Property Services News

On July 14, 2020, Long Beach City Council approved a temporary lease agreement for Fire State 9. Fire Station 9, which was forced to close due to mold last year, is moving 2 miles away from its original Bixby Knolls-area home base. This temporary fire station location is at Cherry Avenue and Wardlow Road. The station has a three-year, $10,000 per month lease.

It is anticipated that the new temporary home for Fire Station 9 could both improve response times and lower the amount of investment needed by the city. “This is huge step in the right direction,” said Councilman Al Austin, who represents the area that Station 9 serves. “This is a temporary site that will improve response times significantly.”

City staff is evaluating several sites for a new permanent Fire Station 9. City officials have said their goal is to secure a location near the original location of Station 9 to try and restore its response times. The cost of building a new station has been projected to be between $13 million and $20 million excluding the cost of land. That process could take as long as three years according to estimates by the city. Last year, the City Council allocated $1.5 million toward the construction of a temporary site and an additional $6 million to go toward the construction of the permanent new station.

Economic Development News

City Council Item: Residential Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance

On Tuesday, October 20, 2020, the City Council reviewed a recommendation to prepare an ordinance to address tenant harassment within the City of Long Beach. The recommendation is to direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to address residential tenant harassment and bring this back to the City Council for consideration at a special meeting has been tentatively scheduled for November 2, 2020.

The request was brought forth by Council District 6 and 7 as a result of reports of increasing tenant harassment throughout the City of Long Beach. These include, but are not limited to, interruption or termination of housing services; failure to timely perform unit maintenance; abuse on the landlord’s right to access the dwelling units; demands that tenants sign over federal stimulus checks to pay rent; statements of false information regarding housing policies and protections; and improper notices to vacate. The City Council voted to request to have the City Attorney draft an urgency ordinance to deter and prevent tenant harassment.

For information, please click HERE
Open Streets Program

In an effort to support COVID-19 recovery for restaurants and businesses, the Long Beach City Council approved an Open Streets Initiative to temporarily transform public areas, including sidewalks, on-street parking, parking lots, plazas, and promenades, into safe spaces for physically distanced activity. This program will support opportunities for outdoor business activities such as dining and retail along our commercial corridors to spur economic recovery. Visit the Open Streets Initiative webpage to see the latest resources for business owners looking to expand their outdoor dining during the COVID-19 recovery. Temporary parklets and sidewalk spaces will remain in place through December 31, 2020, or as long as physically distanced services are required. The City will look to streamline the permanent parklet permit so that temporary outdoor spaces may transition to permanent status upon the termination of the program.

The Open Streets Program is being funded through a repurposed Metro grant, which was originally allocated for this year’s Beach Streets event.

From the Mayor’s Office

The Port of Long Beach broke records in September having the busiest month and quarter in its 109-year history. Despite economic uncertainty, our Port continues to grow and contribute to the economic recovery for our local and state economy. Trade was up 12.5% compared to September 2019, supports more than 51,000 jobs locally and more than 575,000 regionally. Amid the COVID-19 crisis, the Port of Long Beach continues to be an engine of growth while remaining the greenest Port in the country. The Port handles $170 million in trade annually and has 175 shipping lines connecting the Port to 217 seaports around the world.
City Spotlight

On July 14, 2020, Eric Lopez was appointed Director of Public Works. Mr. Lopez has served the City since 2006 and has led several key projects and initiatives. As the director, he will oversee the department’s 500-plus employees focused on maintaining and enhancing the City’s infrastructure and environment.

Over the past 14 years, Mr. Lopez has served the City as a Management Assistant, Administrative Analyst, Program Manager, Tidelands Development Officer, Project Management Officer and, most recently, as the Project Management Bureau Manager in Public Works. He has played an instrumental role in delivering award-winning projects, including the Colorado Lagoon restoration, Houghton Park Community Center and Stearns Park Community Center improvements, Seaside Way Pedestrian Bridge, as well as improvements to the Convention Center facility. Mr. Lopez also has been instrumental in the development of signature playgrounds, the beach pedestrian path, recreational sports fields, ADA improvements, and many more. Mr. Lopez has taken a leadership role in improving how the City delivers both capital improvements and other City services involving the public rights-of-way. Under his leadership, the Public Works Private Development and Rights-of-Way Team has been restructured, significantly improving customer service and becoming more responsive to community needs.

“I am honored and excited to join the City’s leadership team and to lead the Department of Public Works,” said Lopez. “I’m fully committed to working with community partners and the City team to build a safe, clean, sustainable, and healthy city that’s responsive to evolving community needs and priorities.”

Mr. Lopez holds a Master of Public Policy (MPP) from the University of Michigan and a bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Los Angeles. He lives in Long Beach with his wife and two children. His appointment was effective immediately.

Industry Links

The Multifamily Recovery Stalls in Gateway Markets

The fine print: Three California ballot measures that would rock real estate

California Jobless Rate Drops, Growth Comes Despite Pandemic

California Landmark Group Completes $120M Marina Arts District MF

For more information, please contact Sergio Ramirez, Deputy Director, Economic Development Department, at sergio.ramirez@longbeach.gov.