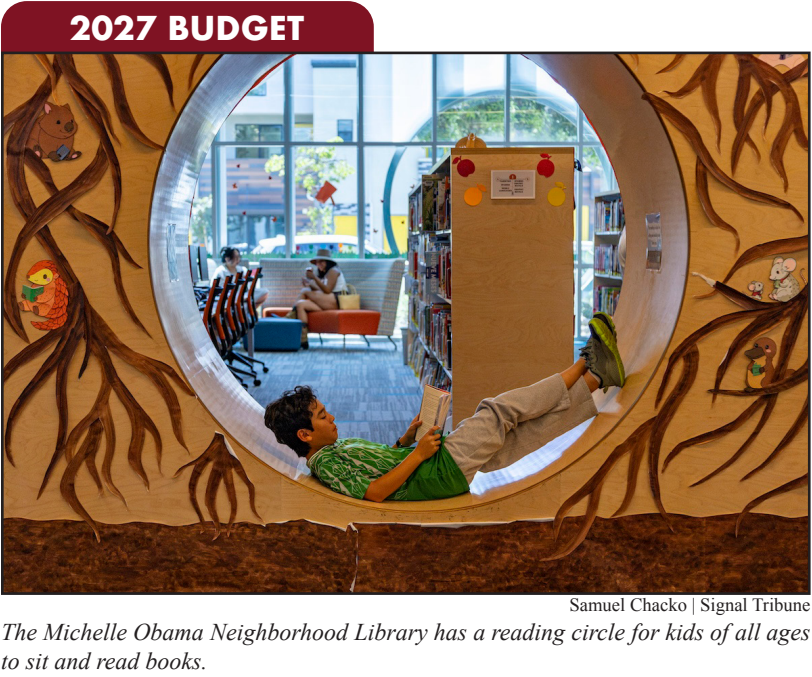




Community rallies behind LB libraries as they face budget cuts

Samantha Diaz
Managing Editor

Infant story times. Job application assistance. Teen mental health resources. Refuge from the heat. An escape from street violence. Internet and tech access. English learning groups. Residents brought up these resources and many more at Long Beach’s budget hearing Tuesday, as the Library, Arts and Culture Department laid out the impacts of its \$1.47 million budget reductions. Over 40 people spoke during public comment, urging the City to find a way to reduce the impacts of these budget cuts. Like every other department, the Library, Arts and Culture team has to reduce its 2027 budget as the City grapples with a \$58 million deficit. What this means for a city with over 70,000 active library card holders: five libraries (Bay Shore, Harte, Burnett, Michelle Obama and El Dorado) will likely be closed on Mondays. Monday operating hours at these five branches were a fairly new addition, relying on various pots of funding since 2023. This would also result in 10 library workers losing their jobs, in positions focusing not only on literature, but also youth mental health and creative workshops. “This week, our libraries are being asked to stay open until 9 p.m. to serve as cooling centers because of the extreme heat, and we want to do that,” local librarian Elizabeth Sispiglio said. “But the city is recognizing that libraries are essential spaces for residents to go when they need safety, air conditioning and support. At the same time, we’re being told that library staff will be laid off and library hours will be reduced by cutting an entire day of service.” Since the City announced sweeping cuts ahead of this year’s budget process on July 30, an online petition to keep libraries operating at their current capacity has garnered over 6,300 signatures and nearly \$10,000 in donations. Jasmine Flores, the public health associate whose job is at risk if the proposed budget plan gets approved, said she’s the department’s only mental health educator whose primary focus is working with teens. She also conducts outreach with schools across the Long Beach Unified School District. “Every day I work with young people in our libraries who are navigating stress, anxiety, isolation, academic pressure, family challenges and many other realities that come with being a teenager,” Flores said. Art, Library, and Culture Director Cathy De Leon said these cuts were the “least impactful” option they could come up with, since they wanted to salvage their book budget. This portion of their budget allowed

