


Date: May 5, 2023

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

Subject: **Update on Recently Addressed and Resolved City Council Requests**

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City Council requests are tracked by the City Manager's Office through the "Report of Reports." Responses to City council requests may be sent to the Mayor and City Council through a City Council meeting agenda item, or To-From-For memorandum (TFF). Requests are closed and marked as completed once a response has been provided.

Below is a list of City Council requests that have recently been addressed and resolved as well as any associated attachments for each item. Items below will be considered complete unless additional City Council direction is provided for an item.

### **Recently Addressed and Resolved Council Requests**

1. [Bed Space Availability](#)

*Recommendation to request City Manager to work with Health and Human Services and Technology and Innovation Departments (TID) to provide an updated report within 90 days on the feasibility and possible implementation strategies to develop a City of Long Beach specific mobile and web-based application for City staff and City of Long Beach residents who work with or interact with those experiencing homelessness and/or addiction or other mental health issues that provides updated, real-time data on bed availability at shelters, rehab, detox, medical detox, and other types of public, private, and non-profit beds. The mobile and web-based applications would provide additional information to City of Long Beach employees and residents about services such as food pantries, showers, or locations to get ID vouchers.*

There has been a two-pronged approach to bed availability. First, members of TID attempted on multiple occasions to contact GetHelp representatives in October and November of 2022 to conduct a re-evaluation of the service. Unfortunately, attempts to speak with a representative went unanswered, leading staff to believe that GetHelp is no longer operating. Second, TID has been working in conjunction with Health and Human Services and the Police Departments to pilot a bed availability tool for City-run shelters. This product is intended only for City staff and is currently deployed and awaiting end user testing. Upon completion of the pilot, the three departments will reconvene to determine the merits of a broader roll-out and/or what changes are required to build upon the systems current capabilities.

2. [Metro A Line Deboarding](#)

*Recommendation to request City Manager to work with City Attorney to draft a formal letter to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors requesting that they change their practice of requiring passengers to deboard at the end of the A Line.*

*... approve recommendation, amended, to [1] send a letter to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors to evaluate their practice of requiring passengers to deboard at the end of the A Line; [2] adjust the schedules of Quality of Life Officers so they can assist individuals deboarding the A Line; [3] assign Metro Long Beach Police Department Officers to ride the Long Beach Loop; and [4] continue to conduct a survey of individuals deboarding at the end of the A Line.*

Following City Council direction, staff submitted a letter to LA Metro to request an evaluation on their End of Line policy. In response to the letter, LA Metro Board initiated a study of their End of Line policy. While the study is currently ongoing, two updates have been provided to the LA Metro Board and a third update is anticipated in April. Los Angeles County Supervisor Hahn has also moved for LA Metro to coordinate with the City of Long Beach (City), County of Los Angeles (County), and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to identify a location along the A Line to provide a service hub for people experiencing homelessness who are impacted by the End of Line policy.

On January 31, 2023, staff transmitted a follow up [letter to LA Metro](#) leadership regarding the City's Homelessness Emergency. Internal and external coordination on this item is ongoing.

3. [Pet Licensing Fees Amnesty Program Update/Extension](#)

*Recommendation to request City Council receive and file a presentation on outcomes of the temporary amnesty program waiving first-time pet licensing fees and late penalty fees for expired pet licenses adopted on June 21, 2022; Request City Attorney to draft resolution providing for a temporary amnesty program waiving first-time pet licensing fees and late penalty fees for expired pet licenses in Community Development Block Grant-designated areas until December 31, 2022; and Request City Manager to work with City staff to investigate the feasibility of utilizing available funding sources as potential offsets for any loss of revenue resulting from the temporary amnesty program and pet license fee waiver.*

The City provided the opportunity for free first-time pet licenses and waived penalties for any expired licenses to help those who acquired pets during the pandemic and may also be suffering economic hardship to come into compliance with local and state laws. Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS) absorbed licensing and waived penalty costs to assist the community in reporting rabies vaccinations to LBACS. Licensing is important to ensure that pet owners have had their dogs and cats vaccinated against

rabies. Because California is declared a rabies endemic State, dog owners (and some cat owners in certain cities), must show that their pets have been vaccinated against rabies. A license is issued for one year or until the vaccine expires (usually 1-3 years), once proof is provided to the agency overseeing rabies control.

