

TO: CULVER CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
RE: PRCS BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 – COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS
DATE: XX MARCH 2024

Dear City Council Members:

Thank you again for inviting our Commission to share recommendations for budget enhancements for improvement projects for the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department (PRCS). We appreciate that over the past few years the Council has adopted many of our requests and hope you will continue to support our vision to improve Culver City parks facilities to address the 21st century demands for recreation. We expect that the funding you provided last year for Parks Master Plan will result in more comprehensive improvement recommendations when completed, but we have some suggestions we believe will provide immediate improvements.

Although we have revamped a number of our older playgrounds in the city, we still have a number of older facilities that are challenging to maintain and don't meet the modern accessibility needs of the community. We recommend providing additional funding to redesign and rebuild the Culver West and Lindberg Park playgrounds. These playgrounds are well used by the surrounding communities and there are a lot of challenges in maintaining these old facilities due to parts shortages for the outdated equipment. The Commission requests approximately \$2,000,000 (one-time cost) to implement this update.

It is our understanding that funding to maintain our playground improvements is limited and requires additional ad hoc budget requests. We suggest that a standing budget line item should be incorporated into the PRCS budget to fund playground maintenance to extend the useful life of our improvements by ensuring that we conduct regular inspections and maintenance to ensure that our facilities are safe for all of the city's children to enjoy. The Commission believes that approximately \$35,000 (ongoing cost) will meet this need.

PRCS staffing continues to be a challenge, especially in the Maintenance & Irrigation department. The current staffing levels only allow for the department to fix things when they break which results in higher expenses for the city. With proper staffing, we believe that if proper preventative maintenance can be completed it will result in improved safety, lower repair costs, and extended usable life of our facilities and equipment. We recommend that the Council fund an additional Maintenance Worker I & Irrigation Maintenance Technician (ongoing cost).

The Commission is not only looking for additional funding to maintain our existing facilities and services, but we also believe that funding should be made available to offer additional programming for that community. There is a huge demand for organized sports in West Los Angeles and in-house programming can be created to meet that need and generate needed income at the same time. Right now, the Department is exploring offering youth sports to the community. We recommend that the Council provide support to develop and maintain these activities for the community.

Although the state has recovered from its years long drought, water conservation continues to be a concern especially with all the greenspace under PRCS's domain. We want to be sure that the department is meeting our commitments to comply with statewide Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO). We know that not a lot has been done to evaluate the department's compliance, and we recommend that funding be allocated to hire a landscape architect consultant to review our water usage and identify where issues might exist.

Finally, there has been some demand for the beautification of the Expo-line portion of the bike path in the Culver City Arts District. Community based volunteers, led by two master gardeners, are working hard to improve the greenspaces around the bike path and are trying to work with the city to maintain them. The volunteer group is only asking for the city to support their work by providing some mulch to be spread in

the beds along the path. The Commission recommends that the Council provides approximately \$7,700 (one-time cost) in funding for the procurement and delivery of mulch to support this ongoing and successful community volunteer and beautification project.

2024 is shaping up to be a very active year for PRCS with many exciting opportunities to engage in shaping PRCS recreational facilities and programming to support the needs of the community for decades to come. We thank the Council for its ongoing support of many of the initiatives proposed over the last few years and hope that you will continue to support our vision to evolve Culver City PRCS into an exemplar of recreation and community service in West Los Angeles.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION