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In the Matter of:

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF LONG BEACH.
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DATE: Tuesday, April 7, 2020
TIME: 7:00 p.m. (via videoconference)

APPEARANCES: DAVID FRASER, City Clerk
JOHN BENDO, City Council President
KAREN MCINNIS, City Council VP
MICHAEL DELURY, City Council Member
SCOTT MANDEL, City Council Member
ELIZABETH TRESTON, City Council Member
DONNA GAYDEN, City Manager
RICH BERRIOS, ESQ.
SCOTT KEMINS, Fire Commissioner

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1 [Audio, begins]

2 MR. FRASER: Good evening, and
3 welcome to the regular meeting of the Council
4 of the City of Long Beach, held Tuesday, April
5 7th, 2020 at 7 p.m. Can I have a roll call?
6 Councilmember Delury?

7 MR. DELURY: Present.

8 MR. FRASER: Councilmember Mandel?

9 MR. MANDEL: Present.

10 MR. FRASER: Councilmember Treston?

11 MS. TRESTON: Here.

12 MR. FRASER: Vice President McInnis?

13 VP MCINNIS: Present.

14 MR. FRASER: President Bendo?

15 PRES. BENDO: Present.

16 D. FRASER: Let the record indicate
17 the presence of City Manager, Donna Gayden and
18 acting corporation counsel, Rich Berrios.
19 We'll going to have a salute to the flag.

20 PRES. BENDO: Councilman -- let's
21 see, oh you've got the flag in the background.
22 Why don't you lead us in the Pledge?

23 MR. DELURY: Okay, hands over heart.

24 ALL: I Pledge of Allegiance to the
25 flag of the United States of America and to the

1 Republic for which it stands, one nation under
2 God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for
3 all.

4 PRES. BENDO: All right, well, good
5 evening, folks. Obviously, this is a --
6 something new, a little out of the ordinary.
7 With the social distancing issues, we thought
8 this would be the safe course of action to
9 take, rather than try to get people spread out
10 together in a room. We get to sort of
11 accomplish the same thing here and keep us even
12 safer.

13 So with that, I'm going to ask our
14 City Manager to give her report. Unmute.

15 MS. GAYDEN: Okay, can you hear me
16 now? All right, good evening, everyone. The
17 last few weeks we have been working diligently
18 on the budget for the 20/21 fiscal year. I
19 have been sharing all of my financial
20 information with the department heads and you,
21 of course, the council.

22 Also, I had to share my financial
23 information today with the State. And what I
24 found is that over the last few years from 2014
25 to 2015, the budgets have been around 80

1 million to up to \$85 million in revenues, and
2 then the expenditures were 80 to 85 to balance
3 the budget.

4 But what I found was that the City in
5 the general fund have never brought in more
6 than \$77 million, and so in doing such, we had
7 to adjust the budget for the 20/21 year to
8 match what the revenues that have been coming
9 in. And so that, with the expenditure budget
10 of -- it was around \$86 -- \$87 million, we have
11 a huge short fall, and so everybody knows
12 that's listening in and I've explained it to
13 the Council and I've explained it to the
14 department heads: When I look at a budget, I
15 look at over the years that we received money
16 and I take -- I look to see how much we
17 received.

18 So to jump from 77 or \$79 million to
19 \$85 million, I have to understand why. And
20 right now, there is -- we don't foresee any way
21 we can jump that high. Especially with
22 everything that's going on currently.

23 So that left a deficit of bringing
24 the revenues to where we thought they should
25 be, estimating with the expenditures that the

1 department heads had sent -- had given us to
2 probably, at the onset, was like an \$8 million
3 deficit. Now, the deficit is \$6.5 million, so
4 we have been working and I've been working hard
5 with the department heads. I have met with the
6 three unions to ask what we could do to bring
7 this budget back in line.

8 So we will be working on this the
9 next couple of days. Council, you will receive
10 your budget on the 10th as promised, and then
11 we'll move forward.

12 We also have been working on the
13 current years, so the current year meaning
14 March 31 of 2020. In doing so, I have noticed
15 in working with the Comptroller, that the City
16 has spent \$59 million versus bringing in \$50
17 million, which has left an \$8 million short
18 fall or \$51 million if you round for revenues.

19 And so we've been looking at all the
20 things that we could do for cost cutting
21 measures for this current year, because we know
22 that sales tax, and a lot of other revenue
23 sources will not be coming in at what was
24 predicted, and what was actually predicted and
25 budgeted for, was again, about \$85 million, and

1 we're in line to spend \$85 million what the
2 budget was for, but we're not in line to
3 receive the \$85 million.

4 So in doing so, we enacted a hiring
5 freeze yesterday. A part-timers debt were
6 considered non-essential because those centers
7 are closed, were laid off, for the rest of the
8 fiscal year. That would give us about a
9 \$600,000 savings, because they were non-
10 essential and the rec center, nor is the family
11 -- Youth and Family Service and Senior Center
12 open, nor is the day care. I'm working also
13 with the department heads to find out how we
14 can close this gap for the year end, and
15 especially after once the audit is published
16 for the 18/19, we have to figure out a way to
17 start filling in these gaps.

