

ENVIRONMENT

Riverpark Coalition pushes to stop development along Los Angeles River

The grassroots organization wants the Planning Commission to reject the Environmental Impact Report for a storage facility, RV lot and car wash on a parcel of land near the LA River and 710 Freeway.

Samantha Diaz & Kristen Farrah Naeem

Managing Editor | Staff Writer

The Riverpark Coalition is asking residents to speak out against a planned development project on one of the last open parcels of land along the Los Angeles River at the Long Beach Planning Commission meeting on June 5.

The Riverpark Coalition is a grassroots nonprofit organization formed by residents living in the area surrounding 3701 Pacific Place who want to see the space transformed into a public park. Los Angeles County and Long Beach have planned on using the 14 acres of space along the LA River for walking trails, public parks and green space for decades.

Multiple studies have been published on the possible transformation of the land along the river, including the RiverLink Plan, West Long Beach Livability Implementation Plan, LA River Master Plan and Lower LA River Revitalization Plan. Building park space along the river is part of Long Beach's attempt to improve air quality in West Long Beach and decrease the disparity of green space across the city.

Despite these plans, the City approved the development of a storage facility, recreational vehicle parking lot, car wash and wastewater dump station on the land.

According to the California Air Resources Board, West Long Beach suffers from high levels of air pollution caused by freight, freeway traffic, port and rail operations, oil and gas production and refineries. The American Lung Association consistently ranks the Los Angeles-Long Beach area as one of the worst in the nation in terms of air pollutants.

On the more affluent eastside of Long Beach, residents have an average of 17 acres of green space per 1,000 residents, while on the westside of the city there's only two acres per 1,000 residents, according to Long Beach's Parks, Recreation and Marine Strategic Plan from 2003.

The proposed project, which began in 2021, involves the construction of a multi-level self-storage facility totaling approximately 206,756 square feet and housing around 1,681 individual storage units. Positioned in the southeastern section of the site will be 551 rentable RV parking spaces as well as 27 standard and 5 ADA-compliant parking stalls. Additional features of the project include a private 1,450-square-foot car wash, landscaping, infrastructure upgrades and a walking trail.

To further its efforts to stop the project, the Riverpark Coalition has revamped its website, hired a business to handle its public relations and marketing and started a petition urging the city council to reject the environmental impact report (EIR). As of April 19, the petition had garnered 450 signatures.

Currently, the Los Angeles-Long Beach area has the highest number of high-ozone days of any metropolitan area in the country. It was also the fifth worst metropolitan area for annual air particle pollution, and the seventh worst



Kristen Farrah Naeem | Signal Tribune

The Riverpark Coalition is attempting to stop a proposed development that would bring a self-storage facility, RV parking, a car wash and more to the area along the Los Angeles River in Long Beach.

OP-ED



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A sign by the Riverpark Coalition in the Dominguez Gap Wetlands advocates for turning a proposed development into a park on June 8, 2021.

Our Last Chance: Will Long Beach Choose Parks Over Pollution?

Bob Marsocci

Community Entry

Imagine walking your dog along a vibrant riverfront trail. Picture your children biking safely while their grandparents rest under shade trees next to blue herons wading through restored wetlands. Envision horse riders on trails that connect neighborhoods to nature, celebrating our river rather than hiding it.

This isn't a pipe dream — it's what cities across America have achieved by transforming neglected waterfronts into community treasures. And Long Beach has one final opportunity to join them.

But only if our Planning Commission votes "No" on June 5.

The choice couldn't be starker. A developer wants to build another self-storage facility, RV parking lot, car wash and wastewater dumping station at 3701 Pacific Place — the last river-adjacent site that could become parkland for Long Beach families. Long Beach already has 20 self-storage facilities. LA County has over 200. Yet how many parks do we have overlooking the river?

The numbers expose a brutal truth about environmental injustice in our city. Western and northern Long Beach residents have access to barely 1 acre of parkland per thousand people — just 10% of what public health experts recommend. Meanwhile, eastern Long Beach enjoys nearly 17 acres per thousand residents. The disparity is evident; and has the strong potential to negatively impact the health of residents in the area.

Communities in western and northern Long Beach already endure Southern California's most toxic air quality and face life expectancies 5-10 years shorter than East Long Beach. We've watched industrial developments surround our neighborhoods while green space remained an impossible dream. We're hoping for a miracle — and for common sense to prevail — to add much needed greenspace in our community.

For nearly two decades, Long Beach has promised us better. Since 2007, every major city and county plan — the RiverLink Plan, West Long Beach Livability Implementation Plan, LA River Master Plan, and Lower LA River Revitalization Plan — has designated this precious parcel for open space, not industrial storage. We hope these promises are realized.

Other cities prove transformation is possible. Seattle converted industrial waterfronts into the stunning Olympic Sculpture Park. San Francisco turned old piers into beloved Crissy Field. Columbus, Ohio

see RIVERPARK COALITION page 2

see RIVERPARK OP-ED page 5



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RIVERPARK COALITION

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for 24-hour particle pollution, according to the American Lung Association.

Critics of the Pacific Place Project, including the Riverpark Coalition, have argued that the area's increased pollution burden, limited park access and historic health disparities makes additional green space a vital need. Supporters, including the site developers, argue that the land has sat vacant for years and is unsafe for park use.

This is because the site used to contain oil rigs, which left behind high levels of arsenic and other toxins on the land, according to the Department of Toxic Substances Control. Developers originally planned in 2021 to use water trucks to soak the dirt to prevent toxic dust from floating into neighboring homes and schools during construction. Additional measures included air quality sensors on the site that would trigger a halt in construction if hazardous levels of toxins were detected, a vapor barrier to stop toxic gases from leaking out of the ground and a stormwater management system.

The Long Beach City Council originally voted 7-1 to approve the Pacific Place Project on April 14,

2021, without doing a full EIR. The Riverpark Coalition and the LA Waterkeepers then sued the City of Long Beach in 2022, resulting in a judge halting the approval of the proposed project and ordering the City to complete an EIR before any work on the site could move forward.

A draft of the EIR was available for public review from the end of July to the end of September 2024, and over 60 people submitted comments on it. The current EIR was released earlier this month and contains responses to those comments.

If the EIR is approved by the Planning Commission, it will then go before the Long Beach City Council for a final decision.

The Riverpark Coalition plans to speak against the approval of the EIR at the upcoming Planning Commission meeting on June 5 at 5 p.m. The organization invites any interested residents to give public comments as well, and they will be holding a gathering before the meeting where the first 100 attendees will receive a free T-shirt. Riverpark Coalition representatives will show up at 4 p.m.

What You Can Do:

- **Sign the Petition:** The Riverpark Coalition has a petition on its website addressed to the mayor and city council, opposing the development on 3701 Pacific Place. The coalition also has a sample letter to send directly to your respective city council representative.
- **Write to the Planning Commission:** Written testimony can be sent directly to the Planning Commission by email at PlanningCommissioner@longbeach.gov, amy.harbin@longbeach.gov, and LBDS-EIR-Comments@longbeach.gov.
- **Attend the Planning Commission Meeting:** On June 5, the City of Long Beach's Planning Commission will meet to vote to approve or deny the EIR for the development at 3701 Pacific Place. Residents can attend the meeting either in-person or online and speak out during public comment. Meetings occur at the Long Beach Civic Center, located at 411 W Ocean Blvd. and begin at 5 p.m. Those attending in-person can fill out a speaker card at the start of the meeting. Those attending online can comment via Zoom by using the "raise hand" function, or via telephone by dialing "*9" on your phone.

EVENTS

Bookworms unite for Long Beach Public Library's summer reading program

Staff Report

Signal Tribune

Local readers are invited to crack open their books for the chance to win prizes during the Summer Reading Program at the Long Beach Public Library (LBPL), beginning June 14.

The eight-week program will feature themed activities, special events and loads of reading time at all 12 LBPL branches through Aug. 9.

"Summer Reading is a fantastic opportunity for families to connect, learn and grow together," said Mayor Rex Richardson in a public statement. "This program reflects our dedication to education and community engagement, ensuring that residents of all ages have access to valuable learning experiences throughout the summer."

Program participants can earn incentives for every five books read for children 12 years old and younger and for every book read for those ages 13 and older. Children who read 10+ books and teens or adults who read two books will be entered into a grand prize drawing.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
Volunteers crush pumpkin scraps at the Long Beach Community Compost site near Farm Lot 59 in Signal Hill on Oct. 29, 2021.

