March 11, 2021

Recovery Act

Mayor Garcia announced on Monday, March 8, the City’s Recovery Act to bolster the economy and keep communities healthy and safe. This plan incorporates goals and objectives from the City’s Economic Development Blueprint, Everyone In program, Digital Inclusion Roadmap, and the Framework for Reconciliation. The proposed plan outlines various initiatives identified under three key areas of focus:

Economic Recovery ($51 million)

Includes a targeted, data-driven and equitable approach to the City’s economic recovery strategy, including:

- COVID-19 protection for businesses and nonprofits, including funding for testing, epidemiology support, contract tracing, and epidemiologic reporting activities to help protect service sector businesses, non-profits, workers, customers and visitors.
- Direct funding relief to local businesses and workers critically impacted by the pandemic, most notably in industry sectors such as restaurants, breweries, bars, fitness and personal services, arts and cultural organizations, and nonprofit organizations.
- Funding to address historic economic inequities that have intensified as a result of the COVID-19 recession, including an expansion of WorkLB and additional CARES Act grants to increase digital literacy and access to technology in low-income neighborhoods, worker support, economic empowerment zones, and other strategies.
- And funding for the City’s Clean City program to keep commercial corridors clean of trash and debris and programs to reduce illegal dumping in an effort to enhance customer retention for impacted businesses and improve neighborhood quality of life.

Healthy & Safe Community ($72.8 million)

Aims to address the highest needs of community members most adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

- Programs to support public health, including free testing at City testing sites and mobile testing in hard-hit communities, personal protective equipment to nonprofits serving communities, mobile testing, and safety and prevention educational materials.
- Ongoing support for basic needs, including food security, housing support staffing and right to counsel, and case management for older adults.
- Ongoing support for people experiencing homelessness, including temporary shelter services, expanded mobile outreach services, and funding towards the development of interim or permanent housing.
- Programs focusing on physical and mental health equity; early childhood education and literacy development; and violence prevention and support services, re-entry, and expansion of the Long Beach Activating Safe Communities interventionist team.
• And continued tenant assistance through the Emergency Rental Assistance program to support lower-income renters who have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19.

Securing Our City’s Future ($83.2 million)

Addresses ongoing budget shortfalls and revenue losses as a result of COVID-19 to ensure the City’s lasting recovery, including:

• Funding to replenish reserves to maintain structural balance in the City’s budget.
• Funding to eliminate City furloughs for the remainder of the 2021 fiscal year to allow the restoration of critical City services.
• And funding to balance the 2022 fiscal year budget to maintain City services for residents and businesses.

The funding comes from three sources, the federal American Rescue Plan Act, the Emergency Rental Assistance fund, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases Grant. This proposed plan will be presented to the Long Beach City Council on March 16 for review and approval.

For more information, please click HERE.

City Council Action

On March 9, 2021, the City Council approved extending business license taxes and fee waivers and the Street Sweeping Relief Program through June 30, 2021. This also included establishing a citywide COVID-19 Relief Payment Plan Program for individuals and businesses, and coordinate accounts receivable collections in conjunction with the COVID-19 Relief Payment Plan Program beginning April 2, 2021 for Parking Citations and July 1, 2021 for most business-related and general fees, including health and fire fees.

If after June 30, 2021, there remain substantial ongoing pandemic impacts, staff will likely recommend a continuation of the payment deferral programs and the Street Sweeping Relief Program. The COVID-19 Relief Payment Plan Program will remain available to those experiencing COVID-19 hardships for most taxes and fees incurred during the pandemic.

For more information, please click HERE.

Planning Commission

The Planning commission has approved the long awaited 30-store American Life Hotel Project. This project would replace the empty lot where the former Jergins Trust Building was. The commission voted to certify the environmental impact report, approved site plans, and a local coastal development permit. The project has also been approved for a three-year window to begin construction.

Once complete, the hotel would be one of the tallest buildings in the City’s skyline at an estimated 375-feet, with a 130-foot-tall light-spire to extend from its 28th floor.

For more information, please click HERE.
Industry Links

Why US Malls are disappearing

Appeals court rules LA County may restrict outdoor dining

Arts Council for Long Beach announces an additional $450,000 for artist COVID relief

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