

MOTION

The City Charter specifies that the Department of Recreation and Parks is provided the power and duty to establish, construct, maintain, operate and control all parks and recreational facilities in the City, which includes 444 City parks and 16,000 acres of parkland. The Department states that it is focused on restoring and enhancing the safety and enjoyment of park patrons; increasing recreational programming; supporting greater park access and equity; supporting the Los Angeles River Revitalization; implementing increased sustainability practices and projects; maximizing private-public-partnerships; and improving customer service. In addition, the General Manager advises it is one his goals to help build healthy communities that will make Los Angeles one of the most livable cities in the country.

The 2019 Point-In-Time Count of homeless individuals identified over 36,000 homeless individuals in the City, of which more than 27,000 are unsheltered. These 27,000 unsheltered people are forced to live exposed on City streets, in tents, in their vehicles, or in temporary shelters. In addition to these locations some unsheltered residents have sought refuge in City parks in order to access the open space and use the facilities.

Given that homelessness impacts most areas of the City, including City parks, and given that some public parks continue to be significantly impacted by the presence of people experiencing homelessness, the City can be better informed by all park users and City staff on how to address the challenges of homelessness in and adjacent to our public parks.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Recreation and Parks be instructed to conduct community stakeholder meetings in each Council District with all park users in order to solicit feedback relative to ensuring that City parks are safe, clean, manageable, and accessible to everyone, and that the Department report to Council with the results of these public meetings and offer recommendations on how to manage the impacts of homelessness at all City parks.

PRESENTED BY:

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SECONDED BY:

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