

BOARD REPORT

NO. 18-040

DATE March 07, 2018

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: RUNYON CANYON – FIRST AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH FRIENDS OF RUNYON CANYON FOUNDATION FOR A THREE (3) YEAR EXTENSION OF THE TERM; CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 1(14) [ISSUANCE OF PERMITS TO USE AN EXISTING STRUCTURE INVOLVING NEGLIGIBLE OR NO EXPANSION OF USE] OF THE CITY CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz _____	V. Israel _____
R. Barajas _____	S. Piña-Cortez _____
H. Fujita _____	*N. Williams <u>NON</u>



 General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn X

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve a proposed First Amendment (First Amendment) (Attachment 1) to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Attachment 2), between the City of Los Angeles and Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation (FOR), Inc., a California non-profit corporation, to extend the term of the MOU for an additional three (3) years, subject to the approval of the Mayor, City Council, and City Attorney;
2. Find that the proposed First Amendment to the MOU is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(14);
3. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed First Amendment to the MOU to the Mayor in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3 (Villaraigosa Series), and concurrently to the City Attorney for review and approval as to form; and,
4. Authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the proposed First Amendment to the MOU subsequent to all necessary approvals.

SUMMARY

On December 14, 2016, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) approved the MOU between the City of Los Angeles (City) and FOR, authorizing FOR to raise funds for the restoration, preservation, and enhancement of Runyon Canyon Park (Park) based on the goals identified in the 1986 Runyon Canyon Park Master Plan. Runyon Canyon Park is located at 2000 North Fuller Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90046, which comprises one hundred sixty

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(160) acres of hiking, walking, and jogging trails with panoramic views of mountains and cityscape, along with a designated off-leash dog area, and picnic tables. FOR is a nonprofit public benefit corporation that became incorporated in California in 2014, for the purpose of improving the quality of the Park for visitors. FOR's mission is to raise funds and awareness for the preservation, maintenance, protection and beautification of the Park..

The MOU was executed on December 18, 2017 and has a term of eighteen (18) months from the date of execution, but with a stipulation that such term not extend beyond April 14, 2018.

The MOU has allowed FOR to secure private funding and donations to supplement the City's support of the Park to preserve, maintain and make needed improvements identified through partnership with the community. FOR provides recommendations based on community and park user surveys that they gather. This helps the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) with getting stakeholder buy-in when evaluating the acceptance of a project/improvement. FOR has been able to secure funding at an increased amount each year since the incorporation of their nonprofit organization. FOR has improved benches, bike racks, dog waste dispensers, trash containers, water fountains, trail restoration, and renovated the Park kiosk and message boards. These are improvements that were made to enhance the experience of Park visitors at no cost to the City, making this collaboration a value adding partnership.

Staff therefore recommends the proposed First Amendment to the MOU be approved to extend the term of the MOU for three (3) additional years beyond April 14, 2018.. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. FOR's performance of the Park fund raiser will continue to be monitored through annual performance reviews conducted by the Partnership Division to ensure continued compliance with the terms and conditions of the MOU. FOR shall continue to accept full liability for their operations and responsibility to maintain appropriate insurance protecting the City's interests in accordance with RAP policies.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed action consist of approving an amendment to the MOU between RAP and FOR to raise funds and seek donations that will aid in the preservation, maintenance, enhancement and improvement of the Runyon Canyon Park, with no expansion of use. As such, Staff recommends the Board determine that amending the MOU is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1 (14) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Improvements and enhancements to Runyon Canyon Park by FOR is work that RAP doesn't have to secure funding for. The MOU with FOR has proven to increase quality of life for the public's benefit, at no cost to the City, and to further the Master Plan of Runyon Canyon Park. Therefore the Board's approval and execution of the proposed Amendment to merely extend the Term of the MOU will have no adverse impact on the RAP General Fund.