"The Summer Reading Program is one of our most anticipated events of the year," said Library Director Cathy De Leon in a public statement. "We are thrilled to provide opportunities for our community to experience the joy of reading and participate in the variety of engaging programs we have planned."

The program will kick off with



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Local toddler Kengo opens a Paw Patrol book while sitting in an adult-sized chair in the KidSpace of the Long Beach Billie Jean King Main Library on May 13, 2022.

the The Alley Cats performing their educational and musical Do Re Mi of Doo-Wop show on June 14 at 11 a.m. at Billie Jean King Main Library, located at 200 W. Broadway.

The Summer Reading Program will also include the following free, family-friendly events:

Kids Composting Workshop with LB Recycles – Saturday, June 21 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Los Altos Neighborhood Library (5614 Britton Drive). Long Beach Recycles will guide kids in creating healthy soils by feeding special worms that turn food waste into compost.

K-12 Author Series: Katherine Applegate – Tuesday, June 24 from 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Zoom. This online author talk will spotlight author Katherine Applegate and her children's novel "Odder: An Otter's Story," which is about a program at the Monterey Bay Aquarium that pairs orphaned otter pups with surrogate mothers. Registration is required.

Long Beach Museum of Art Workshop – Thursday, June 26 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Burnett Neighborhood Library (560 E. Hill St.). The Long Beach Museum of Art will lead an instructive work-

shop where participants will learn new art skills and take home their own masterpiece. Registration is required.

LB Symphony Instrument Petting Zoo – Saturday, July 5 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Alamitos Neighborhood Library (1836 E. Third St.). Musicians from the Long Beach Symphony will showcase their musical skills and children will get to try their hand at playing different instruments.

Additional special events, including juggling performances, art workshops and intimate concerts can be found on the LBPL event calendar at longbeach.gov/library/events/summer-reading.

The Summer Reading Program was made possible in part by support from the Long Beach Public Library Foundation, Port of Long Beach and Friends of the Long Beach Public Library.

Residents can register for the Summer Reading Program beginning June 14 in person at any LBPL branch or online at longbeach.beanstack.org. Residents may register to participate at any time during the duration of the program. To learn more, visit lbpl.org.

CULTURE

Explore Filipino cultural heritage through Long Beach Public Library's new collection, opening Saturday

Staff Report

Signal Tribune

To cap off Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, the Long Beach Public Library will debut its new Filipino American Cultural Heritage Collection at Bret Harte Neighborhood Library this Saturday.

"Through this collection and event, we are honoring the deep contributions of our vibrant Filipino American community and encouraging meaningful conversations and shared experiences," said Mayor Rex Richardson in a public statement.

The Filipino American Cultural Heritage Collection contains a wide-ranging selection of bilingual books and multimedia resources for all ages, giving local readers the chance to connect with and cele-

brate Filipino American heritage. With over 760 items, the collection is one of the biggest of its kind in the region.

Saturday's event will commemorate Long Beach's community of Filipino Americans and will feature a ribbon cutting ceremony, cultural performances, a book reading led by Filipino authors and a Filipino family story time. This celebration will also recognize the Filipino community's contributions and role in transforming the cultural and social fabric of the city, particularly in West Long Beach.

All AAPI programs at the LBPL are funded by the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library. Additionally, a segment of the Filipino American Cultural Heritage Collection was funded through an Inspiration Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



Courtesy of Pexels.com

The Long Beach Public Library will unveil its Filipino American Cultural Heritage Collection with a free event at Bret Harte Neighborhood Library from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Filipino American Cultural Heritage Collection event will take place Saturday, May 31 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Bret Harte Neighborhood Library, located at 1595 W. Willow St.



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AROUND TOWN

A WEEKLY LIST OF THINGS TO DO IN LONG BEACH AND SIGNAL HILL

Whether you want to spend the week cooling off indoors or celebrating summer alongside the community, there are a wide range of fun, free events in Long Beach and Signal Hill.

