

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Department of Recreation and Parks**

July 9, 2003

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM: MANUEL A. MOLLINEDO, General Manager
Department of Recreation and Parks

**SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATION OF GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY
PROPOSITION A GRANT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
WORKS**

On June 2, 2003, the L.A. for Kids Steering Committee accepted the Bureau of Engineering recommendation that the Public Works Bureau of Financial Management and Personnel Services administer Proposition A for the Griffith Observatory project. In conformance with their direction, therefore, effective immediately, the Department is transferring the administration of the remaining grant funds to the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering. The following table provides the current fiscal status of the Griffith Observatory Proposition A account:

CATEGORY	A. Available Funding	B. Expended Thru June 2003	C. Received by DRP from County	D. Left to Bill to the County by DRP	E. Balance
1) Administrative Costs (25% Cap):	\$4,625,000	\$3,299,381.91	\$3,299,381.91	\$0	\$1,325,618.09
2) Construction	\$13,875,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,875,000.00
TOTALS	\$18,500,000	\$3,299,381.91	\$3,299,381.91	\$0	\$15,200,618.09

The Department of Public Works will cash flow the Proposition A funding for the Observatory after July 1, 2003. The Department of Public Works currently administers approximately \$10,000,000 in Proposition K funding for the Observatory project and it was felt that coupling that with the administration of Proposition A funding would result in more effectively managing the overall funding for this project.

The Proposition A grant is comprised of \$18,000,000 in Prop AI (1992) funds specified for the Griffith Observatory and \$500,000 in Prop AII (1996) discretionary (Per Parcel) funds allocated by the City Council.

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SUBJECT: NINE-MONTH STATUS OF PARK SAFETY PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

At the recommendation of the Park Safety Task Force, sixty-two parks have been identified as "Safe Parks" and have thus been assigned for additional attention and enforcement efforts by the LAPD and the Department of Recreation and Parks. The sixty-two parks were also designated as LAPD Stop-in Centers and prioritized to emphasize those parks/facilities in the greatest need of increased Police patrol presence. To measure the effectiveness of this program, the LAPD and the Department of Recreation and Parks track and report on the number of visitations at the Stop-in Centers and, correspondingly, the number of Part 1 crimes in each park. The report that follows contains tracking data for the last nine months. The intent in collecting this data is to identify trends and to determine if there is a correlation between a greater police presence and incidents of crime at parks.

STOP-IN CENTERS

With nine months of tracking data now available, we observe that the LAPD's level of participation in the Stop-in Center program increased to a peak of 92% - 57 out of a possible 62 designated facilities received at least one monthly stop-in visit (Attachment A). The tracking data shows that police visitations over the last nine months have ranged from a low of 42% in September 2002, to the high of 92% in March of this year. This represents a nine-percentage point increase over the previous high and the past three month's statistics demonstrate a sustained level of performance where 85% or more of the Safe Parks facilities are receiving a monthly visit.

A more encouraging development has been the steady rise in the number of facilities receiving four or more visitations per month. In a strong turnaround from only 27% recorded in February, the last three months have seen the goal of a minimum of four LAPD visitations for each facility per month achieved on average by over 50% of the sixty-two Stop-in Centers with a program high of 68% recorded in May. The last three months have seen a substantial increase in the total number of visitations citywide. The 77th Street, Southeast and Van Nuys Divisions have led the way, each averaging more than 10 visits per center per month during the last three months.

The performance improvements are significant and commendable and should become the new benchmarks for future improvements. The noticeable improvements in the level of participation by LAPD officers can be partially attributed to the more conscientious reporting of visitations by officers at park facilities which is a direct result of the outreach training recently completed at all eighteen LAPD community police stations. The lines of communication between LAPD and RAP have been firmly established and are now in the maintenance cycle with refresher training planned for the coming fiscal year. The tables below summarize the tracking data:

LAPD VISITATIONS

2002 - 2003

# of Visitations	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
1 or more	42%	58%	83%	80%	77%	77%	92%	85%	89%
4 or more	19%	23%	56%	45%	48%	27%	58%	47%	68%