18 Does anyone have any questions?

19 VP MCINNIS: Not at this time.

20 PRES. BENDO: All right, thank you.

21 I guess I just wanted to give some updated
22 statistics on what's going on with COVID.

23 As of yesterday, there were 150
24 positive cases in Long Beach. There are 194 on
25 the barrier island. It's up more at the County

1 level. They tested 36,320 people, and out of
2 that, 16,610 have tested positive, so
3 basically, almost 46 percent of the people
4 they're testing are coming back positive.

5 If you're watching the news, you know
6 that Long Island, Nassau in particular, is
7 becoming the new hot spot with COVID. We're
8 going up by about 1,000 cases a day, positives
9 a day in Nassau County, so unfortunately, it's
10 shifting in our direction, which of course,
11 makes social distancing all that much
12 important. So please do that. We've
13 instructed the police to also enforce it, but
14 unfortunately, the police can't be everywhere.
15 We don't have an unlimited size police force,
16 so they're doing as best as they can, but
17 please, please, you know, keep your distance.
18 Use common sense, because it's getting worse
19 here now.

20 Also, there's some new guidelines out
21 now that they're recommending, when people go
22 outside, that they do wear a mask now.
23 Recognizing masks are hard to come by, they're
24 suggesting wear something like a bandana or
25 just a cloth or something over your mouth.

1 There was a -- one of the cleaners up
2 on Park Avenue by the movie theater was making
3 masks. I believe they were looking for a
4 donation, so that's something for you to
5 consider.

6 Those of you that are going on to the
7 beach, please, don't bring your dog on the
8 beach. Only service dogs are allowed on the
9 beach. I get it, the dogs like the beach, but
10 please, no dogs on the beach.

11 This one, I guess it's -- I don't
12 even know why I have to say this one, but
13 people are throwing their disposable gloves and
14 masks on the ground and in parking lots at
15 supermarkets and other places. Please, don't
16 do that. Somebody has to pick that up. So not
17 only is a potential pollution hazard that it
18 can wind up in our water ways, because that's
19 where our sewers go, but it's a health hazard,
20 because somebody has to pick that up, and
21 you're potentially contaminating someone. So
22 please, dispose of your gloves and masks in the
23 proper trash receptacles.

24 City council and the school board,
25 the Long Beach Public School Board issued a

1 joint letter that we sent to the Governor and
2 to the New York State Department of Health,
3 asking them to conduct an immediate site
4 assessment for a temporary medical facility to
5 be set up on the barrier island to address the
6 COVID-19 issue. South Nassau Community
7 Hospital is at capacity, so we requested a
8 facility that can be utilized to treat those
9 suffering from complications from COVID or to
10 address the surge and overflow capacities that
11 are happening at the current hospitals.

12 So we issued that the day before
13 yesterday and we'll see if anything comes of
14 that.

15 I just want to circle back to the
16 finances for a second. So what we have found
17 now that we're able to get into the books is
18 that the City's been grossly over estimating
19 revenues and us under-estimating expenses for
20 the last six years.

21 Basically, we've been running annual
22 deficits ranging from, on the low end, \$800,000
23 (inaudible) the loss, up to \$8.3 million.
24 That's in a year, one year. Obviously, that is
25 completely unsustainable. The City cannot

1 function that way.

2 So basically, we have full access to
3 the books now. We have a City Manager that has
4 financial expertise, but as she reported, it's
5 not pretty right now. We're looking at having
6 to make up six and a half million dollars just
7 to get to break even, but with the previous
8 losses, we're looking at about \$14.6 million
9 deficit in our bank account, in effect. So
10 we're in the red \$14.6 million.

11 And just to give you a little bit of
12 a perspective on that, if we wanted to do a tax
13 increase, to clear up that \$14.6 million?
14 We're looking at a 40 percent tax increase.
15 That's how bad this is. Now, obviously, that's
16 not going to happen. We just can't put this on
17 people's backs, but it gives you an indication
18 of what a -- kind of an ugly place we're in
19 right now. And like I said, that 40 percent
20 that I just mentioned, that's just to get us to
21 break even. That doesn't put anything back
22 into the reserve for the rainy day fund for the
23 tough days that might be ahead.

24 So you know, the City's -- let's face
25 it, the City's been kicking the can down the

1 road on finances for a while now, and the
2 simple fact is that we've -- we've reached the
3 end of the road, and -- hell, we haven't even
4 reached the end of the road. We've run into a
5 wall, quite frankly. There's just no hiding
6 from this anymore. It has to be dealt with.

7 So we're going to be making some very
8 difficult decisions. What you heard today is
9 the first one with these layoffs. This was not
10 easy to do. We're having major impacts on
11 people's lives, but these are the types of
12 difficult decisions that are going to have to
13 be made to fix them -- fix our finances, and
14 this is not an overnight fix. This is not
15 going to happen quickly. We've developing a
16 five-year financial plan to basically make it
17 so we can start climbing out of this hole.
18 We're working with a financial advisor. We're
19 working with the Stat Comptroller's office.
20 This is kind of an "all-hands-on-deck" thing
21 right now.