'Tis the season for live music in all forms, like a concert at the Signal Hill Public Library's courtyard, a community sing-along at the Recreation Bandshell or vinyl DJ sets at Footwork Records, all on Saturday. For a more relaxing weekend, residents can attend a gallery opening at Loiter Galleries, or a movie trivia at the Art Theatre of Long Beach, both on Friday, or nature-centric hangouts at Willow Springs Park Sunday.

Community gatherings this week include the unveiling of the revamped Artesia corridor in North Long Beach, a health and resources fair at Signal Hill Public Park or a Water Safety Day at two Long Beach locations, all on Saturday.

30 FRIDAY

ART EXHIBITION OPENING NIGHT

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Loiter Galleries (425 The Promenade North) invites the public to the opening night of an exhibition featuring the women of the Dragonfly Wing Collective — Colleen Flynn, Maribeth McFaul, Lara Kempke and Linda McClure. Free admission.

MOVIE TRIVIA NIGHT

7:30 p.m. Test your film knowledge at the Art Theatre of Long Beach (2025 E. Fourth St.) during Movie Trivia Night, hosted by the theater's film programmer, Kennedy Ghail. Compete solo or as a team of up to 10 people across five

rounds of challenging movie trivia. No phones allowed. Prizes include free show tickets, posters and surprise giveaways. Free admission.

01 SATURDAY

ARTESIA GREAT BLVD RIBBON CUTTING

9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Celebrate the completion of the Artesia Great Boulevard Project at this celebration at the intersection of Lime Avenue and Artesia Boulevard. The event will include complimentary bike tune-ups by Pedal Movement, a Bike Rodeo from the Long Beach Health Department and community resource booths. The ceremonial ribbon cutting and remarks from Mayor Rex Richardson and other City leaders will take place at 10 a.m., followed by a community bike ride at 10:30 a.m. Free.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES & HEALTH FAIR

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Learn about medical and community resources, and healthy lifestyle tips at Signal Hill Park (2175 Cherry Ave.). The highly immersive and interactive Health Fair also includes activities for all ages, giveaways and refreshments. Contact (562) 989-7330 for any questions. Free.

FOOTWORK RECORDS RELAUNCH

4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Local record store Footworks will celebrate the official relaunch of them becoming a vinyl-listening bar, with a night of drinks and live DJ sets at 400 E. Third St. Entry is free.

SING-A-LONG-BEACH

5 p.m. Families and friends can sing together to rock and roll an-

thems, movie themes and other popular music at the Bandshell at Recreation Park (4900 E. Seventh St.). Songs will be led by the Long Beach Youth Chorus. Attendees can bring blankets, chairs, food and drinks. Free.

02 SUNDAY

SAN GABRIEL RIVER CLEANUP

8 a.m. to noon. Join the Surfrider Foundation for this community clean-up along the San Gabriel River, beginning near the El Dorado Park area. Attendees can help divert trash from the ocean while learning about the sea turtle habitat now thriving along the river. Supplies will be provided, but if people have their own they're encouraged to bring them. Those interested are encouraged to sign up online to receive the exact location. Free.

CALIFORNIA TURKISH FESTIVAL

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Experience the sights, sounds, and flavors of Turkey at the annual California Turkish Festival at ShoreLine Aquatic Park (200 Aquarium Way). This family-friendly event features traditional Turkish cuisine like kebabs and baklava, live music and dance performances, and a bazaar with handmade crafts. All ages are welcome to join in this vibrant cultural celebration. Free admission.

WILLOW SPRINGS EXPERIENCES

1:30 p.m.; 3:30 p.m. Nature lovers can enjoy a pair of experiences at Willow Springs Park (2745 Orange Ave.), featuring dancing and a guiding exercise at 1:30 p.m. and drawing at 3:30 p.m. Free.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

The Bandshell at Recreation Park will host Sing-A-Long-Beach, a community concert this Saturday at 5 p.m. led by the Long Beach Youth Chorus. Attendees are invited to bring blankets, chairs, food and drinks to this free event.

03 MONDAY

SILVER SNEAKERS

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Seniors ages 55 and older can join this strength and stretch class to improve overall flexibility and body musculature with exercise bands at the Signal Hill Public Library Community Room (1800 E. Hill St.). Attendees can work at their own level while standing or seated in a chair. Yoga mats are recommended, but some exercises can be done from a seated position. Contact (562) 989-7330 to register. Registration is required. Free.

