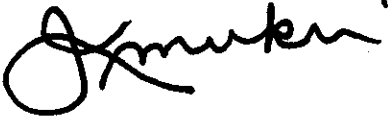


FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
Department of Recreation and Parks

November 17, 2004

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM: JON KIRK MUKRI   
General Manager

SUBJECT: REQUEST BY THE LOS ANGELES MUSEUM OF THE HOLOCAUST  
TO BUILD A NEW MUSEUM AT PAN PACIFIC PARK

The Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust (LAMH) is currently located in a store-front office building on Wilshire Boulevard near Fairfax Avenue in the Museum District. As an educational institution, the LAMH offers free admission and caters particularly to school groups as well as the general public. LAMH principals are also involved in the LA Memorial Monument Fund (LAMMF), which constructed the Holocaust Memorial Monument in Pan Pacific Park.

The LAMH has a vision for a new, permanent museum adjacent to the existing Holocaust Memorial Monument at Pan Pacific Park. This new museum concept was recently presented to the Pan Pacific Park Advisory Board (PAB) but was not well-received. After a thorough public discussion, the PAB voted unanimously against the proposed museum being constructed on the Park property. The Department has received no formal proposal or project scope; however, representatives from the Museum have requested an appearance before the Board at the November 17, 2004, meeting to share this vision with the Board and the public.

Background on Pan Pacific Park Ownership and the Holocaust Memorial

Prior to 1978, Pan Pacific Park was privately owned. A Purchase Agreement was negotiated for the property with funding from the City, County, the Flood Control District, and the State. This agreement stipulated that the State would receive title to the property; the Flood Control District would be given an easement to allow for development of a flood control project; the County (as the lead agency) would develop, maintain, and operate the property as a park. In 1998, SB 154 was passed which allowed the transfer of title of the property from the State to the City. This action was brought about because both the State and County determined that they no longer had the financial resources to operate or maintain the site. A Cooperative Agreement was executed by both the County and the City in early 2000 which transferred operational responsibility for the property to the City, after which a request was forwarded to the State in June 2000

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to convey title of the property to the City. Later that same year, construction began for development of the park and recreation center, but contaminated soil was discovered at the site. Due to this contamination, the Department requested to put a temporary hold on the conveyance. Meanwhile, the Department, with the assistance of Councilmember Ferraro, sought, found, and spent over \$600,000 to clean-up the oil contaminated soil, then sought reimbursement from the State and the County for the clean-up costs in September 2000. Negotiations for reimbursement failed and the Department was unable to obtain reimbursement from the State and County. The title conveyance was never completed, and the Department does not currently have title to Pan Pacific Park; therefore, any development that would take place in the park would first require approval from the State.

As part of the Cooperative Agreement between the City and County, a pre-existing Donation Agreement between the County and LAMMF was also transferred. This agreement with the LAMMF stipulated that in exchange for the construction of the Holocaust Memorial and the establishment of a \$50,000 maintenance fund, the County would provide maintenance for the Holocaust Memorial. The LAMMF was in the process of taking over the maintenance and operation of the Memorial from the County when the City took over operation of the park. On September 29, 1998, after the City began operating Pan Pacific Park, the Board (435-98) granted preliminary approval for a maintenance/security agreement with LAMMF, under which the Department would pay LAMMF \$3,200 a month to continue its maintenance of the memorial and for providing security services, pending approval and execution of the final maintenance/security agreement. On January 23, 2002, the Board (02-29) approved the issuance of a permit to LAMMF to continue its maintenance and security of the monument, with payment increased to \$3,600 a month, through September 30, 2004. On September 14, 2004, the Board (04-287) approved the extension of the permit to LAMMF on a month-to-month basis for a period not to exceed one year, at the same monthly payment rate. As of October 2004, the City has expended \$241,200 in consideration of maintenance and security for the Holocaust Memorial.

This report was prepared by Louis Loomis, Management Analyst II, Operations West.