see LB LIBRARY BUDGET page 7



2027 BUDGET

Parks Dept. warns of less programming, fewer jobs for youth due to budget cuts

Samantha Diaz
Managing Editor

Residents may see less park programming, including cultural events and after-school spaces, as soon as October, as the Long Beach Parks, Recreation, and Marine (PRM) Department attempts to reduce its 2027 budget by \$2.8 million. The PRM Department is responsible for maintaining 81 playgrounds, 12 dog parks, 10 skate parks, seven community centers, six teen centers, six senior centers and five golf courses, as well as the city’s 28,000 trees and 2,800 recreation classes. Long Beach Animal Care Services also falls under this department. Director Stephen P. Scott shared his plan for reducing the department’s budget at Tuesday’s hearing, which was by far the most attended by residents over the last few weeks. Between the Library, Arts, and Culture and PRM Department budgets, residents showed great concern at the free, essential services they stand to lose. Scott said he tried to make the cuts with “an eye towards equity,”

see LB PARKS BUDGET page 7



TRAFFIC SAFETY

Long Beach PCH speed camera bill heads to Governor for final approval

Staff Report
Signal Tribune

A bill calling for the approval of two speed cameras on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) advanced through the California Legislature Tuesday. Senate Bill (SB) 1279, written by State Senator Lena Gonzalez, now heads to Governor Gavin Newsom, who has until Sept. 30 to sign the legislation. Gonzalez represents California’s 33rd Senate District, which includes Long Beach, Signal Hill, see PCH SPEED CAMERAS page 2



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COMMENTARY

Op-Ed: Long Beach needs a human handoff rule before AI agents scale

This opinion-editorial was written by Dr. Gleb Tsipursky, a behavioral scientist called the “Office Whisperer” by The New York Times, who helps tech-forward leaders stop overpaying for AI while boosting engagement and innovation. He serves as the CEO of the AI consultancy Disaster Avoidance Experts, and wrote eight books, including “The Psychology of AI Adoption at Work: From Resistance to Results.”

Long Beach is about to get a vivid look at how quickly artificial intelligence can move from a chat window into the customer-service front line. On Aug. 19, a hands-on workshop at Ballast Point Brewing invited customer-experience and technology leaders to build a functional AI agent that handles routine interactions and support operations.

That is useful experimentation. It also highlights a governance question that deserves an answer. Before these systems become the norm, when exactly must the agent stop and hand the customer to a person?

The risk is not simply that an AI agent will produce an obviously wrong answer. Here’s a dilemma: what if there’s an agent that works well on routine cases, earns enough confidence to expand and then encounters a dispute, a vulnerable customer, an unusual refund, an accessibility need or a factual claim outside its lane?

What does the AI do then? At that point, a vague promise of “human oversight” is not enough.

Every customer-facing AI workflow should have a written handoff rule with four parts in this order:

•**Define the actions the agent is allowed to take:** Answering store hours or retrieving an order status is different from approving a

refund, changing a contract term or making a commitment that creates financial or legal consequences.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
The adult computer lab at the Michelle Obama Neighborhood library on January 4, 2022.

•**Define stop conditions:** Uncertain identity, repeated customer disagreement, requests involving safety, legal rights, financial hardship or exceptions to policy should trigger escalation rather than another automated answer.

•**Name the human owner:** “A person will review it” is not an operating process. A specific role should own the decision when the agent reaches its boundary.

•**Set an escalation deadline:** A handoff that sends someone into an unmonitored queue is not really a handoff. Customers should know when someone will respond and should not have to repeat the entire case after the transfer.

Long Beach has reason to get this right beyond the private sector. The City’s current list of upcoming technology contracts includes

AI integration for call centers and AI-based tools. If public-facing systems are eventually procured, handoff design should be evaluated alongside features, price and speed. Vendors should be able to show what gets escalated, what is logged and who remains accountable for the final action.

Local entrepreneurs have a chance to build this discipline early. California State University Long Beach’s Apostle Incubator launched its fall programming on Aug. 25 to help campus and community entrepreneurs turn ideas into businesses. Startups that define decision boundaries while their workflows are still small will have an easier time than companies trying to shift accountability onto automation after customers are already relying on it.

Businesses should also measure what happens after the first answer. For 30 days, track how much time the agent saves, then subtract the time people spend correcting responses, reopening cases, handling escalations and repairing customer confusion. An agent that deflects more contacts but creates more rework may look efficient on a dashboard while making the whole service process worse.

Long Beach does not need to choose between using AI agents and protecting human judgment. It needs to make the exit ramp part of the system before traffic gets heavy.

PCH SPEED CAMERAS

continued from page 1



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Multiple vehicles can be seen parked in the turning lanes on Pine Avenue from a car mirror on Dec. 12, 2023.

Lakewood, Catalina Island and sections of Southeast Los Angeles.

Last year, Long Beach had 53 fatal traffic collisions, its highest total in over a decade. Despite only spanning eight miles of the city’s 217 miles of high-capacity roadway, PCH accounts for 39 of Long Beach’s 192 crash fatalities since 2020.

“Everyone should be able to travel along PCH safely, whether they are driving to work, walking to school, biking to the park, or simply crossing the street in their neighborhood,” said Senator Gonzalez in a public statement. “By adding this corridor to California’s speed safety camera pilot program, SB 1279 will give Long Beach another proven tool to reduce dangerous speeding, make our streets safer, and save lives.”

In an effort to improve traffic safety and diminish speed-related fatalities, Long Beach is one of six cities in California’s five-year speed safety camera pilot program, authorized in 2023 by Assembly Bill 645. San Francisco, the first city to launch the program, announced a 72% reduction in speeding vehicles six months after it began.

Long Beach will have 18 automated cameras watching drivers citywide through its Speed Safety System. The City is currently in the education and outreach phase of the Speed Safety System with warnings due to begin in the fall and citations set to run from this winter until the winter of 2031.

Devices will be placed at three types of locations:

- Streets designated as corridors with high traffic injury rates
- Streets with a documented history of street racing or speed exhibitions, with at least four incidents in the past two years
- School zones with restricted enforcement hours tied to school schedules.

Though the locations include major streets such as Long Beach Boulevard, Willow Street and East Ocean Boulevard, there are currently no devices slated for PCH.

Last year, Long Beach had 53 fatal traffic collisions, its highest total in over a decade. Despite only

spanning eight miles of the city’s 217 miles of high-capacity roadway, PCH accounts for 39 of Long Beach’s 192 crash fatalities since 2020.

“At least 3 speed-related traffic fatalities have occurred in the first 8 months of this year on the small stretch of PCH that goes through Long Beach,” said Damian Kevitt, Executive Director of the Los Angeles-based nonprofit Streets Are For Everyone (SAFE), in a public statement. “We applaud Senator Gonzalez for her work to get SB 1279 to the Governor’s desk. It’s imperative that these speed safety systems be implemented as soon as possible to help prevent further loss of life.”

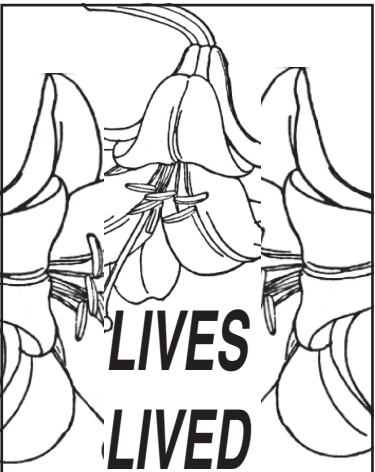
There has been pushback against surveillance technology, including from the Long Beach Justice Fund Coalition, which advocates for rights and protections for the city’s immigrant community. The coalition is composed of several organizations, such as Organizing Rooted in Abolition, Liberation & Empowerment (ÓRALE), Filipino Migrant Center and Long Beach for a Just Economy.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A skeleton decoration, caution sign and spray paint on plywood cover the entrance to Magnolia and Willow antique shop in Long Beach on Sept. 19, 2023, after a speeding vehicle drove though the front windows.

During the coalition’s Aug. 12 press conference in front of Long Beach City Hall, they recommended six new amendments for the Long Beach Values Act, one of which was banning the local usage of surveillance technology.



- Nicholas Thompson 31
- Norma Ballinger 89
- George Koury 78
- Eileen Gregg 98
- Erika Purvis 86
- Larry Lansford 87
- Charles Henry 87
- Rosa Valenzuela 65
- Thomas Hecker 71
- Linda Rand 82
- Mary Negron 59
- Freddie Wallace, Jr. 76
- Eddie Bernardin 89
- Michael Davis 60
- Natasha Lauti 44
- Maria de Ulloa 79
- Donald Heinlein 76
- Leandro De Vera 68

The families were assisted by McKenzie Mortuary. For more details on service dates and times, contact (562) 961-9301

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AROUND TOWN

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

Residents can spend the week volunteering in their community, supporting local artists or moving their body with intention.

Wellness events this week include an overdose awareness fair at MacArthur Park and a low-cost cat vaccination fair in the westside, both Saturday. Finish your weekend strong biking or running with separate clubs Sunday morning, or the afternoon with yoga and sound healing at KUBO LB later. KUBO will also host an evening yoga session Wednesday evening.

Local art takes the spotlight with three live music performances throughout Long Beach and Signal Hill Friday, a two-day film festival at The Art Theatre, a mini market featuring community artists Sunday, and a comedy night and fundraiser Thursday.

Volunteer opportunities this week include food distribution to the community at Bixby Park on Saturday, as well as a native seed organizing and packing event at Harte Neighborhood Library or a food drop-off with ÓRALE Tuesday.

28 FRIDAY

UNDER THE STARS

6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Enjoy mocktails, snacks and live reggae music at the Signal Hill Public Library's Zinnia Courtyard (1800 E. Hill St.). This event is \$8 for residents and \$10 for non-residents. For ages 18 and older. To purchase tickets, call 562-989-7330.

FOURTH FRIDAYS

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Fourth Street corridor will come alive with live music, food and drink specials, vendors, artist pop-ups, flash tattoos, tarot readings, free popcorn and much more at this monthly activation. Free.

MOVIE NIGHT

7 p.m. Care Culture Collaborative will host a movie night at Wood Coffee Co. (2728 E. 10th St.) featuring the 1995 film "To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar," which follows three New York City drag queens on a road trip. Masks are encouraged and will be provided. Food and drinks will be sold, but attendees can also bring their own snacks. Free.

29 SATURDAY

LONG BEACH FILM FESTIVAL

Times vary. The inaugural Long Beach Film Festival will take place Saturday and Sunday at the Long Beach Art Theatre (2025 E. Fourth St.), which showcases eight feature films. Tickets are \$10 for a single showing and weekend passes vary by category. Tickets can be purchased online.

BOOK LAUNCH

10 a.m. to noon. The United Cambodian Community and Khmer Parents Association is hosting a book launch and storytelling sessions at 2201 E. Anaheim St. (Ste. 102). Call 562-433-2490 for more information. Free.

OVERDOSE AWARENESS FAIR

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This community resource fair at MacArthur Park (1321 E. Anaheim St.) will connect attendees to overdose prevention and harm reduction resources, mental health and recovery support, free HIV and STI testing, naloxone and rescue breathing demonstrations, complimentary food and giveaways and a memorial wall to honor and remember loved ones lost to overdoses. Free.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY FAIR

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Wrigley Neighborhood Association and Westland Realty Group are hosting this back-to-school fair at the Westland Realty Group Parking Lot (520 W. Willow St.). This event features live music, a bounce house, school supplies, games, crafts and a skateboard pop-up. Free.

30 SUNDAY

BIKES AND COFFEE

9 a.m. Bike Long Beach invites residents to this 12-mile bike ride along calm streets, beginning and ending at Gaucho Beach (780 E. Shoreline Drive). Attendees are invited to eat and hang out at Gaucho's afterwards. Free.

RUN CLUB

10 a.m. Pueblita Tortillas, Prime Run Club, Downtown Runners and Long Beach Run Club are teaming up for this run to support immigrant communities. The run will start at Ambitious Ales (4019 Atlantic Ave.), with a 5K run or 2-mile walk option. 100% of the proceeds will go to ÓRALE. RSVP at the link in @pueblitatortillas Instagram bio. Free.

QVC MINI MART

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Queer Vegan Club will host a stacked vendor lineup at Wood Coffee Co. (2728 E. 10th St.), selling pottery, crocheted items, zines, stickers, baked goods, books, plants and more. Free.

31 MONDAY

SEED PACKING

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Love Your Block grant recipients are hosting a native seed education



Samuel Chacko | Signal Tribune

See eight independent feature films this Saturday and Sunday during the first-ever Long Beach Film Festival at the Art Theatre of Long Beach.

activity on Sept. 8 and are seeking volunteers to help pack seeds into envelopes to give to residents. This volunteer event will take place at the Harte Neighborhood Library (1595 W. Willow St.). Those interested can sign up online. Free.