04 TUESDAY

SIGNAL HILL DIVERSITY BREAKFAST

9 a.m. Signal Hill's Diversity Coalition Committee presents the annual Diversity Breakfast recognizing Ron Settles Day of Remembrance at the Signal Hill Public Library terrace (1800 E. Hill St.). Breakfast will be served. Registration is required. RSVP at <https://bit.ly/DCCEvent25>. Free.

PAWS ON THE PROMENADE

5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dog lovers and their pups are invited to this monthly pet-friendly meet-up and group walk at The Promenade North (235 The Promenade N.) in Downtown Long Beach. Free.

05 WEDNESDAY

HARMONICA CLASS

11 a.m. to noon. Learn a new instrument at this beginner-friendly

harmonica class each Wednesday through July 23 at the Signal Hill Public Library (1800 E. Hill St.). Instruments will be provided, but registration is required as space is limited. Register by calling (562) 989-7323. Free.

EVERYONE'S SHORELINE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Celebrate the future of Long Beach's waterfront during this celebration at Seashell Park (100 Aquarium Way). This event will showcase the City's new Downtown Shoreline Vision Plan Concept with interactive stations, a collaborative art project and complimentary water taxi rides on the Aqualink. Free admission.

06 THURSDAY

PAPER LOTUS FLOWER MAKING

5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Adults and teens over 16 are invited to the Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library (5870 Atlantic Ave.) for a relaxing workshop where they will learn how to make paper lotus flowers. All materials will be provided. Space is limited while supplies last. Free.

IS THAT IT? NOPE!

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.SIGNALTRIBUNE.COM FOR MORE EVENTS.

Signal Tribune

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HOUSING

‘Our goal is not just to clear spaces’: How is Long Beach utilizing the anti-camping ordinance?

City reports thousands of encampment sweeps, over 1,000 people moved into temporary shelter and hundreds of arrests/citations in its new approach.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
Tents line part of the Los Angeles River bike path under the Ocean Avenue bridge in Long Beach on Nov. 18, 2021.

Samantha Diaz
Managing Editor

Following the Grants Pass v. Johnson Supreme Court ruling last summer, which meant that local governments can cite or arrest people sleeping or camping in public spaces regardless of shelter availability, housing and homelessness advocates across the country waited to see what their cities would do.

Though a longtime believer in a “services-first” approach, Long Beach announced in August 2024 that it would shift its strategy, giving the Long Beach Police Department (LBPd) discretion to cite or arrest those violating the anti-camping ordinance. A recent memo states that people experiencing homelessness are still offered services multiple times before enforcement is taken, but these services often are offered during encampment sweeps.

“We lead with services and we know that’s the best way to get people housed, but we want to make sure that we have these additional tools available to us,” said City Manager Tom Modica.

Deputy City Manager Theresa Chandler noted that challenges to these efforts include a need for staffing, shelter and affordable housing, as well as uncertainty in regional, state and federal policy and funding. Multiple City department representatives noted they’ve been working more closely across departments over the past year.

“Our goal is not to just clear spaces, but to resolve encampments through connections to services and housing while maintaining safe, accessible public areas to everybody in the city,” Chandler added.

The city used a targeted, interdepartmental approach to implement its new tools of enforcement, focusing on what Mayor Rex Richard-

son called “chronic encampments” at four public spaces. On Tuesday night, representatives from multiple City departments including the LBPd, Homeless Services Bureau, City Manager’s Office and the Prosecutor’s Office revealed data on how this new approach has been working.

City staff said they only utilize the anti-camping ordinance “when there is a threat to public health or safety.”

Between June 2024 and February 2025, LBPd has issued 346 citations for camping or loitering after hours in parks or beaches. Of these citations, 161 were issued in “priority areas” and the other 185 were issued in other parts of the city.

“The issuance of a citation creates another opportunity to connect people with services through diversion programs offered by the City Prosecutor’s Office,” an LBPd representative said at the city council meeting.

Since July 2024, Public Works has conducted 2,019 encampment sweeps, while the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department (PRM) conducted 359 sweeps as of February, according to data reported by the City.

