fall. Each tour will incorporate an in-person walk of the neighborhood and conclude with a showcase of digital media (photography, videos, etc.) that further tells the story of their community. The digital media materials will be housed at the local library for continuous use. The community is invited to sign-up for the free neighborhood tours at the following link: [Showcase Registration](#). Space for each neighborhood tour is limited. Below are the locations for each tour:

- **Central/Washington:** October 20, 2022 El Sol Bakery, 1503 Magnolia Ave Long Beach, CA - 4:30 PM- 6:00 PM
- **West:** October 22, 2022 Bret Harte Library - 3:30 PM -5:00 PM
- **North:** October 28, 2022 Michelle Obama Library - 3:30 PM- 5:00 PM

My Hood, My City aligns with Goal 4 of the YSP which calls for a focus on Social Connectedness to create spaces that are inclusive and safe for young people to feel connected to their community and environment and Goal 2 of the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative which calls for exploring and increasing investments in the broader continuum of public safety, such as community-based violence prevention and interventions.

The Office of Youth Development looks forward to working with you as we continue to implement the YSP and ensure the safety and health of Long Beach youth. For additional information, please contact Ana Lopez at Ana.Lopez@longbeach.gov or Sherlyn Beatty at Sherlyn.Beatty@longbeach.gov

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