

TITLE: CIS to Support Charter Reform that Increases Parks and Rec Dept Funding

PURPOSE:

Parks in Venice are in dire need of increase in funding, both for maintenance and for refurbishment. The funding of the Parks and Recreation Department needs a more permanent solution than the yearly budget process. A recent motion passed by the City Council Committee on Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations (Council File 26-0489-2S) advocates for charter reform regarding the mandated budget levels for the Department of Rec and Parks. This motion supports a Charter reform measure that will double the amount of money required to be budgeted for the department.

BACKGROUND:

This measure would amend Charter Section 593 to ensure that the financial support of the Department of Recreation and Parks be increased from an appropriation of an annual sum of not less than 0.0325% of assessed value of all property as assessed for City taxes up to 0.0650% of said taxes, following a four-year phased increase.

In 2025, Los Angeles dropped from 49th to 90th in the Trust for Public Land's national ParkScore ranking. The City-commissioned Parks Needs Assessment (PNA) - approved by the Recreation and Parks Commission in December 2025 and developed with input from over 100,000 Angelenos - illustrates how and why: Between 2009 and 2023, RAP's budget grew only 35% while the City's overall budget grew 68%. As a result, today Los Angeles invests just \$92 per capita on parks compared to peer cities' average of \$283. RAP has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008 and has never fully recovered from Great Recession cuts, even as park acreage increased.

THE MOTION:

The VNC Board approves the filing of a Community Impact Statement to support and urge the City Council to incorporate the Charter reform as recommended in the motion passed by the City Council Committee on Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations (Council File 26-0489-2S) regarding the mandated budget levels for the Department of Rec and Parks. This CIS should be sent to council file 26-0489 and Council Member Traci Park. The **Community Impact Statement** is as recited here:

“Parks in Venice are in dire need of increase in funding, both for maintenance and for refurbishment. The funding of the Parks and Recreation Department needs a more permanent solution than the yearly budget process. This motion supports a Charter reform measure that will double the amount of money required to be budgeted for the department.

The Venice Neighborhood Council supports the recommended charter reform (File number 26-0489-2S) passed by the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee. This measure would amend Charter Section 593 to ensure that the financial support of the Department of Recreation and Parks be increased from an appropriation of an annual sum of not less than 0.0325% of assessed value of all property for City taxes up to 0.0650% of said taxes, following a four-year phased increase.”

This CIS should be sent to council file 26-0489 and the office of Traci Park.