CITY OF CARSON COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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The Community Services Department is comprised of five divisions: Administration, Community Center, Transportation, and Recreation and Human Services. The Department delivers services and programs to support citizens' diverse interests in parks, recreation, and culture. This includes operating and maintaining twelve (12) parks and four (4) mini-parks, two (2) aquatic centers and two (2) pools, a sports complex, and a boxing and weightlifting center. The Community Center offers 40,000 square feet of versatile meeting and event space including 12,000 square foot ballroom and meeting rooms that accommodate between 5 and 1,200 guests, and state-of-the-art visual services. And the Transportation Services Division provides citywide transportation programs related to improving the fixed-route public transit system, specialized elderly and disabled transit, transit support of city park programs, and regional air quality issues.

RECREATION DIVISION

PARK FACILITY RESERVATIONS

The Reservations Section has been updating Rules and Regulations to include COVID-19 information. Staff is awaiting guidelines from Los Angeles County Public Health about gatherings indoor and outdoor so staff can commence reserving park facilities.

ADULT SPORTS

Adult Soccer leagues will begin on Monday, April 12, 2021 and currently have 6 teams. Adult Sports Baseball has had the most interest and success. There are 23 teams continuing from the previous season that were put on hold in March of 2020 and another dozen teams interested in starting the new season which will begin Sunday, April 18, 2021. The teams have currently been holding practices at the parks as they gear up for the season. Adult Basketball has received a lot of inquiries. There are over 30 teams waiting to begin the season when LA County authorizes basketball to resume.

YOUTH SPORTS

T-ball/Baseball/Softball leagues are in the process of finalizing sign ups and tryouts with practices starting after April 10, 2021. Tentatively, games will begin around May 8, 2021. This will mark the first City of Carson run youth sports season since the conclusion of Youth Basketball in February of 2020.

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

		ENRIC	PARK CLASSES	
WEEK	Guitar	Piano	CSUDH Praxis Studio Art	Zumba
3/1 - 3/5	0	10	0	2
3/8 - 3/12	0	0	31	5
315 - 3/19	0	0	31	7
3/22 - 3/26	0	0	31	9
Month Total	0	10	93	23

The Enrichment Virtual Winter session ended on March 5th and the new session starts on April 12th. California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) offers free art classes through the CSUDH Praxis Art Program for children ages eight through eleven. The class takes place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The new session started on March 9th.

Staff is in the process of finalizing virtual park programs for commencement at the end of April, a date has not been determined. The virtual park programs will include the following; Arts & Crafts, Cheer, Cooking and Yoga. In-person Zumba classes have begun at Calas Park outdoors on Mondays at 3:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

PREVENTION AND AFTERCARE SERVICES

Week	New Clients	Open Cases	Closed Cases	Referrals Received	Extra Linkages
3/1 - 3/5	0	13	0	4	4
3/8 - 3/12	1	14	0	2	2
3/15 - 3/19	0	13	1	2	5
3/22 - 3/26	0	13	0	7	4
3/29 - 3/31	1	13	0	1	1
Month Total	2	66	1	16	16
FYTD Total	15	26	12	73	61

Prevention and Aftercare services consist of case navigation, resources and referrals to families with children under the age of 18 in the home. These families are referred by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), other organizations or can be self-referred. Extra linkages can be provided to families who do not need case navigation. These linkages may include but are not limited to food giveaways, counseling services, tutoring or housing services. Case navigation takes place via phone/virtually, due to COVID restrictions, but is normally in person. Social connection groups are on hold until further notice due to COVID.

KIDS CLUB AND DAY CAMP

Week	Calas	Carson	Del Amo	Dolphin	Veterans	Total
3/1 - 3/5	16	7	5	12	25	65
3/8 - 3/12	16	7	5	12	25	65
3/15 - 3/19	16	8	7	12	25	68
3/22 - 3/26	19	10	5	13	26	73
3/29 - 3/31	0	0	0	12	26	38
Month Total	67	32	22	61	127	309
FYTD Total	397	156	134	367	593	1647

Special Hours of Operation

Prior to the pandemic Kids Club operated four hours, five days per week from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. During the pandemic the State permitted Kids Club to open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. due to schools shut down. Distant learning at our State licensed sites (Veterans Park, Del Amo Park, Carson Park, Dolphin Park and Calas Park) is offered with an operating capacity of 50 percent.

COVID Protocol

Los Angeles County requires temperature checks daily along with questions answered before children enter rooms. Parents are not allowed in the rooms during this time. Children and staff wear masks all day and equipment / supplies are sanitized before and after every activity. Social distance of 6 feet is required and implemented throughout the day.

