



**Date:** January 28, 2015  
**To:** Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.M.W.*  
**From:** George Chapjian, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine *G.C.*  
**For:** Lena Gonzalez, Councilwoman, Council District I  
**Subject:** California Parks and Recreation Society Award for Jim Danno and Kathleen Irvine

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In November 2014, the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department nominated Jim Danno and Kathleen Irvine from the Willmore City Heritage Association for the "Champions of the Community" award in the California Parks and Recreation Society's (CPRS) Annual awards competition.

The "Champion of the Community" award honors and recognizes individuals or organizations who have contributed significant effort to influence and improve the quality of their community through parks and recreation. CPRS has announced that Mr. Danno and Ms. Irvine are the recipients of this year's award.

Jim and Kathleen have worked to enhance the physical environment and quality of life in the Willmore City / Drake Park neighborhood, Long Beach's first designated historic district. With their hard work and dedication, the Children's Garden in Cesar Chavez Park and the Willmore Heritage Garden near the 710 Freeway were created. Both gardens are giving residents access to healthy food, helping to remove greenhouse gases from the environment and educating the public about global warming. They are also driving forces behind the annual "Winter in Willmore," event at Drake Park.

CPRS is a membership organization with 3,300 members representing the 535 local parks and recreation agencies throughout the state. The mission of CPRS is to advance the profession and its members through education, networking, resources, and advocacy. The awards will be given at the 2015 CPRS Annual Awards Reception Banquet in Sacramento on Friday, March 13.

C: Tom Modica, Assistant City Manager  
Jyl Marden, City Council Liaison  
Department Heads