

# Agenda Report

**TO:** City Council

February 15, 2000

**THROUGH:** Legislative Policy Committee

**FROM:** City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Priority City Projects for Submission to our State Legislators for Potential Inclusion in the State Budget

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council support and forward to our State Legislators the following five projects for potential funding during the State budget process.

## BACKGROUND

Our State Lobbyist, Pete Sandford, recommended the City of Pasadena develop a list of high priority projects to be submitted to Assemblyman Jack Scott and State Senator Adam Schiff to potentially champion for funding through the State's budget process. Using the City Council's seven goals as a guide, staff has identified the following five priority projects for submission.

### 1. NEW MULTI-PURPOSE ATHLETIC FIELD

**\$ 180,000**

Additional multi-purpose athletic fields are needed throughout the city. While a variety of organized sports including baseball, softball and soccer are played throughout the city, soccer has the greatest number of participants and also has the longest playing season. City staff has worked with youth soccer representatives from the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Region 13 and Villa Park City Youth Soccer Program to determine the current needs of the community.

This project would develop a new multi-purpose athletic field at a local school within or near the boundaries of the City of Pasadena. This cost would cover the construction of a 40 yards x 60 yards field to an existing grassy area with an existing irrigation system that would need the following improvements: fine grading, class "A" topsoil added, soil amendments and preparation, installation of sod, and maintenance and plant establishment. The exact location has yet to be determined.

**2. WASHINGTON PARK - RENOVATION OF BALL FIELD \$ 105,000**

This project provides for the renovation and upgrading of the existing softball field at Washington Park to accommodate both softball and soccer. Because of the high interest in this sport, there is a great need for more soccer fields throughout the city. The expansion of this field would make the most of existing resources and provide the children with a needed additional soccer field.

**3. COMMUNITY LIBRARY COMPUTER LAB - LA PINTORESCA BRANCH \$ 97,000**

La Pintoresca has a service population of over 40,000 and serves as the community library for the 11 schools and pre-school centers in the surrounding neighborhoods. The computer lab will be available for the public use during branch service hours and may also be used as a resource for public training after library service hours by both the library and community groups. In particular, the Library hopes to capitalize on its large afterschool crowd and anticipates that the lab will be an additional resource to help children and teenagers complete their homework.

This project will provide for the establishment of a computer lab at the Pasadena Public Library, La Pintoresca Branch located in Northwest Pasadena. The lab will house ten multimedia computers equipped with educational software for various age groups from preschool through middle school. Software titles include the Encarta series such as Encarta Encyclopedia, Encarta Africana, the Magic School Bus.

**4. WALKWAY SECURITY LIGHTING FOR CENTRAL PARK \$ 150,000**

Central Park is vital to the cultural, educational and recreational life in Pasadena. It is home to two key community groups: the Pasadena Lawn Bowling Club and El Centro de Accion Social. Both groups draw a large community base to the park. El Centro provides many recreation and tutoring programs supporting the youth of Pasadena and the Lawn Bowling Club's membership

consists mainly of senior citizens. In addition, the large tot lot playground attracts numerous children to the park. Due to the large population of children and senior citizens who use this park, it is vital to provide additional lighting to aid in the community's safety. A community park is a place for children and senior citizens alike to come and participate in various recreational activities without having to worry about leaving before sunset.

Furthermore, Central Park annually hosts events that celebrate the City's diversity and draw participants from throughout the Southern California area. Some past events of note have included the Playboy Jazz Festival, the Pasadena Jazz Festival, a Native American arts and crafts show, and Dia de los Muetos (Day of the Dead Celebration). Also the Pasadena Arts Council sponsors two arts and crafts show per year at this park. Most of these events last into the evenings and additional lighting would aid in the participants' safety. Additional security lighting will aid police officers in their patrols of the park area and allow park users to feel safer.

As a final note, Central Park will be adjacent to the largest Light Rail Station in the City of Pasadena. The station will attract more pedestrians through and around the park after dark. Increased walkway security lighting will add to the safety of these commuters and residents.

#### **5. VICTORY PARK MULTIPURPOSE ROOM**

**\$ 103,000**

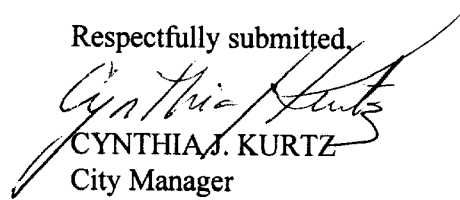
The Victory Park Community Center provides a safe, healthy, fun and supportive environment for Pasadena residents in need of recreation, education and leisure activities and programs. The center offers a wide variety of community programs such as: "Kids on Course" golf, dance classes, self-defense classes, gymnastics, after-school tutoring, day camp, all girls teen program (Girlfriends), adaptive recreation programs and a drop-in gym. The center also serves adults and seniors by providing low impact aerobics, ceramics, yoga, and tai chi.

Victory Park Center's program goal and objective for fiscal year 2000 - 2001 is to expand the services provided to include alternative leisure activities for youth and teens who do not engage in traditional sports activities. The conversion of the center's loft area from a storage area to a multi-purpose room will allow the creation of the space necessary for the new, expanded youth and teen programs. With the renovation of the loft, Victory Park Center hopes to serve over 200 youth and teens during the program year, and provide twenty hours of weekly various activities for teens and the After-School Programs.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

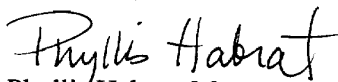
If successful, up to \$635,000 could be awarded to the City to implement one or more of these very vital and important City projects. If funding is received, staff will return to the City Council for appropriation of funds to the appropriate budget accounts.

Respectfully submitted,




CYNTHIA J. KURTZ  
City Manager

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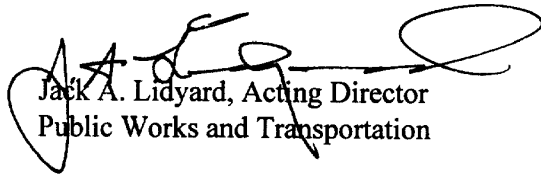
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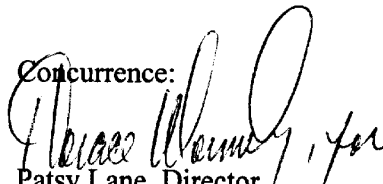
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