Staffing Challenges

As a result of the pandemic, Kids Club staff has worked more hours than usual. Under normal circumstances Kids Club is an afterschool program which runs August – June, open 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This year due to the pandemic and school closures, all day child care services have been provided to families while children participate in long distance learning at the parks. Kids Club staff are assisting children all day with schooling and also providing a safe and fun environment.

Program Participant Capacity

Kids Club State licensed sites capacity during pandemic is as follows:

Carson Park – 20 participants

Veteran Park – 25 to 30 participants

Calas Park – 20 participants

Del Amo Park – 30 participants

Dolphin Park – 25 participants

Day Camp capacity during the pandemic is NOT monitored by the State:

Anderson Park – 30 participants

Carson Park – 50 participants

Calas Park – 20 participants

Del Amo Park – 50 participants

Del Amo Park – 50 participants

Mills Park – 20 participants

Del Amo Park – 50 participants

Mills Park – 20 participants

Dolphin Park – 30 participants

Veterans Park – 50 participants

AQUATICS

The Aquatics programming commenced on Monday, March 1, 2021 at Dominguez and Hemingway Aquatic Centers. Residents of the City of Carson were able to take advantage of exercise programs such as Lap Swim, Fitness Swim, and Aqua Aerobics. Families were also able to enjoy their own space in the pool during Family Swim. Lastly, level 3 and above swimmers were able to join the instructor led Swim Conditioning classes to develop or maintain their swimming skills.

The Aquatics exercise programs have become popular during the Spring Season. Residents are reported to be participating in Lap Swim and Fitness Swim to train for an upcoming Ironman, Triathlon, and/or to simply stay physically active. During Lap Swim, patrons are creating their own 1-hour workout; while Fitness Swim is an instructor-led 1-hour workout. Lap Swim is available at various hours of the day at both Aquatic locations and Fitness Swim is held at 5:30 a.m. at Hemingway Aquatic Center. Also held at Hemingway Aquatic Center is our Aqua Aerobics program, which is largely participated by our local seniors.

During the pandemic, Aquatics ensured that families were safely able to continue their visit at Aquatic Centers. The pool was divided in various sections to ensure proper social distancing and separation from other households. Families enjoyed their own sections and some have commented that having designated sections was a better way to enjoy the pool. Family Swim is held at both Aquatic locations during various hours, with a maximum of 8 people, and a length of 1 hour.

The Swim Conditioning program is held at Hemingway Aquatic Center for higher level swimmers (level 3 and above) for 1-hour sessions on either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday. Many participants are from the Tigershark Swim Team who wanted to continue to improve their swimming skills. A maximum of two swimmers, starting and stopping at opposite ends of the pool, are allowed in each lane.

With the warmer weather and the LA County Department of Health's easing of COVID-19 restrictions, Aquatics is starting to see an increase of resident participation in the Aquatics programming as a whole. As of now, the following statistics reflect the first month in March:

FACILITY	LAP SWIM (A)	LAP SWIM (SR)	FAMILY SWIM (A)	FAMILY SWIM (C)	AQUA AEROBICS (A)	AQUA AEROBICS (SR)	FITNESS SWIM (A)	SWIM CONDITIONING (C)
Dominguez Aquatic Center	17	-	39	33	-	-	-	-
Hemingway Aquatic Center	17	5	40	19	10	25	57	23
Month Total	34	5	79	52	10	25	57	23

(Sr) Senior, (A) Adult, (C) Children

Furthermore, throughout the month of March, Aquatics was able to certify 120 Community Services employees with the American Red Cross CPR/AED and Standard First Aid. The course was provided through a Blended Learning format with both an online and in-person portion.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Non-Competitive Prop 68

On February 24, 2021, a site visit at Mills Park was conducted with an on-call architect, Engineering and Recreation staff. The scope of the project was discussed which included shading for three (3) picnic areas, shading around three (3) entrances to the main building and shading around the outdoor fitness area. Also discussed, was the installation of an outdoor restroom facility. The on-call architect will need approximately two to three weeks to provide the scope and cost of the project. Next step will be to identify additional funding sources in addition to the \$235,000 available to the City through the Prop 68 non-competitive grant. Once funding sources are identified, a staff report and resolution will be presented to City Council for approval of project. The deadline to submit the project to the Office of Grants and Local Services (OGLAS) Project Officer is December 2021. The City will use California Consulting Services to submit the grant application. As of end of March, the architect is still working on the scope of the project and a meeting has been set to go over the first draft on the first week of April.

Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article III

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) was completed and staff report was approved on consent at the City Council meeting on March 16, 2021, to approve the purchase of concrete picnic benches, concrete barbeques, and concrete coal collectors for a total of \$85,760. A total of 79 pieces will be divided between Stevenson Park, Mills Park and Anderson Park which are all located along the Carson Master Plan of Bikeways. Part of the funding , \$61,000, will come from TDA and has to be expended before May 31, 2021 and the remaining \$27,000 will come from the Development Impact Fee (DIF). A purchase order has been completed and sent to the vendor; staff is currently waiting on ETA of delivery. Additional prep work will be needed and coordination with the Public Works Department for the removal of old benches and installation of new concrete items.

Prop 68 Outreach

The City of Carson is pursuing funds from the Prop 68 State-wide Program to renovate Carriage Crest Park and Foisia Park. To facilitate input to improve the facilities, the Recreation Division hosted several events within the community to gain resident conceptual contributions. Interwest, City grant writer, finalized the grant applications and submitted the two grants on the Friday, March 12, 2021 deadline. Notifications of grant recipients are expected to be announced in late summer of 2021.

SPECIAL EVENTS

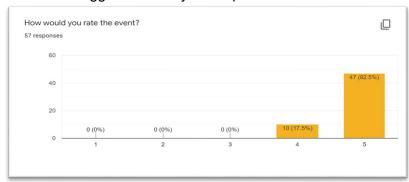
MARCH EVENTS

Contactless Egg Hunt

The Contactless Egg Hunt took place from March 19 through March 27, 2021. Participants were invited to hunt for five hidden eggs at their local park, scan each egg's QR code and be entered into a raffle to win a goodie basket after locating all five eggs. In order to win raffle prizes, participants must be Carson residents.

A survey for the Contactless Egg Hunt event was sent to 207 households and 57 responses were received. Of the 57 responses received 96.5% would recommend this event to someone in the future and 96.5% would participate in an event similar to this in the future. Total Participation for this event was 207 households, which parallels to approximately 600 individuals.

Contactless Egg Hunt survey result presented below:



Egg Decorating Contest

The Egg Decorating Contest took place from March 1 through March 29, 2021. Participants were encouraged to use a real or plastic egg, an egg-shaped cookie, a rock, play dough or clay, and decorate it by painting, coloring, drawing or bedazzling their egg. Award categories included: Traditional, Funniest, Most Original, Best Look Alike, Most Colorful, Prettiest, Most Creative, Best Scramble (messiest), and Best Overall. Judging for each of the categories was broken down into the age groups of 0-4, 5-10, 11-15, and 16+.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The following May events will be held VIRTUAL;

- Cinco de Mayo Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
- Memorial Day Monday, May 31, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

HUMAN SERVICES

STROKE CENTER

Dr. Paul Penoliar and his interns from California State University of Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) provide daily Occupational Therapy to stroke survivors via Telehealth. The Telehealth program began on January 25, 2021. There are currently 15 student interns; 8 interns work on Monday and 7 interns work on Tuesday. Presently his interns provide Occupational Therapy via Telehealth on a weekly basis to 9 stroke survivors to assist them in regaining their independence. The length of each treatment session averages 50 minutes. Additionally, his contract expires in June 2021; therefore, staff has begun working with the city attorney's office to renew this contract and complete a blanket Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for all programs that involve CSUDH.

SENIOR RECREATION

Senior Recreation continues to offer ZOOM fitness and dance classes, Monday through Thursday, from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Class attendance fluctuates with approximately 5 to 30 students per class. Inperson classes begin Monday, April 12th, at Carson Park on the outdoor basketball court area that includes Zumba, Yoga, and Hula Hoop Fitness. These outdoor classes will continue running Monday through Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

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WEEK	ZUMBA	FUNCTIONAL FITNESS	SALSA	YOGA
3/1 – 3/5	5	20	9	18
3/8 – 3/12	no session	19	10	16
3/15 – 3/19	7	14	no session	13
3/22 – 3/26	5	17	11	17
3/29 - 4/1	5	13	no session	14
Month Total	22	83	30	78
FYTD Total	126	318	73	257

