February 11, 2021

City News

Council Meetings

In an effort to create easier ways for residents to access Council meetings on their smart devices and smart TVs, the Technology & Innovation Department (TID) is now live streaming City Council meetings on the LBTV Long Beach, CA YouTube channel. This presents an additional option for residents and staff to view the City Council meetings through the YouTube app on phones or smart TVs or through the YouTube website. Viewers just need to search for LBTV Long Beach on the YouTube app or website. In the future, the team also plans to live stream Council Committee meetings once more staff has been trained on the livestream equipment.

In addition to the YouTube channel, viewers can watch LBTV on Spectrum channel 3, Frontier FiOS channel 21, AT&T U-verse channel 99, and online at LBTV3.com.

To view LBTV Long Beach, CA YouTube channel, please click HERE.

An Engine of the Nation’s COVID-19 Recovery

Mario Cordero, Executive Director of the Port of Long Beach, gave his State of the Port address. He states that because of collaborative steps taken by supply chain stakeholders to keep docks operating safely, the Port stands ready to play a major part in the economic renewal in the later part of 2021. Part of this recovery plan includes:

- Immediate vaccination of waterfront workers
- The opening of the Gerald Desmond Bridge
- Moving ahead with the final phase of the Long Beach Container Terminal
- Beginning work on a second mainline track to the Port’s southern terminals
- Advancing plans for all zero emissions cargo move by 2035

The Port of Long Beach is a gateway for trans-Pacific trade and handles $170 billion in trade annually, supporting more than 575,000 Southern California jobs.

To view Mr. Cordero’s video, please click HERE.
Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

The Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 was passed by Congress on December 27, 2020 which established the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). From the $25 billion in federal rental assistance the City of Long Beach has been awarded $13.8 million, and from the $2.6 billion afforded to the State of California, the City has $14.8 million in Block Grant funds. The State is provided three options for jurisdictions to implement the State ERAP. The options are:

A) The City will participate in the State ERAP and will also direct its Federal Allocation through the State Program to service its population, with the State administering all funds rather than the local jurisdiction.

B) The City requests its reserved Block Grant from the State and will conform to the State ERAP Rules when self-administering a local program combining the State and Federal Allocation resources. This would result in the locally-administered program.

C) The City will not conform to the State ERAP Rules, will self-administer the Federal Allocation, acknowledges that the State will also serve the City’s population via the State ERAP, and accepts responsibility for duplication of benefits checks between the two programs.

After reviewing all the options, the City has decided to use the funds via option B. This option creates standardization across both Federal and State Block Grant allocations and it could be fully implemented by locally hired contractors if the City elects to do so. More importantly, this option will allow the City a limited ability to design its program to address local needs such as level of assistance and prioritization of future rents over arrearage.

The next steps for the City are to engage a contractor who can administer the funds which will largely go towards paying back rent for eligible residents who apply, and potentially also go towards payment of utilities that are in arrears or other household costs. While the program has not been fully outlined yet, in theory the City’s program could pay up to 80% of a tenant’s unpaid rent if their landlord agrees to forgive the remaining 20%. The State requires all municipalities who received funding to begin receiving applications on later than March 15.

For more information, please click HERE.
Update on Long Beach Armory (854 E. 7th Street)

On February 2, 2021, the City Council adopted RFP No. ED20-041 and authorize staff to proceed with a 90-day Exclusive Negotiation Agreement (ENA) with Gundry Partners, LP, doing business as Howard CDM of Long Beach, CA.

The City-owned property is located at 854 E. 7th Street, also known as the former Long Beach Armory, was originally developed as occupied in 1930 by the California Army National Guard until decommissioned in 2018. The former Long Beach Armory is approximately a 1-acre lot improved with a 26,530 sq. ft. 3-story building and appurtenant parking. The property is located amid an emerging cultural and arts neighborhood adjacent to St. Anthony High School and Gumbiner Park. Through the RFP process, outreach was conducted with potential proposers to develop the property which is currently vacant and requires significant repair. Gundry Partners, LP dba Howard CDM of Long Beach CA has been chosen to enter into an exclusive negotiating agreement with the City.

Howard CDM of Long Beach, CA proposes the Armory Arts Collective. This proposed project concept will involve adaptive reuse of the existing historic Long Beach Armory building including:

- Offices, meeting rooms, and studios;
- Performing arts center and gallery space;
- Performing arts garden; and
- Workforce market-rate housing.

For more information, please click HERE.

Industry Links

Ghost Kitchens Look Ahead, Plan for Post-Pandemic Life

The City of Los Angeles Approves Onni’s Massive Times Mirror Square Redevelopment

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