

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

Dear City Council Members:

Our Commission appreciates the opportunity to petition the Council to fund our recommendations for operational and capital improvement projects for the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department (PRCS). PRCS facilities and programming serve the recreation demands for not only Culver City, but for many residents of West Los Angeles; that use is putting a strain on our aging infrastructure and shorthanded staff. Significant investment is needed to ensure that PRCS can address the 21st century demands for parks maintenance, recreation programs and community services.

The following are the PRCS Commission's FY24 budget recommendations which allow PRCS to manage its facilities and services while preparing for growing future demands.

Park & Park Facilities Master Plan

After a joint meeting with the Finance Commission in early 2022, it was clear that the completion of a Parks Master Plan should be a top priority. This Plan is a roadmap to ensure that PRCS clearly understands the community's needs, that the needs of all areas in the department are assessed, and that there is a clear direction to implement improvements. This document is also a prerequisite for seeking any additional funding sources allowing PRCS to move beyond making band-aid fixes, and toward implementing enduring improvements. The Commission requests the PRCS Department be allocated \$600,000 to implement this plan.

Enhance Staffing Levels

PRCS continues to struggle with fully staffing and lost a significant number of experienced employees through retirements over the past year. Although some staff positions were added in the 2022-2023 budget year, there is still a need for additional personnel to meet programming demands. We support the department's request for an additional Park Maintenance Work I.

Investment in Culver City Park Improvements

The most in-demand facility for organized sports in the PRCS portfolio is Culver City Park. Some minor improvements were made to the fields in 2022, but only touched one portion of the park. Additional investments are needed to repair fields to be usable for organized play. This Commission supports the PRCS Department's request for funds to make the necessary repairs to maximize the ability of PRCS to address community demand for sports fields.

PRCS Equipment Inclusion in the Asset Replacement Fund (ARF)

The Commission understands that the Culver City Asset Replacement Fund (ARF) exists to plan for replacement costs of city equipment. The PRCS Department's operating equipment goes far beyond its fleet; the City has made major capital investments in recreational and parks assets that we believe should be included in the ARF scope. It is clear that items such as park maintenance and facilities equipment, bleachers, courts equipment and park playground apparatus should all be evaluated for replacement schedules and considered for inclusion in this effective financial planning resource. Furthermore, if any of these assets have been identified by staff for immediate repair or replacement, funding needs to be approved when included in the PRCS Department's budget request.

ATTACHMENT 1

PRCS continues to be one of the most used and appreciated departments in Culver City. Hundreds, if not thousands, of residents and non-residents make use of its facilities, equipment, and services every day. PRCS staff goes above and beyond to serve its community but needs to be properly funded to continue to deliver exemplary service and innovative programming to meet the demands of its patrons. The PRCS Commission believes that funding these projects is imperative to meet these demands and hopes that the Council will approve our request.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION