

ARTS, PARKS,
M O T I O HEALTH & AGING

NOV 15 2005

AUDITS & GOVERNMENTAL EFFICIENCY

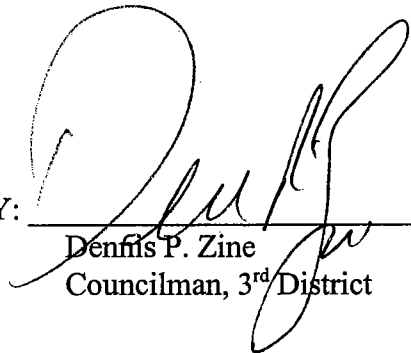
The Controller released an audit of the Municipal Recreation Program Fund administered by the Department of Recreation and Parks on November 10, 2005; the primary purpose of the Fund is to collect fees from persons participating in recreation programs which will cover the direct costs of providing the programs. The Controller found that there was woeful lack of oversight over the Fund, and, apparently, monies in the Fund are not always being used by the Department for their intended purpose. The Controller also found that program fees charged by the Department for the same recreational services vary greatly among the facilities and locations throughout the City of Los Angeles.

The Controller is recommending that the management of the Department of Recreation and Parks: (1) require recreational facility directors to track the direct costs of operating each program and set program fees to recover these costs (plus up to 15% for administrative expenses); (2) convene the Program Fee Committee to conduct regular surveys and reviews of program fees throughout the City to ensure consistency, fairness, and compliance with Department policy; and (3) ensure facilities comply with Departmental policies with respect to approval of program fees, maintaining program materials, and approving discounts.

The City Charter grants to the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners, among other powers and responsibilities, the authority to control all recreational and park sites, to establish schedule of charges for special services, and to control, appropriate and expend all money in the Recreation and Park Fund. However, in setting policy for the Department, the Board must comply with fundamental principles of due process which should assure that all fees are set in an equitable and fair manner. Additionally, State law prevails over local laws, and there may be State laws governing the setting and charging of fees for recreational services and programs.


I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the City Council direct the Department of Recreation and Parks and the City Attorney, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer and the Chief Legislative Analyst, to report to the Council as soon as possible: (1) the policy and procedures for setting and charging fees for recreational programs and services; (2) whether or not the policies and process comply with due process; (3) how the discrepancies identified by the Controller in charging recreational fees can be eliminated; and (4) if there is State laws governing the setting and/or charging of recreational fees by local jurisdictions, how the Department of Recreation and Parks is complying with those laws.

PRESENTED BY:


Dennis P. Zine
Councilman, 3rd District

AP

SECONDED BY:



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