STOP-IN CENTER VISITS BY LAPD DIVISION

2002 - 2003

Police Station	# of Stop-in Centers	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	TOTAL
Central	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Devonshire	2	4	8	9	7	9	9	16	10	14	86
Foothill	6	9	22	52	18	17	21	50	44	54	287
Harbor	4	27	13	26	11	16	22	22	14	32	183
Hollenbeck	5	0	2	10	5	10	6	8	5	10	56
Hollywood	1	6	3	7	6	6	3	12	4	11	58
Newton	7	8	12	76	48	44	22	55	43	44	352
Northeast	8	8	11	29	26	20	5	6	9	23	137
North Hollywood	3	2	0	4	0	1	6	21	21	25	80
Pacific	2	1	1	15	9	6	6	25	8	24	95
Rampart	6	10	18	36	32	27	27	23	15	67	255
77th Street	3	26	48	84	98	83	36	75	71	69	590
Southeast	4	5	6	8	4	21	20	49	50	46	209
Southwest	5	2	5	17	14	24	10	34	19	23	148
Van Nuys	3	9	8	38	40	38	16	29	29	37	244
West LA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Valley	1	2	6	2	9	8	4	7	5	7	50
Wilshire	1	0	0	1	2	0	2	3	0	9	17
Total:	62	119	163	414	329	330	215	435	347	495	2847

PART 1 CRIMES

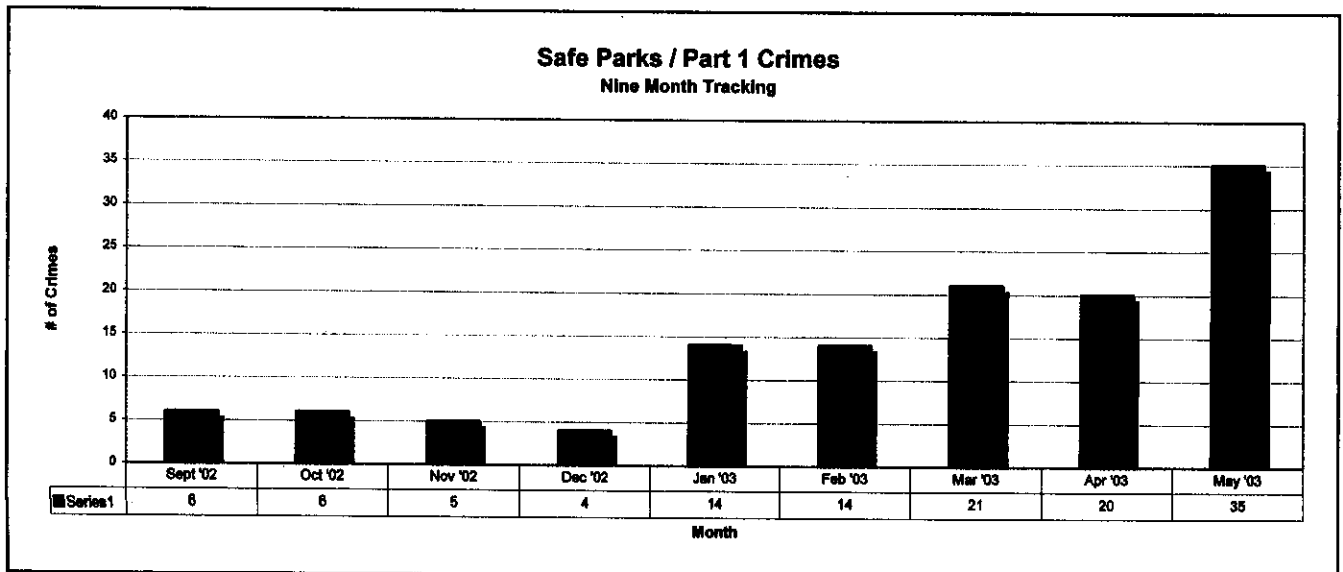
Part 1 crimes are tracked by LAPD for the 62 parks and reported to Recreation and Parks monthly (Attachment B). They are further detailed below by month and category. Part 1 crimes are the serious crimes that most directly affect quality of life. Ninety percent of the Part 1 crimes committed at the 62 parks during the nine-month tracking period were assaults, robberies and grand theft. To date, there have been no homicides in the Safe Parks facilities.

There appears to be a continuing upward trend of Part 1 crimes in parks. During the last three months, there have been 20 or more Part 1 crimes each month with 35 recorded in May. Seasonal factors may account for some increases in crime due to corresponding increases in park patronage; however, close scrutiny should be observed regarding this increase in crime. Ranger and LAPD deployments must maintain their vigilance to prevent further increases during the active summer months.

**PART 1 CRIMES BY MONTH AND CATEGORY
 2002 – 2003**

Month	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Grand Theft	Shots Fired	Brandishing Weapon	Kidnapping	Total
Sept '02	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	6
Oct '02	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	6
Nov '02	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	5
Dec '02	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	4
Jan '03	0	1	7	2	3	1	0	0	14
Feb '03	0	0	1	10	2	0	1	0	14
Mar '03	0	1	7	3	9	1	0	0	21
Apr '03	0	0	3	8	9	0	0	0	20
May '03	0	3	6	11	15	0	0	0	35
Total:	0	6	29	42	45	2	1	0	125

The following chart best depicts the steady rise in Part 1 crimes since the start of 2003.



LAPD WEBSITE

From April through the first week of June 2003, there have been 13 hits on the LAPD Park Safety Survey website. LAPD Officer Joyce Davis, of the Community Policing Unit at Parker Center, emails the survey results to the appropriate LAPD Park Coordinator for follow-up. All eighteen LAPD Divisions have a Sergeant who is assigned as a Park Coordinator for all the parks in the Division. The LAPD Park Coordinator who receives the survey comments then assigns them to the Senior Lead Officer (SLO) in the Patrol Area for investigation and follow-up. Officer Davis also emails the survey results to Senior Ranger Anne Waisgerber for follow-up within Recreation and Parks (RAP). Ranger Waisgerber will then generate work assignments to Region and Safe Park Rangers. The Park Rangers conduct extra patrols at the concerned parks to specifically address the issues relayed via the website which include gang, narcotics, alcohol and transient related activity.

PARK FACILITY PROBLEM SOLVING FORM

Since the inception of the Stop-in Center program, staff from both LAPD and RAP worked together to design Problem Solving Forms (PSF). These forms were distributed to park employees at the eighteen RAP/LAPD divisional meetings in order to report crimes to LAPD. Since April through the first week of June 2003, RAP has received 13 PSF. Work assignments have been generated to Region and Safe Park Rangers to conduct extra patrols. Issues being addressed include gang and narcotic activity, transients, dogs off-leash, vandalism, burglary from motor vehicles, illegal parking, and requests for extra patrols at park carnivals.

RAP staff has also been directed to give copies of the PSF to their respective LAPD Division SLO who gives them to the Park Coordinators. To ensure that LAPD receives the form, Senior Ranger Anne Waisgerber has also been faxing copies of each PSF to Officer Joyce Davis at the LAPD Community Policing Unit at Parker Center, who then distributes to the appropriate Park Coordinator. LAPD has their own tracking mechanism for the PSF. The Park Coordinators who receive the PSF distribute it to the appropriate SLO for follow-up. When the SLO has completed the assignment, they notify their Park Coordinator who reviews and approves it.

RAP/LAPD DIVISIONAL MEETINGS

Meetings were held in each of the eighteen LAPD divisions between February and May 2003. Senior Ranger Anne Waisgerber and LAPD Sergeant Vic Dennis or his partner, Officer Joyce Davis, chaired the meetings between Recreation Directors and LAPD Senior Lead Officers. Topics of discussion included the Problem Solving Form, the LAPD Website, and planning for the Park Safety Training in September 2003. Ranger/Divisional LAPD Contact Information sheets were also distributed.

LAPD REPORTING DISTRICT CRIME TRACKING

In an effort to most accurately track and focus on crimes occurring in the 62 Safe Parks, the Park Ranger Division has implemented a pilot project to analyze criminal activity in the areas adjacent to park facilities. LAPD has assisted this effort by providing Part 1 and Part 2 crime statistics for the reporting districts (RD) encompassing and corresponding to the selected 62 designated Safe Parks. A reporting district is the smallest identifiable portion of City territory that LAPD uses to track and report the location of crimes and arrests. The intended objective is to understand the level of crime that occurs in the communities near the park but not necessarily being reported as park/playground premises crimes. The additional crime information will assist the Park Ranger Division in coordinating with LAPD Senior Lead Officers to address criminal activity and the perception of criminal activity at Safe Parks. A preliminary review of early data shows that in many cases the documentation of low or non-existence of crimes at a park does not accurately portray the crime conditions of the surrounding neighborhood, which influences how its patrons may perceive the park. As an example, South Park Recreation Center for April 2003 had only one Part 1 crime reported, a petty theft incident. The criminal activity in the park was in sharp contrast to the corresponding RD surrounding the park, which included the petty theft and the following:

RD=SOUTH PARK REC CENTER - 1362								
Obs	DR	AREA	DATE	TIME	CRIME	CRM	LOCATION	PREMISE
761	031311730	NEWTON	04/20/03	1255	HOMICIDE	HOMICIDE	00296 E 47TH PL	APART/DUPLEX
762	031310853	NEWTON	04/09/03	2045	ROBBERY	ROBBERY	04812 S MAIN ST	SIDEWALK
763	031310941	NEWTON	04/10/03	2100	ROBBERY	ROBBERY	53RD/AVALON	PAY PHONE
764	031311131	NEWTON	04/13/03	2020	ADW	AGG.ASLT	WALL/47TH	SIDEWALK
765	031311098	NEWTON	04/12/03	1600	BURGLARY	BURGLARY	00349 E 52ND ST	SING FAM RES
766	031312101	NEWTON	04/25/03	0800	BURGLARY	BURGLARY	00283 E 48TH ST	SING FAM RES
767	031312252	NEWTON	04/27/03	0355	BURGLARY	BURGLARY	00216 E 51ST ST	SING FAM RES
▶ 768	031310563	NEWTON	04/03/03	1930	PETTY THFT	OTHRTHFT	51ST/SAN PEDRO	PARK/PLAYGRND
769	031310846	NEWTON	04/09/03	1430	PETTY THFT	OTHRTHFT	00349 E 52ND ST	RES YARD
770	031311708	NEWTON	04/20/03	0820	PETTY THFT	OTHRTHFT	04800 S SAN PEDRO ST	MARKET
771	031311195	NEWTON	04/14/03	1200	STLN VEH	AUTOTHFT	05125 WOODLAWN AV	STREET
772	031311261	NEWTON	04/15/03	1800	STLN VEH	AUTOTHFT	05012 S MAIN ST	STREET
773	031311496	NEWTON	04/17/03	0800	STLN VEH	AUTOTHFT	00111 E 50TH ST	STREET
774	031311584	NEWTON	04/18/03	2000	STLN VEH	AUTOTHFT	00170 E 49TH ST	STREET
775	031312250	NEWTON	04/26/03	0130	STLN VEH	AUTOTHFT	00109 E 51ST ST	STREET

PART I CRIMES FROM 04/01/03 TO 04/30/03

06:18 Saturday, May 3, 2003 110

▶ Indicates crime occurring in Park/Recreation Facility

Although the incidents of crime in parks appear to be single digit rare events, the RD statistics portray a higher level of criminal activity in the area. Area residents being the most likely park patrons will undoubtedly be aware of the safety issues and crime problems in the immediate neighborhood which may negatively impact park safety perceptions. RD statistics have only recently been made available. Future reports will include further data and analysis on criminal activity in RD's as it relates to the 62 Safe Parks. Additionally, the Department of Recreation and Parks has requested that the LAPD provide incidence of crime data by RD for the entire year of 2002 to serve as a benchmark for current trends and patterns.

RANGER COMMUNICATION SYSTEM UPGRADE

By mid-July 2003, the newly acquired software modules for the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system will be integrated into the existing system, thereby providing the Park Rangers with essential tools for properly storing incident data and real time extraction of useful information on incidents by a wide list of variables (e.g. facility, council district, neighborhood service area, reporting district, suspect, date/time, etc.). The capabilities of the fully integrated and enhanced CAD system will be further improved by the addition of an in-house trainer (systems group employee) who is attending three days of vendor training in St. Louis, Missouri at the end of June. The software and training components will be tested in mid-July as the Park Rangers begin to compare their monthly statistics with those currently provided by LAPD. The expectations are that the true nature of criminal activities in the Safe Parks will be fully detailed by utilizing LAPD crime statistics as well as the daily nuisance and quality of life calls to which Rangers routinely respond. Park Rangers also look forward to sharing their Safe Parks information with LAPD Senior Lead Officers as a cooperative means to develop comprehensive crime suppression strategies.

CONCLUSION

The growing cooperation and communication between LAPD and Recreation and Parks staff appears to be paying dividends. With nine months of data collected, it is evident that LAPD is consistently improving their performance in the Stop-in program. Visitations are progressively increasing and have reached new highs in the past three months. However, a disturbing increase in the number of Part 1 crimes in the 62 Safe Parks has been identified since the beginning of the year. This calls for increased vigilance and enforcement efforts from the LAPD and Park Rangers to prevent a further increase in criminal activity this summer. Going forward, the new data provided by LAPD Reporting District and data provided by the improved Ranger Communications System will provide additional tools for analyzing criminal activity in and around parks. Additionally, the Stop-in program will soon mark its one-year anniversary and the data we are currently collecting will serve as a valuable benchmark for year two.

