The Long Beach Permit Center works to ensure the safety of the City’s residents and businesses by making sure that buildings are in compliance with State and local building codes while also ensuring that energy efficiency and sustainability are incorporated to advance the future of our City. The Development Service Center closed its doors to the public on March 13, 2020 as part of the City’s wider response to COVID-19 and the associated health order. During the interceding fourteen months the City provided homeowners, businesses, contractors and other customers with permit processing through a remote email-based process and continued to provide inspection services at jobs sites throughout the City. During this period permit turnaround times, customer communication and the overall development review process has not always met the City’s goals nor the needs or expectations of our customers.

Re-opening of the public counter is an important step in improving service to our customers and meeting the needs of the City’s economic recovery. The counter now looks a little different with plexiglass dividers and other safety enhancements but still provides excellent service. At this moment only express permits, such as re-roofing requests, simple kitchen or bathroom remodels, electrical panels and other no-plan check permits are available in-person but more services will be added each week as part of a phased re-opening. All services are by appointment only.

To make an appointment please visit: https://longbeach.gov/appointment/permit-center/.
Expanded and Extended Rental Assistance

As part of Governor Newsom’s California Comeback Plan, Long Beach will receive an additional $21.2 million for our Emergency Rental Assistance Program, bringing our total available funds to more than $56 million. Because of this additional support, the deadline for our rental assistance application will be extended to June 11 so that more folks can get access to these funds.

This program is part of our Long Beach Recovery Act and will assist both renters and small property owners who are struggling to pay their mortgage. LB-ERAP will help income-eligible tenants pay rent and utilities, both for past due bills and future payments. The program will prioritize assisting lower-income tenants who have been unemployed for 90 days or more and who are at risk of housing instability.

To be eligible, tenants must rent in Long Beach and meet the following criteria:

- The household has a household income at or below 80% of the area’s median income.
- One or more individuals within the household has experienced a financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- One or more individuals within the household can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

For more information of the program and access to the application, please visit the website at: longbeach.gov/erap.
The long-shuttered emergency department at Community Hospital opened on Wednesday, May 11. The reopening marks a turning point for the hospital, allowing it to admit its own patients. Since partially reopening at the beginning of January, dozens of patients have been treated at the East Long Beach facility, but all have been transferred patients from other local hospitals. An operational emergency department now allows the hospital to admit walk-in patients as well as accept critical ambulatory care patients from county emergency medical services.

The emergency department reopened with 20 beds, with hospital officials estimating that ambulance and paramedic services will resume later this month. While seismic retrofit is still in the pre-construction phase, officials hope to complete the work by 2025.

For more information, please click HERE.
Getting Ready for Our Visitors

In the wake of increased visitors to the City of Long Beach a cleanup that is sponsored by Councilwoman Cindy Allen, the Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Downtown Long Beach Alliance, the Department of Public Works and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine is planned this Saturday, May 15, from 9 to 11 AM. This is part of an ongoing effort to maintain our Downtown and increase tourist investment in the area. Eric Lopez, Director of Public Works, has had his team out keeping the streets freshly painted and graffiti-free.

POW!WOW! will be installing two murals as Pine/Ocean to replace the ones that were damaged during the pandemic and could not be repaired. This effort is being led by Julia Huang, POW! WOW! Long Beach Advisor, and Cassandra Leeman from DLBA. Finally, Charles Beirne and the Long Beach Convention Center team are replating the Rainbow Bridge, the Terrance Theater Plaza, and the front of the building on Pine Avenue with new trees, flowering shrubs, and annuals. The CVB also has 50 members already committed to assisting with the May 15th Clean Up Event.

Participants need to register online in advance and answer a short questionnaire. Tools, bags and gloves will be provided or volunteers can bring their own. Participants must practice social distancing and wear masks.

Volunteers can choose to help at one of two locations: the Laugh Factory at the Pike at 151 S. Pine Ave., or Promenade Square Park at 215 E. First Street.
Industry Links

Community Hospital Emergency Department Opens 3 Years After Closure

Historic Blue Line car set to be centerpiece of $5.8 million overhaul of First Street

Long Beach, Wilmington receive $25M investment for electric-vehicle charging stations

The Beacon opens in Long Beach, with 160 units for low-income seniors and homeless veterans

California governor proposes $12B to house state’s homeless

The Pandemic Crushed Local Economies: Recovery Depends On How Cities Navigate Emerging Economic Development Opportunities

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