

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Partnership with Russell Westbrook’s Why Not? Foundation to Support Continued Redevelopment and Improvements at Earvin “Magic” Johnson Park

On October 15, 2019, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors approved the 2019 Revised Master Plan (Plan) for the Earvin “Magic” Johnson Recreation Area (Park) located at 905 East El Segundo Boulevard, in the unincorporated community of Willowbrook. The intent behind completing the Plan was to holistically reimagine the Park and to think cohesively about how the regional facility could be energized with a broad range of much-needed amenities to ensure that it is inviting, safe and meets the needs of a diverse and wide variety of current and future users.

The Plan, led by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), reflects feedback from hundreds of neighbors and Park users who contributed their time and creativity to articulating the priority future uses desired for the Park, and the result is visionary. The first phase of improvements, which were completed this Fall, included an event center, wedding pavilion and outdoor play areas, in addition to an enhanced southern lake with multi-benefit water features, a walking path and new landscaping. The second phase of improvements, which are currently under construction, include a large outdoor open space and event area, native butterfly garden, and dog park. This work has been completed in close coordination with the County’s Chief Executive Office, which has led

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efforts associated with the previous soil clean-up and ongoing remediation of groundwater underneath the Park.

The Plan, which covered all 120 acres of the Park, also contemplated siting an array of recreational facilities in the southern section of the Park. However, resources have not yet been identified to support implementation of this component of the Plan.

DPR has a long history of partnering with foundations and community-based organizations in the County's parks, facilitating philanthropic investment to support broader community amenities and services that the County has been unable to provide directly. Some of DPR's most iconic facilities, including the Hollywood Bowl, Ford Theatre, Descanso Gardens, South Coast Botanical Garden and Arboretum of Los Angeles County, are operated in strong partnership with local, community-led foundations that complement and support DPR's mission, vision and values.

Founded in 2012, the Russell Westbrook Why Not? Foundation (Foundation) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting community-based education and family service programs while encouraging youth to believe in themselves. The Foundation works to help children that are facing all types of hardships, and when confronted with adversity, the children are taught to fight to succeed and to never give up. The Foundation has previously partnered with local organizations to support programming and services within traditionally underserved areas in Los Angeles, and now envisions expanding its reach through the development of a facility dedicated to youth and families in South Los Angeles. Specifically, the Foundation has proposed building the "Westbrook Center of Empowerment" at the Park, comprised of a new multi-purpose recreational center that would host sports, after-school, and leadership development programming for youth and their families who live in the surrounding area. Over 250,000 youth live within five miles from the Park, making it an ideal location for the services and programming that the Foundation and DPR envision, in a manner that is synergistic with the improvements that have been completed and are currently underway at the Park.

Initial funding of \$300,000 to seed the Project is available from the Regional Park and Open Space District Proposition A Excess Funds, available to the Second Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhoods Parks Proposition of 1996, of which 25% may go towards eligible soft/administrative costs.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

- 1) Find that the approval of the proposed actions is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15378 because the actions do not commit the County of Los Angeles (County) to a project and will not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment;
- 2) Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to enter into an Exclusive Negotiation Agreement with the Russell Westbrook Why Not? Foundation (Foundation) for a 12-month period, with renewals subject to their discretion, that contemplates either a long-term ground lease or a funding and operating agreement, which would ultimately be subject to final approval by the Board of Supervisors and compliance with CEQA, in order to develop and operate the “Westbrook Center for Empowerment” (Project) that will be designed to provide enhanced recreational amenities and community programs consistent with the 2019 Revised Master Plan for the Earvin “Magic” Johnson Recreation Area and the needs of the surrounding area;
- 3) Upon approval of \$300,000 of Proposition A Excess Funds from the Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District, delegate authority to the Director of DPR to execute a grant agreement and approve the attached appropriation adjustment to appropriate \$300,000 in DPR’s operating budget to support County costs associated with the Project, which will be funded in part with Proposition A Excess Funds, available to the Second Supervisorial

District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996; and

- 4) Adopt the Youth Employment Plan as required by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District.

I FURTHER MOVE, ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT:

- 1) Allocate an amount not to exceed \$300,000 in Excess Funds, available to the Second Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to DPR for the Project; and
- 2) Authorize the Director, in her capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant, and to administer the grant as of the date of award and pursuant to guidelines in the Proposition A Grants Administration Manual for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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November 10, 2020

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:

THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. PLEASE CONFIRM THE ACCOUNTING ENTRIES AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR HER RECOMMENDATION OR ACTION.

ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFORE

FY 2020-21

4 - VOTES

SOURCES		USES	
PARKS AND RECREATION A01-PK-91-9021-27640 OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES INCREASE REVENUE	300,000	PARKS AND RECREATION A01-PK-2000-27640 SERVICES & SUPPLIES INCREASE APPROPRIATION	300,000

SOURCES TOTAL \$ 300,000

USES TOTAL \$ 300,000

JUSTIFICATION

Reflects an increase of \$300,000 in appropriation for the continued redevelopment and improvements at Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park offset with revenue from Proposition A Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996.

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Robert Maycumber
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Robert Maycumber, Dept. Finance Manager II

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL (AS REQUESTED/REVISED)

#20 NOV 10 2020

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR

ACTION
 RECOMMENDATION

APPROVED AS REQUESTED
 APPROVED AS REVISED

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

BY *Laura...*
DATE *Nov. 4, 2020*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BY *Chia Ann...*
DATE November 4, 2020

B.A. NO. 082

ATTACHMENT II

EARVIN “MAGIC” JOHNSON PARK PARTNERSHIP WITH RUSSELL WESTBROOK’S WHY NOT? FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT CONTINUED REDEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS AT EARVIN “MAGIC” JOHNSON PARK

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PLAN

Background (Scope of Work)

The Project supports proposed improvements at Earvin “Magic” Johnson Recreation Area, located at 905 East El Segundo Boulevard in the unincorporated community of Willowbrook. The Project is comprised of planning work and negotiations for the future development of the “Westbrook Center for Empowerment” that will be designed to provide enhanced recreational amenities and community programs consistent with the 2019 Revised Master Plan for the Earvin “Magic” Johnson Recreation Area and the needs of the surrounding area.

Tasks That May Be Performed by At-Risk Youth

There are no tasks that youth can perform related to the Project. This is due to the specialized and administrative nature of the planning and negotiation work involved in implementing the recommendation of the Board action.

Youth Employment Goal

The Youth Employment Goal for the County of Los Angeles is \$15,739,507.43. The Department has exceeded this goal.