This Informational Board Report was prepared by Daniel Gentry and Sarah Hill.

Attachment B

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

Number of Part 1 Crimes per Month by Facility

Safe Parks / Part 1 Crimes

1	Jordan Downs Recreation Center	Southeast		1	1			1			3	
2	Green Meadows Recreation Center	Southeast				2					2	
3	Jim Gilliam Recreation Center	Southwest									0	
4	South Park Recreation Center	Newton			1		1	1	1		4	
5	Gilbert Lindsay Community Center	Newton					3		1		4	
6	Trinity Recreation Center	Newton									0	
7	Central Recreation	Newton									0	
8	Ross Snyder Recreation Center	Newton					1	1			2	
9	Denker Recreation Center	Southwest									0	
10	Ramona Gardens Recreation Center	Hollenbeck			1		3		1		5	
11	Algin Sutton Recreation Center	77th	1								3	
12	MacArthur Park Recreation	Rampart			1	1		2	2	2	9	
13	109th Street Recreation Center	Southeast				1					1	
14	William Nickerson Recreation	Southeast								2	2	
15	Cypress Recreation Center	Northeast					1				1	
16	Mar Vista Gardens Recreation Center	Pacific									0	
17	Oakwood Recreation Center	Pacific									0	
18	Wilmington Recreation Center	Harbor								1	1	
19	Sunland Recreation Center	Foothill			1					1	2	
20	Lanark Recreation Center	West Valley						1		2	3	
21	Branford Recreation Center	Foothill									0	
22	David Gonzales/Pacolma Recreation	Foothill									0	
23	Hubert Humphrey Recreation	Foothill				1		1		2	4	
24	Sylmar Recreation Center	Foothill			1				2		3	
25	Sepulveda Recreation Center	Devonshire					1				2	
26	Delano Recreation Center	Van Nuys									0	
27	Hansen Dam Sprots Center	Foothill								1	1	
28	Normandie Recreation Center	Rampart									0	
29	Harvard Recreation Center	77th									0	
30	Fred Roberts Recreation Center	Newton							1		1	
31	Slauson Recreation Center	Newton									0	
32	Echo Park Recreation Center	Rampart				1		1	1		3	
33	Lincoln Heights Recreation	Hollenbeck									0	
34	Lincoln Park Recreation	Northeast			1		1	3		3	8	
35	Wabash Recreation Center	Hollenbeck					5				5	
36	Aliso Pico Recreation Center	Hollenbeck								1	1	
37	Hollywood Recreation Center	Hollywood	1			1	1		2	1	6	
38	St. Andrews Recreation Center	77th						1			1	
39	Normandale Recreation Center	Harbor									0	
40	Harbor City Recreation Center	Harbor									0	
41	Sun Valley Recreation Center	North Hollywood			2	1			2	3	8	
42	Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Recreation	Van Nuys								1	1	
43	Valley Plaza Recreation Center	North Hollywood	1								1	
44	North Hollywood Recreation Center	North Hollywood								4	4	
45	Van Nuys Recreation Center	Van Nuys							1		1	
46	Highland Park Recreation Center	Northeast									0	
47	Ardmore/Secul Recreation Center	Wilshire					1			2	1	4
48	Elysian Adaptive Recreation Center	Central										0
49	Toberman Recreation Center	Rampart			2	1						3
50	Rancho Cienega Sports Complex	Southwest	1							1		2
51	Loren Miller Recreation Center	Southwest	2					2				6
52	Costello Recreation Center	Hollenbeck										0
53	Bellevue Recreation Center	Rampart										0
54	Vineyard Recreation Center	Southwest							1			1
55	Elysian Valley Recreation Center	Northeast										0
56	Chevy Chase Recreation Center	Northeast					1					1
57	Yosemite Recreation Center	Northeast			1	1						2
58	Lafayette Recreation Center	Rampart										0
59	Glassell Recreation Center	Northeast							1			1
60	Anderson Community Center	Harbor										0
61	Griffith Park Ranger	Northeast					3	1	2	2	4	12
62	Panorama Recreation Center	Devonshire								1		1