ALBUM RELEASE PARTY

8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Be among the first to hear Son Rompe Pera's new album "Marimbazos De Oro" at this party at Alex's Bar (2913 E. Anaheim St.). RSVP for free at the link in @alexsbarlb Instagram bio. Doors open at 8 p.m. This event is for those 21 and older only.

01 TUESDAY

FARMERS MARKET

3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Bixby Park (130 Cherry Ave.) farmers market takes place twice a week, on Tuesdays and Saturdays, offering residents the chance to buy local produce, homemade goods and more. Free.

VOLUNTEER WITH ÓRALE

Times vary. ÓRALE is seeking volunteer drivers to help transport food to mutual aid sites in Long Beach and Wilmington. The two shifts needed are between 7-8:30 a.m. and 10-11:30 a.m. Volunteers must be able to lift at least 20 pounds and have a medium or large vehicle for transporting boxes. Sign up at bit.ly/lbmutualaid.com. Free.

02 WEDNESDAY

LISTENING SESSIONS

6 p.m. The Equity and Human Relations Commission is hosting this listening session at its regular meeting at City Hall (411 W. Ocean Blvd.) for schools, youth-serving organizations, community-based programs and residents to share

their experiences and highlight barriers existing for historically marginalized communities. Residents can also attend the meeting via Zoom. Free.

COMMUNITY YOGA

8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. KUBO LB and Liza Gesuden are hosting this restorative, trauma-informed yoga class at KUBO (3976 Atlantic Ave.). Visitors can bring their own yoga mat or borrow one. There is a suggested \$10-25 donation, but no one will be turned away due to lack of funds. Register online.

03 THURSDAY

FARMERS MARKET

3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Bixby Knolls farmers market takes place every Thursday at 4580 Atlantic Ave., offering residents the chance to purchase local produce, homemade food, crafts and more. Free.

COMEDY FUNDRAISER

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Enjoy a live night of comedy with sets from five comedians at Good Time (1322 Coronado Ave.), with all proceeds going to ÓRALE. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by scanning the Venmo link on the event flyer through @goodtime.lb on Instagram.

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EVENT

Celebrate the end of summer with local band RemiX on Sept. 4



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A single jacaranda tree blooms among other green trees near the El Dorado Duck Pond in Long Beach on April 26, 2022.

Staff Report

Signal Tribune

Move and groove to the new jack swing of local band RemiX during the Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine’s (PRM) final summer concert on Friday, Sept. 4.

“Join us as we say ‘farewell’ to summer with an unforgettable concert featuring the greatest party hits and captivating performances from RemiX,” said Mayor Rex Richardson in a public statement. “Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, family and friends and enjoy a final summer evening of free live music.”

RemiX pays tribute to the party hits of the ‘80s and ‘90s with R&B, funk and new jack swing from their live performance catalog.

The free gathering at El Dorado Park West (2800 N. Studebaker Road) will begin with face painting and games at 5 p.m., followed by the concert from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event will be held near the corner of Studebaker Road and Willow Street, and attendees are welcome to bring blankets, chairs and picnic-style dinners to the park.

Throughout the summer, PRM

has hosted dozens of free and low-cost events, such as Movies in the Park screenings, Long Beach Municipal Band concerts and FIFA World Cup watch parties, all of which align with the department’s Parks Make Long Beach Strategic Plan.



Samuel Chacko | Signal Tribune

Andre Holmes plays the keyboard for Morris Day & The Time as the R&B and funk band performs during the Uptown Jazz Festival on August 1, 2026 at Houghton Park.

To explore all of PRM’s parks, facilities, programs and services, visit LBParks.org. For additional summer activities, visit the City’s Summer of Opportunity webpage.

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TACOS
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FISH SANDWICH
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LB LIBRARY BUDGET

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“It really seems like the frail programs that benefit the most people in our community seem to be the first in line on the chopping block,” - Tony Aldana, local resident

them to add over 55,000 items to the 12 library branches this year.

“To not purchase books or reduce what we spend on books does an incredible disservice to our library patrons,” De Leon said. “By not buying books you’d be weakening our core value of access to literature and relevant and timely information.”

Long Beach libraries received nearly 765,000 visitors in 2025, and De Leon said this number is estimated to reach 790,000 by the end of this year. From those visitors, the library system has provided over 3.3 million separate resources, including books, comics, CDs, movies, state parks passes and more.

