

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 04-263

DATE September 1, 2004

C.D. 1

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE TO CHANGE THE HOURS OF SECTIONS II AND III IN THE ERNEST E. DEBS REGIONAL PARK

K. Chan \_\_\_\_\_  
J. Combs \_\_\_\_\_  
H. Fujita \_\_\_\_\_

J. Kolb \_\_\_\_\_  
F. Mok \_\_\_\_\_  
\*G. Stigile 

  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the modification of operating hours of Earnest E. Debs Regional Park as follows: Areas II and III (See Attachment 1) to open one hour before sunrise (no earlier than 5:30 a.m.) and close one hour after sunset; and,
2. Request the City Attorney to prepare and forward to the City Council, an ordinance amending Section 63.44 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to reflect the modified operating hours of Earnest E. Debs Regional Park

SUMMARY:

Current City ordinance requires City parks to be closed from 10:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. The neighbors of Debs Park and the Deb's Park Advisory Board have requested that Areas II and III be closed earlier, one hour after sunset; and open later, one hour before sunrise (no earlier than 5:30 a.m.). Areas II and III are both unlighted and are only accessible by entering the park on Monterey Road which is in a heavily populated residential neighborhood. Areas I is the active play area and Area IV is the Los Angeles Nature Center operating under a sub-management lease by the Audubon Society. Although Debs Park is heavily used by hikers and dog walkers, a change in the park hours would help relieve early morning and late night noise and traffic in the unlighted areas of the park. Illegal activities have also occurred in these areas after night fall. The Los Angeles Police Department has also asked for this change of hours; however, without an ordinance change approved by the City Council, this change of hours could not be backed by the force of law.

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This request is supported by Councilmembers Ed Reyes and Antonio Villaraigosa, the Councilmembers of the Districts adjacent to the facility. It is also supported by the Region Superintendent of Operations East.

The Department will prominently post the new hours, and the Park Rangers will be instructed to enforce the new park closure policy seven days a week.

This report was prepared by Tom Petrique of Operations East.