SENIOR SOCIAL SERVICES

In Senior Social Services, assisting the most vulnerable population of homebound seniors has continued to be the priority. The Geriatric Aides continue to assist with meal delivery, grocery shopping, and other essential errands. Although many seniors 65 plus have been vaccinated, they are still staying close to home during the pandemic. The call center and Human Services office continues to get many calls for information and referrals; more recently most calls have been regarding tax programs and vaccine clinics. The senior pen pal program has expanded slightly including those seniors that would be in our Intergenerational program during normal programming. Carson Essentials 2.0, Meals on Wheels through the YMCA, and Grab N Go assistance are all utilized with assistance for seniors still isolated at home.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Early Childhood continues to provide Educational ZOOM classes for 77 children. To enhance our program and the needs of the children, Spanish lessons have been added to our daily curriculum. The children have been learning Spanish and getting familiar with essential everyday words. They sing songs, recite colors, recite shapes, count numbers 1-12, recite weather and also do show and tell in Spanish. The children are enjoying a new language in the most natural way possible.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

WEEK	AM	PM
3/1 – 3/5	43	33
3/8 – 3/12	43	33
3/15 – 3/19	43	33
3/22 – 3/26	43	33
3/29 - 4/1	43	33
Month Total	215	165
FYTD Total	1066	824

THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

Skill Builders Occupational Therapy (in partnership with the CSUDH OT program) is still ongoing and will run until April 12th. This program is held every Monday for an hour and is broken up into 2 different class times to accommodate maximum registration and the need for this valuable service. So far this session's participants have been able to partake in activities such as cooking, slime making, Valentine's card project, finger painting, chair Zumba, and strength exercises with therapy putty/exercise bands to name a few.

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WEEK	SKILL BUILDERS (O.T.) ENDS APRIL 19	SOCIAL CLUB	EXERCISE	ART & CRAFTS
3/1 – 3/5	10	6	8	7
3/8 – 3/12	8	5	6	6
3/15 – 3/19	no session	6	8	5
3/22 – 3/26	8	no session	no session	no session
3/29 - 4/1	no session	no session	no session	no session
Month Total	26	17	22	18
FYTD TOTAL	37	40	88	81

SPECIAL INTEREST CLASSES

Special interest programs are classes that provide educational instruction in a specialty field. These classes are offered during non-school hours to focus on concentrated areas of learning to provide additional instruction in various areas. Classes often consist of Mommy and Me, Early Start Education, Start Smart beginner sports programs, sign language, guitar, etc. Start Smart T-Ball for kids 2-5 years old will begin in a limited capacity (5 kids, 5 adults) this April. Classes will be held at Calas Park.

COVID TASK FORCE

The COVID Task Force was originally created to assist the community with emergency programs and resources needed for the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past year the needs of the community have evolved from assisting and feeding many residents, providing COVID testing, supporting homebound seniors, collaborating with outside organizations, to providing vaccinations.

Staff's biggest challenge was creating innovative ways to deliver these services to an elderly population with little technical knowledge. To solve this issue, staff created call centers to answer questions from the community, provided welfare checks to homebound seniors, and distributed flyers of all current programs, including our daily Grab-N-Go lunch program. Currently, the infection rate has decreased thereby reducing the amount of testing days and increasing the amount of vaccination pop ups.

WEEK	CALL CTR	GRAB & GO MEALS	TEST SITE CALL CTR	TEST SITE TEST GIVEN	TEST SITE HOME VISITS	CETG 2.0
3/1 – 3/5	142	3,500	62	587	4	90
3/8 – 3/12	152	3,500	18	121	0	60
3/15 – 3/19	135	2,800	17	554	0	82
3/22 – 3/26	53	2,750	22	115	0	63
3/29 - 4/1	141	3,300	64	428	0	4
Month Total	623	15,850	183	1,805	4	299
FYTD Total	15,920	154,573	8,170	34,884	90	762

Discontinued Programs - Carson Essentials to Go: 1,656; Food Distribution: 300; Meals on Wheels: 11,146

COMMUNITY CENTER

RENTALS

Currently, the Community Center Operations are shut down through the end of May due to the pandemic. This has severely impacted rentals for the facility. However, the Community Center is conducting inter-departmental rentals for Human Resources such as testing/interviews. Data for the month of March is as follows:

Inter-Departmental:

No. of Bookings – 5

CATERING

No catered events

Catering Request For Proposal

The current catering contract ends on December 31, 2021. As such staff will begin drafting the Request for Proposal (RFP) for prospective vendors. It is anticipated a vendor(s) will be secured no later than the start of the new FY 21-22.

MARKETING PLAN

The draft marketing plan is in the process of being finalized with a final draft by the end of April.

UPGRADES

Staff is in the process of completing the East Wing Kitchen refurbishment with the purchase and installation of new appliances. In addition, Public Works is the lead on the restroom upgrades, coiling wall replacement, and the installation of automated doors exiting the main lobby. Community Center staff will be scheduling a follow up with Public Works regarding the timeline and progression of the upgrades.

