



## CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** December 6, 2011  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council  
**From:** David Lightner, Deputy City Manager  
Steven Zoet, Director of Community Services  
**Subject:** Beverly Gardens Park Restoration Proposal

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Beverly Hills resident, Steven Gordon, has approached the City with an offer to spearhead a private fundraising effort to restore and enhance the entire length of Beverly Gardens Park just north of Santa Monica Boulevard and Wilshire Boulevard from the east end to the west end of the City.

### **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Gordon's proposal is not to redesign the Park, but to repair and restore the Park to its best historical splendor and to consider minor enhancements appropriate to the site's current status as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Recognizing that this could ultimately be a very costly effort at a time when the city has many high priority demands on capital and operating budgets, the proposal is to conduct a private fund raising effort, potentially including a maintenance endowment, to fund the project.

There are related infrastructure projects in the current 5-year Capital Improvement Plan, such as irrigation upgrades, installation of gateway treatments and the reconstruction of the Santa Monica Boulevard roadway that could be coordinated and incorporated as City contributions toward the project. The City would retain full approval authority over the design and scope of the Park project.

Mr. Gordon has expressed interest in being as inclusive as possible with Park stakeholders if this effort is to move forward and would anticipate scoping meetings with Commissioners, neighbors and others in addition to working closely with the City Council. The City Council's Recreation and Parks liaisons (Brien, Gold) have discussed the concept preliminarily and it is recommended that this opportunity be forwarded to the liaison committee for further review and development.

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Mr. Gordon has offered to fund the initial design work himself, recognizing that some preliminary effort will be needed in order to conduct an effective fund raising campaign. Although he is currently out of town, Mr. Gordon will be available to discuss this proposal personally at the January 24, 2012 Study Session.

A further related opportunity may exist if the two former railroad right of way properties, Parcels 12 and 13, along the south side of Santa Monica Boulevard can be coordinated with this project. Further discussion of this issue is scheduled for Closed Session.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

As noted, this effort is proposed as a private fund raising initiative where the City's contribution would be through combining any overlapping currently budgeted projects. Additionally there would be dedication of staff resources from Policy & Management, Recreation & Parks and Public Works to coordinate and review the design and oversee the construction to assure that it is done to the appropriate high standard. Completion of a more final scope of work would be needed before a meaningful estimate of needed staff resources can be provided.

No funds are being requested to initiate the review and development of the proposal.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council approve further study of this opportunity and refer the matter to the City Council's Recreation & Parks liaisons, anticipating a further report and discussion with Mr. Gordon at the January 24<sup>th</sup> Study Session.

David Lightner   
Approved By