



Date: September 9, 2016  
To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.W.*  
From: Marie Knight, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine *M.K.* /s/  
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council  
Subject: **Be S.A.F.E. Program Update**

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This memorandum provides the Mayor and City Council additional information regarding the Be S.A.F.E. Program operated by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (Department), and responds to questions asked at the Budget Oversight Committee (BOC) meeting on September 6, 2016.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Be S.A.F.E. (Summer Activities in a Friendly Environment) Program (Program) started operations in FY 13 as a violence prevention measure, as an extension of recreation programming at selected parks, using resources allocated from City Council District Office one-time funds. The Program offers three hours of additional programming each evening to help engage youth and families in positive and safe activities during the extended daylight hours of summer. The programming includes sports, games, tournaments, recreation and fitness activities, and a wide range of enrichment opportunities, such as the Library Services Department's Summer Reading Program and Mad Science's hands-on interactive science enrichment program.

In the current year, the Program was offered at seven sites: Admiral Kidd, Drake, Houghton, Martin Luther King, Jr., Scherer, Seaside, and Silverado Parks. The Program was operated Monday through Friday, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., except at Seaside Park, which operated from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Total participation in the Program grew by almost 30 percent to over 32,000 visits. Program coordination and administration total \$8,385 annually for the seven sites, and each site costs \$24,000 to operate.

## **POTENTIAL NEW LOCATIONS FOR FY 17**

In FY 17, \$176,385 in one-time funds is proposed to continue this valuable free Program for the community at the current seven locations. The Program is a critical component of the City's Safe Long Beach initiative and healthy active lifestyle goals, and results in positive outcomes at all Program locations. While the Department desires to have this Program funded at all park locations, existing resources limit the number of Program sites.

As previously noted, the cost for each new site beyond the seven locations already in the proposed budget would be \$24,000, plus an additional \$1,100 per site for coordination and administration. The park locations that the Department would like to add include the following, in priority order:

1. Bixby Park
2. Ramona Park
3. Orizaba Park
4. Pan American Park

As requested by the BOC, the Department has analyzed Program participation and staff experiences, and consulted with the Long Beach Police Department to identify priority Program locations citywide should structural funding become available in FY 17. Based on this work, the Department recommends the following four sites for structural funding of the Program in FY 17, in priority order:

1. Drake Park
2. Houghton Park
3. Admiral Kidd Park
4. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park

If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding the information provided, I can be reached at (562) 570-3170.

cc: Charles Parkin, City Attorney  
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Tom Modica, Assistant City Manager  
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