Audio Visual and Lighting

Staff is finalizing AV & Lighting RFP to refurbish & update the AV & Lighting in the Main Halls and Carson-Dominguez Room. The RFP will go out to prospective vendors the week of April 26th to ensure the project is complete before the end of the current FY in June.

TRANSPORTATION

The City of Carson's Transportation Division provides city-wide transportation programs including: fixed-route public bus service, first mile/last mile ride-hail services, specialized elderly and disabled transportation (Dial-A-Ride/Access), and bus transportation in support of City parks and youth programs. Transportation also works directly with LA Metro, South Bay Cities Council of Government (SBCCOG), and South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) on a variety of transportation policies, new initiatives, and funding opportunities.

CARSON CIRCUIT

The Disaster Council suspended the Carson Circuit effective March 28, 2020 out of safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the possibility of spreading the virus to passengers and bus operators. To better prepare for future return of services, staff has worked with consultants to finalize the City's very first Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) of the Carson Circuit. The report assesses the inefficiencies of the current program, and provides recommendations for future improvements.

Contingent upon future COVID-19 case numbers, fixed-route bus services may return in Fall 2021, in the form of an interagency agreement with Long Beach Transit. During the meantime, residents and visitors of Carson have access to on-demand ride hail services through Lyft and Dial-A-Ride (Yellow Cab). Riders receive a 50% discount on rides that stay within Carson proper through subsidies from local Prop C returns.

CARSON CIRCUIT RIDERSHIP[1]

	Cash Fare (\$1)	Wheel-Chairs (Free)	Seniors (Free)	Transfer/EZ/TAP	Total Trips	
Feb 2021		(Services currently suspended)				
Feb (2019 comparison)	5,358	127	5,863	2,720	14,068	
FY 20-21 YTD		(Services currently suspended)				

DIAL-A-RIDE

During the declared COVID-19 pandemic, Dial-A-Ride services are now available to Carson residents of all ages, with or without disabilities. Participants can order on-demand taxi service and receive a 50% discount off their ride. As of early March, Carson residents can take advantage of complimentary no-cost taxi rides To and From any City-designated vaccination site that falls within three (3) miles from City boundaries. Taxi drivers will stay with the rider throughout the entire process to ensure a safe worry-free return.

With the onset of the county-wide COVID-19 lockdowns, ridership took a sharp dip towards the end of March 2020. At its lowest point in April 2020, ridership dropped by over 72% comparatively to the beginning of 2020. As of February 2021, ridership has recovered by nearly 53%, and is on an upward swing of gradual recovery.

DIAL A RISE RISEROIM							
	Total Rides	Total Passengers	Avg Trips per Day	Avg Cost per Trip			
Feb 2021	1,321	1,778	47	\$12.55			
Feb 2020 comparison	2,737	4,344	94	\$10.66			
FY 20-21 YTD	9,030	12,717	37	\$13.00			

DIAL-A-RIDE RIDERSHIP[1]

LYFT

Carson residents are eligible to receive a 50% discount off the cost of their Lyft ride. Riders pay half and City pays half, up to a maximum City subsidy of \$10. Participants must be 18 years of age or older to ride alone. Rides must start AND end within City boundaries.

	Total Rides	Avg cost per trip	Avg subsidy per trip
Feb 2021	492	\$8.21	\$4.10
FY 20-21 YTD	3,086	\$7.42	\$3.61
March 2020 – Present	3,612	\$7.43	\$3.58

LYFT RIDERSHIP[1]

FUTURE PLANS

Transportation staff is currently in the planning stages of developing a City-operated on-demand Senior Transit Program for Carson residents, 60 years of age or older, with or without ambulatory, vision, or hearing impairments. Wheel-chair accessible transportation is currently offered through Access and Dial-A-Ride (Yellow-Cab), but participants are required to plan ahead and reserve their ride at least 24 hours prior to the trip. As a solution to this constraint, City staff will provide on-demand senior transit with .5 to 1-hour turnarounds. Participants will be able to travel to and from any location within city limits. All buses are equipped with ADA-compliant wheelchair lifts. Funding requests for the use of City staff and buses through Prop A and/or C will be presented to Metro for approval before presenting the proposed program to City Council.

Additionally, staff is working on the purchase of new bus shelters and benches. The shelters will be similar to the newer silver models along Carson Street and CSUDH, and feature side windows for advertising space. With a goal to replace the remaining aged blue shelters by FY 23-24, staff hopes to create a modern and much-needed uniform look throughout the City.

^{*}Majority of rides took 5-10 minutes in duration, 0-2 miles in distance.

^[1] Data received directly from contractor; statistics delayed due to internal review by contractor before release