



AGENDA REPORT

SAN CLEMENTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Meeting Date: August 15, 2017

Agenda Item 9C

Approvals:

City Manager gm

Dept. Head es

Attorney _____

Finance [Signature]

Department: Beaches, Parks and Recreation
Prepared By: Samantha Thomas, Recreation Manager

Subject: *PUBLIC RESTROOM HOURS AND SECURITY*

Fiscal Impact: Yes. Securing the restrooms will require a Park Monitor to stop and lock each facility in the evening, costing an additional \$15,140 per year. New gates and locking mechanisms will also be required on several beach restrooms, not to exceed \$50,000 in parts and labor.

Summary: Staff recommends that Council approve the locking of all public restrooms west of the I-5 freeway on beaches and in parks from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. for a one (1) year trial period. The purpose of this action is to decrease the total amount of damages and costs incurred to public restroom facilities due to elevated levels of vandalism.

Background: The City currently maintains twenty four (24) restroom facilities in its public parks and six (6) restroom facilities on City beaches. All parks and park restrooms are open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. All beaches and beach restrooms are open from 4 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Public restrooms are not currently secured after hours.

At its August 11, 2015 meeting, the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the possibility of locking public restrooms. Comments from the August 11, 2015 meeting are attached.

Discussion: The City of San Clemente has historically left public restrooms in parks and on beaches open, without doors in most cases. The restrooms have become targets for vandalism: illegal activity. Over the past year, Public Works staff have responded to an average of 4-5 incidences per month related to restroom vandalism. Total property damages incurred have cost approximately \$70,000.

In 2015, staff contacted nearby cities regarding operation of public restrooms. In the attachment, it shows that most of the cities lock their restrooms at night using a combination of automatic locks and manual locks. The cost to install magnetic/automatic locks is estimated at \$5,000 to \$7,000 per door.

Based on activity occurring over the last six months, the restrooms that are the most frequently targeted are located west of the I-5 freeway. The public park restrooms in this area include: Pico Park, Canyon View Park, Vista del Sol Park, Max Berg Plaza Park, Bonito Canyon Park, San Geronio Park, and Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park. The public beach restrooms west of the I-5 include: North Beach, Linda Lane/Corto Lane, Base of Pier, and T-Street (north and south).

Staff recommends the designated restrooms to be manually locked in the evening by part-time park monitor staff beginning at 10 p.m. and unlocked in the morning by contracted maintenance services, LandCare, at the beginning of their shift at 6:30 a.m. Locking and unlocking restrooms will take approximately one and one-half (1.5) hours to two (2) hours to be completed by 8:30 a.m. daily. It is recommended this service occur as a pilot program for a one (1) year period. At the conclusion of the pilot program staff will report back to Council with additional recommendations for the future.

Recommended

Action: STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the City Council

- 1.) Approve the locking of all public restrooms west of the I-5 on City beaches and in City parks from 10 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. for a one (1) year trial period; and
- 2.) Approve a supplemental appropriation of \$15,140 to account 001-624-41030-000-00000 for part-time park monitor salaries and a supplemental appropriation of \$50,000 to account 001-636-43420-000-00000 for supplies and labor.

Attachments:

- 1.) Restroom Operation – Agency Comparison.
- 2.) Excerpt from the Minutes of the August 11, 2015 Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Notification: None.

Restrooms Locked or Open City Comparison

City	Locked After Hours?	Manual/Automatic	Notes
Carlsbad	Yes	Manual	Contracted maintenance company
Dana Point	Yes	Manual	Contracted service
Huntington Beach Parks	No		Did at one time. Experience sporadic vandalism.
Huntington Beach Beaches	As Needed	Manual	Prefer availability to ensure patrons utilize facilities.
Irvine	Some	Automatic	Some left open at the request of residents.
Laguna Beach	Yes	Manual	Secured by Police Department
Mission Viejo	Yes	Manual	
Newport Beach	No		Prefer availability to ensure patrons utilize facilities.
Oceanside	Yes	Manual	Contracted security company
San Juan Capistrano	Yes	Automatic	
Tustin	Yes	Automatic	

5. NEW BUSINESS**A. Dog Access to Public Spaces**

Pamela Passow, Recreation Manager, summarized the contents of the administrative report regarding an update to dog access in public spaces and responded to Commission inquiries.

During discussion, Commissioners expressed interest in receipt of an update regarding sand replenishment efforts.

This item was informational in nature. No action was taken.

B. Public Restroom Hours

Pamela Passow, Recreation Manager, summarized the contents of the administrative report regarding locking public restrooms after hours, and responded to Commission inquiries.

During discussion, Commissioners, either individually or in agreement commented:

- There is a concern that with an automatic lock, a person could stay in or take another person into the restroom behind a locked door during evening hours.
- A manual lock would allow the restrooms to be checked prior to locking.
- Restroom locks should be considered as part of a broader issue of homelessness.
- There is an interest in seeing costs of vandalism at each of the restrooms.
- A gate is preferred over a solid door.
- There is a concern that a homeless person would not be able to access a restroom in the evening.
- Neighbors should be consulted regarding neighborhood parks.

6. PUBLIC INPUT

Don Kunze, San Clemente resident, opined that a subcommittee for the General Plan should be agendized.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

Pamela Passow, Recreation Manager, communicated the Boys and Girls Club has been discussing fence alternatives for the proposed fence at Bonito Canyon Park, and presented photos of possible options noting the item is expected to be considered by City Council in September; and communicated Partnership Applications will be considered by City Council on August 18th.

Steven Streger, Chair, communicated the Importance of Brown Act training for new Commissioners; and communicated the process by which Commissioners can agendize items of interest.