Statistics shared at the hearing show that Mondays and Wednesdays are the least utilized by residents, though the Wednesday results are impacted by a one-hour window where libraries open later in order to conduct staff training. De Leon said, “Mondays have not been fully embraced.” Despite this fact, residents were vocal about their objection to reducing library hours.

“Libraries are not a luxury. They are basic infrastructure for an equitable city,” said Kristen Hernandez, director of communications and public affairs with the Long Beach

Public Library Foundation.

The department has also reached the end of its \$1.3 million funding from the Department of Education (DOE), which provided four years of SEED STEAM summer camp programming. This program will be rebranded to the Mobile Creativity Lab and will move away from a summer camp model, De Leon said. It will use Measure US funding for a “less intensive” program, but will “hopefully be able to reach more kids.”



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
The Brewitt Library is slated to receive \$700,000 in Measure A funds for roof replacement and ancillary repairs.

Funds for the five-year ESL (English as a Second Language) programming the department received from the State ended in June. The department had been receiving around \$85,000 annually. De Leon said they will no longer have a dedicated staff member for this pro-

gramming, and it will have to be modified going forward.

“It really seems like the frail programs that benefit the most people in our community seem to be the first in line on the chopping block,” said resident Tony Aldana.

The department is also forced to end its Zip Books program, where patrons can request a book not owned by the City’s library system and receive that book in the mail, then turn it into their library once they’re finished with it. This service costs around \$20,000 annually.

Additional reductions to the Library, Arts, and Culture budget include:

- \$140,000 in overtime
- \$38,000 for Billie Jean King (BJK) Main Library power washing
- \$22,833 in annual fees on general maintenance assistant truck
- \$17,000 for landscaping
- \$13,500 for security

“You all say you are supporters [of the library] and yet the budget you want to adopt is disgraceful,” Barbara Sosa, president of the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library, told the mayor and city council.

On the Bright Side

After a long hiatus, the Library, Art, and Culture Department is bringing back the Black Authors Festival next year, De Leon an-

nounced. This festival, which celebrates local Black authors and readers, ran for a few years in the early 2010s.

A few “critical” projects to improve libraries will still move ahead as planned, including:

- El Dorado Neighborhood Library’s roof replacement, energy efficiency and ADA exterior improvements (\$2.2 million in AB32 Energy Efficiency funds)
- Burnett Library’s energy efficient window glass panes (\$200,000 in AB32 Energy Efficiency funds)
- Brewitt Library’s roof replacement and ancillary repairs (\$700,000 in Measure A funds)
- Mark Twain Library’s fire alarm replacement and other improvements (\$500,000 in Measure A funds)
- \$100,000 in SAP funds to create multilingual signage at all 12 library locations

De Leon addressed the implementation of a nearly \$800,000 fence around BJK Main Library which was installed in May. She said it has made a “drastic difference” for that library, resulting in less calls to the Long Beach Police Department, less vandalism and halving the number of code of conduct infractions library staff writes up.

LB PARKS BUDGET

continued from page 1

so they don’t impact any one area of the city more than others. These cuts include 28 full-time city workers, ending two after-school programs, shutting down a teen center and more.

Mayor Rex Richardson’s recommendations, which are not finalized, would restore eight jobs, the teen center, the Be S.A.F.E. program and more at roughly \$389,339.



Samuel Chacko | Signal Tribune
Programming hours for Be S.A.F.E. at 11 Long Beach locations, including Bixby Park, is expected to be reduced from three hours to two hours.

Of the city workers expected to be let go, about 19 are Recreation Leader Specialist positions, which are part-time, seasonal non-career positions. Since these are part-time positions, they are not counted as one employee on paper. The

actual number of impacted Recreation Leader Specialist staff members who may be fired is over 100, according to Scott. Many of these workers are students and young adults.

“Whether they’re working 10 hours a week or 25, these individuals are critical to supporting all facets of our seasonal recreational programming,” Scott said. “These staff reduction proposals are very difficult for our department.”

Items italicized may be restored with Mayor Rex Richardson’s budget recommendations, which are not yet finalized.