Since June 2024, the City has enrolled 416 people into permanent housing programs, and 1,442 people in emergency or transitional housing. An enrollment into permanent housing does not necessarily mean immediate housing, said Homeless Services Bureau Executive Director Paul Duncan. Instead, people receive a voucher for places that accept them, but still have to

apply to housing and be accepted.

Enrollment numbers into transitional housing means the person moved into a bed at a shelter, and in many cases this is only for one night. Duncan emphasized that long lasting improvements solving homelessness come from housing resources such as motel renovations, shelters and housing vouchers.

Since July 2024, Public Works has conducted 2,019 encampment sweeps, while the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department (PRM) conducted 359 sweeps as of February, according to data reported by the City.

The Public Works and Parks, Recreation and Marine Departments are in charge of waste disposal and sanitation following a sweep. The departments recorded a total of 834 tons of garbage from these sweeps. The sweeps are coordinated by the Health Department, Police Department and other “relevant” City and regional partners.

Priority Areas

For the past year, encampments that “significantly and consistently obstruct public spaces” such as parks, sidewalks, libraries, beaches, or transit areas and those adjacent to playgrounds or youth facilities have been the City’s top priority. Other factors are reports of fires, disease, violence or the environment. Large encampments are also prioritized, City staff said.

These spaces receive “intensified outreach,” “trust-building” and more offers of shelter and resources tailored to the residents’ needs and advanced notice if the space is going to be cleared.

Priority areas include:

- Billie Jean King Main Library
- Lincoln Park
- Veterans Park
- Gumbiner Park
- Jenni Rivera Memorial Park
- NAACP Park

Each area has its own service

plan based on what resources they see are most needed after doing outreach.

BJK Library and Lincoln Park

Homeless Service Bureau staff and LBPd Quality of Life officers conduct outreach twice a week, as well as evening outreach workers once a week, the Mobile Access Center once a week and a Library Outreach Worker three times a week.

The library terrace is power washed daily, and there are encampment sweeps twice a week in Lincoln Park. Through a \$5.3 million grant, the City leased a 60-room motel in Downtown Long Beach to provide immediate shelter if needed. Roughly 90 people have been sheltered through this motel, as well as 173 people enrolled into alternative emergency housing and 27 people moved into permanent housing, Duncan said.

The city has conducted 47 encampment sweeps within the Billie Jean King Main Library and Lincoln Park space.

Enforcement numbers, as reported by LBPd are as follows:

- 381 calls for service at Lincoln Park (including officer-initiated)
- 208 calls for service at BJK Library (including officer-initiated)
- 41 citations or arrests for “quality of life issues” at Lincoln Park
- Including 20 for camping or loitering after hours
- 32 citations or arrests for “quality of life issues” at BJK Library
- Including 14 for camping or loitering after hours

Veterans Park

Homeless Services Bureau staff and LBPd Quality of Life officers conduct outreach once a week, and the Mobile Access Center is there once a week. PRM conducts sweeps twice a week. Through a partnership with the Pathways Home program, the City moved 19 people into a motel room and enrolled them into permanent housing services.

Housing and sweeps:

- 22 people have been enrolled in emergency shelter
- 27 people have been moved into permanent housing
- 42 encampment sweeps have been conducted
- Enforcement numbers, as reported by LBPd
- 413 calls for service (including those officer-initiated)
- 81 citations or arrests for “quality of life” issues
- 65 of these were for camping or loitering after hours

Gumbiner Park

Homeless Services Bureau staff and LBPd Quality of Life officers conduct outreach once a week, and the Mobile Access Center is there once a week. PRM conducts sweeps twice a week.

Workers with the city of Long Beach Parks, Recreation, and Marine remove items from an unhomed encampment under the Ocean Avenue bridge in Long Beach on Nov. 18, 2021.

Housing and sweeps:

- 17 people moved into emergency shelter
- 4 people moved into permanent housing
- 17 encampment sweeps have been conducted
- Enforcement numbers, as reported by LBPd
- 130 calls for service (including those officer-initiated)
- 46 citations for “quality of life” issues
- 44 of these were for camping or loitering after hours



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Workers with the city of Long Beach Parks, Recreation, and Marine remove items from an unhomed encampment under the Ocean Avenue bridge in Long Beach on Nov. 18, 2021.