4. [Local Preference Procurement Study](#)

*Recommendation to request City Manager to work with the Financial Management Department's Purchasing Division to ensure a study of the current Local Preference Ordinance is included in the Extreme Procurement Makeover Project (which is remaking procurement policies, processes, and practices in Long Beach), including an analysis, assessment of the feasibility and options for implementation of the items. In addition, prioritize this study by modifying the workplan for the Extreme Procurement Makeover Project, and report back to City Council in no more than 180 days.*

The Local Procurement Ordinance work has now been added to the workplan for the Extreme Purchasing Makeover and was brought back to the City Council within the 180 days. On February 7, 2023, the Council received a presentation from staff that presented analysis on the areas of: one; strengthening the existing Local Preference Program; two, expanding application of the Local Preference Program; and, three, expanding reporting and increasing transparency. On this date the Council also approved a [recommendation](#) to prepare an Ordinance to amend the Long Beach Municipal Code Section 2.84.030 to raise the preference cap to \$50,000 from \$10,000.

5. [Low-Volume Music Venues Sound Study](#)

*Request City Manager to study and make recommendations that further support smaller, low-volume, and less-intrusive options for music venues and return and present recommendations (Sound Study) at a future council meeting in 120 days.*

The 2018/2019 Low-Volume Entertainment Study was comprised of four major components: stakeholder engagement; review of policies and practices of other cities; a pilot program; and, recommendations. Special Events staff attended multiple municipal conferences and met with counterparts from other major cities facing similar entertainment concerns. During the study, Long Beach staff met with staff members from Seattle, WA, Austin TX, San Diego, CA, and Nashville, TN.

After resuming the Study in 2022 and meeting with several different cities, staff concluded that a much more expansive study, spanning multiple City departments, would be necessary to reform the current entertainment policy and codes throughout Long Beach, similar to the study done in Seattle over a 10-year period. Currently, the City does not have the structural budget funding or staffing resources to conduct an expansive comparable 10-year study.

If the Council would like to engage in this effort, staff would need direction as part of the FY 24 Budget to add both structural staffing and a one-time budget for consultant studies.

6. [Open Parks Space Feasibility Report](#)

*Recommendation to receive a report and adopt the proposed Parks, Recreation and Marine Department Strategic Plan 2022-2032.*

*Request staff to report back within 60 days on the feasibility on engaging stakeholders and creating an open parks space plan for the undeveloped areas of land and areas the City has identified as needing more park space.*

The topic of open park space for the development of vacant land into park space in areas needing additional park space has been studied by the City over the years and documented in various plans. One of the earlier efforts include the [Long Beach RiverLink Plan](#) (2007), followed by the [Willow Springs Park Master Plan](#) (2013), [West Long Beach Livability Implementation Plan and Green Terminal Island Transition Plan](#) (2015). In North Long Beach, planning efforts included the [Uptown Open Space Vision Plan](#) (2018), [Drake Chavez Vision Plan](#) (2019), and [Hamilton Loop Vision Plan](#) (2021). In addition, an [Open Space Acquisition Study](#) was completed in 2021 that examined the potential for park development along the Los Angeles River. The [Parks Make Long Beach: PRM Strategic Plan](#) (2022-2032) contains various action items that address the same topic. These planning documents continue to play critical roles in informing City efforts to increase parks and open space in areas of Long Beach that lack this important resource.

7. [ADA Compliance and Businesses](#)

*Recommendation to request City Manager to work with City Attorney and Development Services to report back on the existing services the City provides for small businesses to increase compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and expand equity and access for people with disabilities; and Report back on feasibility of developing proactive solutions for small businesses to address construction related accessibility and ADA compliance issues, including, but not limited to education, outreach, the feasibility of additional support, and recommended changes to the federal legislative and state legislative agendas that support expanded access at small businesses for disabled residents.*

The Development Services Department has Certified Access Specialist (CAsp) trained staff to assist individuals and businesses with ADA compliance. Consultations regarding accessibility are also provided at the public counter and as part of the plan check process. External resources are also available from the Office of the California Attorney General, the federal Small Business Administration, and the US Department of Justice.

Local external assistance is also available through business chambers and business improvement districts.

8. [Unsolicited Proposal Process](#)

*Recommendation to direct City Manager to work with Director of Economic Development to create an unsolicited proposal process for development of City owner real property.*

On February 24, 2022, the Financial Management and Technology and Innovation Departments issued a memo on a new program called Pitch Long Beach!, which creates a process by which vendors may submit unsolicited creative ideas and technology solutions. Economic Development is working with TID to determine how this program may support unsolicited proposals specifically for City-owned property. A follow up TFF to explain the process is forthcoming in the next 90 days.

If you have any questions, please contact April Walker, Administrative Deputy City Manager, at (562) 570-6561.

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