Programs

- *Homeland Cultural Center classes will go from four a month to two a month (\$25,000)*
- *Lincoln Park will get its programming hours cut from six hours a day to three hours a day (\$141,398)*
- *Reducing the City’s management fee to 7% at Rancho Alamitos and Rancho Los Cerritos (\$65,800)*
- *Eliminating a recreation assistant position (\$107,528)*

Youth-Specific Programs

- *Reducing Be S.A.F.E. program hours from three per eve-*

ning to two per evening at 11 sites (\$191,164)

- *The City will end its participation in the district’s WRAP (Winners Reaching Amazing Potential) program (\$703,804)*
- *Closing down teen center at Chavez Park (\$71,681)*



Mark Savage | Courtesy of LBUSD
Due to 2027 budget cuts in Long Beach, the summer swim programs at Jordan and Millikan high schools are expected to be discontinued from the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department’s youth programming..

- *Ending summer swim program at Jordan and Millikan high schools (\$50,298)*
 - *Ending after-school program at Stearns Champion Park (\$43,763)*
 - *Ending DeForest Park after-school program (\$46,020)*
- Scott said the City’s role in WRAP, an after-school program in the Long Beach Unified School District, will likely be replaced by a different provider. The City would have to shut down six after-school programs at various parks to keep its partnership with WRAP, Scott said.

The teen center at Chavez Park was chosen for elimination since it’s not near a high school like the other teen centers in the city, according to Scott. He also said the participation numbers at the Stearns Champion Park weren’t high enough “to justify the continued investment” in its after-school program. The park’s summer day

camp will continue.

Park Maintenance Reductions

- *Reducing weed abatement services by \$230,000*
 - *Reducing park landscaping services by \$50,000*
 - *Park tree trimming cycle will go from seven to eight years (\$41,000)*
- Scott said the PRM Department is working on a pilot program to explore different ways of managing weeds at city parks, while reducing the use of traditional herbicide applications.

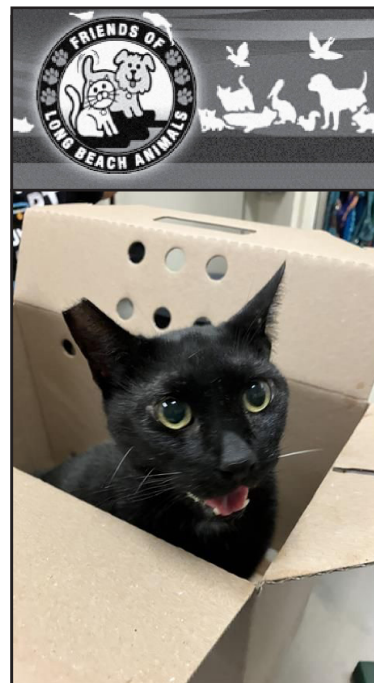
“We can have the best programs in the world, but if people believe that our parks are unsafe and unkempt because of lack of maintenance, then the programs will not be successful,” Scott said.

Facilities Maintenance Reductions

- *Reducing the maintenance materials and supplies budget by \$208,082*
 - *Eliminating a vacant power equipment repair mechanic position (\$102,959)*
- “These maintenance cuts are not specific to any particular park, program or district, but reduce our ability to respond to occurrences of vandalism and address urgent repairs citywide,” Scott said.

The department is also letting go of nine employees on its administrative side.

Echoing what other department heads have said in the last few weeks, the PRM Department has experienced an uptick in the cost of services they provide. Rising costs of medical care equipment and services have presented a challenge to Animal Care Services, and the cost of water has increased, impacting the department’s ability to care for trees.



Pet of the week: Prince

Long Beach Animal Care Services is partnering with Helen Sanders CatPAWS for the Sweet 16 Special. The adoption promo offers an adoption fee of only \$16 for any cat 3 months and over until Labor Day, Sept. 7. We hope you’ll consider Prince, who’s Sweet 16 himself and very special! His adoption fee is actually \$5, to encourage a senior adoption—with his glossy black coat and his energetic meow, you’d never think he was a senior! Prince came to the shelter with his two “siblings” after his human died. As much as the volunteers love him, a kennel is no place for a cat to spend his golden years after he’s been in a house all his life. Can you give this charming Prince a happily-ever-after? To adopt Prince, email PetAdopt@longbeach.gov to speed the process, or call (562) 570-7387. Better yet, meet him in person at Long Beach Animal Care Services, 7700 E. Spring St., Long Beach, at entrance to El Dorado Park (no parking fee for shelter visitors). Visiting hours are Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Ask for (ID#A764712). Remember, adoption fees for cats 3 months old and over.

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