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RIVERPARK OP-ED
continued from page 1

created miles of riverfront trails that became the heart of downtown revitalization. Houston transformed concrete bayous into linear parks that boosted property values and community health. Even Los Angeles has reclaimed old rail yards for river greenspace.

Long Beach adopted the River-Link vision, promising an integrated open space system along the LA River's ten-mile journey through our community. Multiple agencies and countless advocacy hours have focused on creating the balanced development our neighborhoods desperately need. Approving this self-storage project would permanently abandon that vision.

The 51-mile Los Angeles River shouldn't be a dumping ground for industrial uses. It should be celebrated as our region's natural backbone, connecting communities through beautiful, accessible green corridors that improve public health, boost property values and draw visitors for recreation and nature.

This decision will echo through generations. For Long Beach, this represents our last chance to add riverside parkland in our lifetimes. When we're gone, will our grandchildren inherit the same pattern of short-sightedness, pollution, and neglect? Or will they thank us for finally choosing their health over

developer profits?

Our community will be watching on June 5. We're asking Planning Commissioners to demonstrate that Long Beach is serious about the environment, serious about keeping past promises and serious about creating the equitable, healthy city we all deserve.

The choice is clear: Environmental equity or yet another industrial facility in an already overburdened community? Parks or pollution? Residents or revenue? Equity or expediency?

The river — and our future — are counting on you.

TRANSPORTATION

Long Beach launches e-scooter pilot program along waterfront

Staff Report
Signal Tribune

In an effort to expand environmentally friendly travel options along the waterfront, the City of Long Beach has begun a year-long pilot program allowing electric scooters on designated sections of the Shoreline Pedestrian Bike Path.

The pilot program, which began May 24, will test whether it's safe for e-scooters to share the same path from Alamitos Avenue to 54th Place as pedestrians, bicyclists and skaters. This move comes as the City looks to support greater accessibility and reduce car traffic near the coast, in line with its broader sustainability goals.

Electric scooters will be restricted to the bike lane and prohibited from pedestrian walkways.

The City plans to install clear signage along the route to guide riders and separate modes of travel. Per California state law, scooter speeds are capped at 15 mph, but specific "slow zones" will reduce speeds to 5 mph using geofencing (tracking devices within a designated perimeter) in areas with high foot traffic. Bicycles—electric and traditional—will be allowed to travel up to 20 mph.

The program was made possible after the Long Beach City Council amended local ordinances during its April 1 meeting, voting 6-1 in favor of the pilot program.

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1. Gregg RH II, Gregg DM. Laser-assisted periodontal regeneration with the LANAP protocol. Dent Today 2019 May;38(5):78, 80-83
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CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Long Beach Ethics Commission searches for three new members; apply now through June 5

Staff Report
Signal Tribune

Residents are invited to apply for a spot on the City of Long Beach Ethics Commission, with three positions up for grabs.

With the approval of Measure CCC on Nov. 6, 2018, Long Beach voters amended the City Charter to create an Ethics Commission made up of seven residents for the purpose of monitoring, administering and implementing governmental ethics in Long Beach. The Ethics Commission meets at 3 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Long Beach Civic Chambers, located at 411 W. Ocean Blvd.

“The Ethics Commission is key to building public trust and ensuring accountability in City Hall,” said Mayor Rex Richardson in a public statement. “We’re calling on civic-minded residents to help uphold the integrity of our local government and strengthen transparency across Long Beach.”

The Commission carries several advisory responsibilities, including the impartial and effective administration and implementation of the provisions of the City’s Charter, statutes and ordinances concerning campaign financing, lobbying, conflicts of interest and governmental ethics.

The listed duties of the Commission are as follows:

- Provide support to agencies and public officials in administering the provisions of the Charter and other laws relating to campaign finance, conflicts of interest and government ethics.
- Make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council concerning campaign finance reform, lobbying, governmental ethics and conflicts of interest and to report to the Council concerning the



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
The Long Beach Ethics Commission is currently searching for three new members, two to be appointed by the City Auditor and one by the Mayor.

effectiveness of these laws.

- Assist departments in developing their conflict of interest codes as required by state law.
- Advocate understanding of the Charter, City ordinances and the roles of elected and other public officials, City institutions and the City electoral process;
- Develop an educational program to familiarize newly elected and appointed officers and employees, candidates for elective office and their campaign treasurers, and lobbyists with City, state and federal ethics laws and the importance of ethics to the public’s confidence in municipal government.

