

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Caroline

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**Council File No:** 26-1100-S15

**Comments for Public Posting:** Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15 I strongly support the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to double the minimum funding for the Department of Recreation and Parks from 0.0325% to 0.065% of assessed property value phased in over ten year as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15. I am grateful for the City Council's vote to introduce and advance this measure and urge its continued support to approve this ballot and amended charter language so that voters can decide in November. Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where children learn, play, and thrive, and where everyone can find space to be outside and be in community with each other. Yet due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. RAP has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park. Doubling the parks Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Park Needs Assessment. This funding is necessary to restore our park system: reopening recreation and senior centers seven days a week, restoring pool hours, staffing and repairing parks, cooling centers and emergency shelters, and beginning to address park equity. These are basic services every Angeleno deserves. Waiting is not a neutral choice. Every year of inaction means higher repair costs, greater safety risks, and deeper disparities in park access. Doubling parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue. I thank the Council for its actions to put this forward and strongly urge placement of this measure on the November 3, 2026 ballot. Respectfully submitted, Caroline