Ethics Commissioners serve four-year terms, with members not allowed to serve more than two consecutive terms. The Mayor and City Auditor typically appoint two members each, then the City Council conducts a confirmation process for the new appointments. The final three members are appointed by the City Council-confirmed Commissioners, following public recruitment and application processes, by the affirmative votes of at least three Commission members.

One of the Mayor’s previously appointed Commissioners left before their term ended and was replaced, meaning this time around the Mayor will appoint only one new member, while the City Auditor will appoint two new members.

“The Ethics Commission is comprised of experts in public policy and law, governmental ethics, and campaign finance,” said City Auditor Laura Doud in a public statement. “Those who apply must be fair-minded, diligent, and committed to ensuring that the City adheres to ethical standards.”

Requirements for all Ethics Commission members, during their terms, are as follows:

- No member of the Commission shall currently hold elective office in the City of Long Beach, including the Long Beach Unified School District Board or the Long Beach Community College Board of Trustees.
- No member of the Commission may serve as an officer in any election campaign for or against a

candidate for any current elected office in the City of Long Beach, Long Beach Unified School District or the Long Beach Community College District, or any City or District measure.

- No member of the Commission may be an employee of the City.
- No member of the Commission may employ or be employed as a person required to register as a lobbyist with the City.

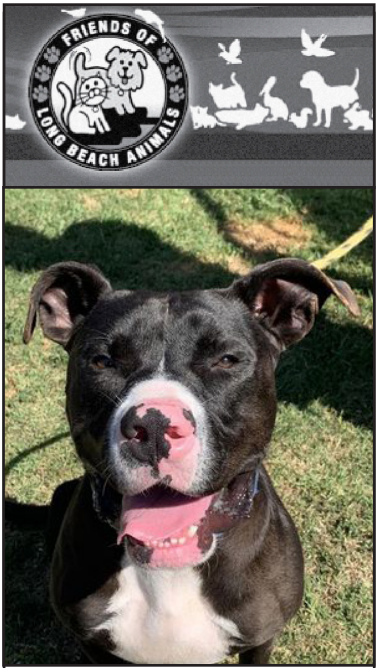
Additional primary requirements include:

- Attend monthly Commission meetings.
- Complete outside preparation work each month for meetings.
- Complete a LiveScan background check.
- Participate in required ongoing training of Commissioners.

Prerequisites for the Mayor’s appointment include being involved with local civic organizations and a noted history of involvement with local governance. As for the City Auditor’s two appointments, requirements include a background in public policy or public law, governmental ethics or open government matters, campaign finance, auditing of ethics laws and/or protection of whistleblowers.

The application can be completed online, and interested candidates are advised to submit their applications by June 5 for consideration. The Mayor and the City Auditor plan to announce their appointees in July.

For more information about the Ethics Commission and its duties and responsibilities, residents can visit the City’s Ethics Commission webpage. For any questions about the Ethics Commission, contact Ethics Officer Heather Van Wijk by phone at 562-570-7443 or email at Heather.VanWijk@longbeach.gov.



Pet of the week:
Radio

Radio, with his marbled nose, has been at Long Beach Animal Care Services for just over a year, and he’s only 3! He was lucky to get a shelter break with a short-term foster, who shared that his favorite things were spending time with people and other dogs, belly rubs, playing fetch and nap time. He also got separation anxiety, so he thrives on company. Radio’s foster family enjoyed his company so much that they extended his foster period from one month to two! But for their two cats, whom they had to keep separate, they’d have kept Radio! Radio would flourish with a patient, dog-savvy owner who could provide structure and guidance with leash manners and basic life skills. Volunteers feel he could make a great second dog for an active owner. See how long you want to foster Radio! Maybe forever? Long Beach Animal Care Services is over capacity with dogs, so speed the process to adopt or foster Radio or any of our other pets by emailing PetAdopt@longbeach.gov or petfoster@longbeach.gov. You can also call (562) 570-4925. Our shelter hours are Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 7700 E. Spring St. at the entrance to El Dorado Park (no parking fee for shelter visitors. Ask for ID#A721516).

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Sandra Lothe 77
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