22 So what we're doing right here
23 tonight and what we're going to be doing is
24 unlike the past, and I know when I was on the
25 other side of the podium, you know, I was going

1 up and asking questions and not getting
2 answers, we're laying it out for everyone to
3 see. We're laying it on the table. Everybody
4 needs to understand where we are, and how bad
5 things are, because the only way we're going to
6 fix this is together. It's not going to be
7 fixed overnight. It's going to be a process
8 over several years, but you need to understand
9 what's really going on.

10 So that's it for the finances really.

11 I want to talk about a gentleman
12 named Dan Steele. Dan passed away in a nursing
13 home on April 3rd, and I'm guessing a lot of
14 you are asking who Dan Steele was? The simple
15 answer is Dan was married to Clara for 61
16 years. He had 8 children, 30 grandchildren and
17 32 great grandchildren and Dan would have been
18 91 on Monday.

19 The reason you really need to know
20 who Dan was is because of what he did for this
21 country. Dan was a U.S. Army veteran, a Chief
22 Warrant Officer. He joined the Army in 1946
23 and he served for 30 years. He served in the
24 Korean War. He did three -- I'm going to say
25 that again, three combat tours in Vietnam. The

1 man was just, you know, a hero, but he was in a
2 nursing home, and because of the COVID-19, his
3 nursing home was on lockdown, so Dan passed
4 away alone. I think we owe it to Dan and the
5 others that were not able to have their loved
6 ones with them in their final moments, at their
7 time, so I'm asking you to just join me quickly
8 in a moment of silence for Dan. I also want to
9 mention Karen Mirando, the wife of our Public
10 Works Commissioner, John Mirando, who he lost
11 this week and everyone else who we've lost in
12 this terrible time. So if we could just have a
13 moment of silence, please.

14 Okay, thank you.

15 And then just finally, we want to
16 with everyone a safe and healthy holiday season
17 this week. Obviously, we're probably going to
18 be celebrating our holidays a little
19 differently this year, but please have a safe,
20 healthy and Happy Passover and Easter holidays.

21 So with that, I guess we will get on
22 to the agenda.

23 MR. FRASER: Okay, Item 1 has been
24 taken off the calendar. Item 2 is a resolution
25 regarding exemptions, exclusions to the

1 Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

2 PRES. BENDO: Okay, I'm going to ask
3 corporation counsel, Mr. Berrios, to explain
4 what this is.

5 MR. BERRIOS: Good everyone. Can you
6 hear me?

7 PRES. BENDO: Yes.

8 MR. BERRIOS: Just making sure. Okay.
9 So this item, as the council knows and maybe
10 some of the public knows, the Families First
11 Coronavirus Response Act was passed on March
12 18th of 2020. It's effective date is April 1st
13 through the end of this year. What the law
14 does is it has temporary expansions to the FMLA
15 and Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act provisions.

16 What the Act permits, though, is in
17 light of the fact that our first responders and
18 public works personnel provide very critical
19 services to the public, it allows all covered
20 employers to exempt them from these provisions.
21 Not from any other provisions like the State
22 Paid Sick Leave Act or anything like that, but
23 just from these provisions.

24 The reason being is that, we
25 recognize the critical service that -- critical

1 services that these individuals provide, and we
2 just want to ensure that they can continue to
3 be provided to the public in this time of
4 emergency.

5 PRES. BENDO: Okay, any questions
6 from the councilmembers?

7 All right, and did we get any
8 questions from the public on this, Dave?

9 MR. FRASER: I have nothing on the
10 chat for this --

11 PRES. BENDO: Dave, you're talking
12 but -- okay, great, so I guess we can move on.

13 MR. FRASER: There's Item 3, is a
14 resolution authorizing the City Manager to
15 renew the current contract with the East End
16 Atlantic Beach Fire District.

17 PRES. BENDO: Oh, sorry, yes. Okay,
18 is Scott Kemins on?

19 MR. FRASER: He is on as a caller. I
20 will unmute him right now. Hold on, one
21 second. Scott, I'm going to unmute your
22 microphone. Scott, are you there?

23 MR. KEMINS: Okay, can you hear me?
24 I am here. Can you hear me?

25 ALL: Yes.

1 MR. KEMINS: Okay, so this is a
2 renewal of an ongoing contract that we've had.
3 I've been in the fire department forty years
4 and it was well -- out -- past dated me. We've
5 gone back and researched it and it's been at
6 least 70 years that we've provided fire and EMS
7 service to the East Atlantic Beach Fire
8 District.

9 So this contract is for an additional
10 five years, beginning January 1st of this year.
11 What we did was it's a three percent,
12 compounded increase. So three percent each
13 year, compounded and then the total five-year
14 amount was taken and divided by five, so each
15 year's payment is equal. This is what we've
16 done in our previous contracts with them as
17 well as the Atlantic Beach Fire District, so
18 it's an equal amount yearly for those five
19 years, but it is compounded three percent
20 increase each of those five years.

21 We average about 160 calls a year
22 down there, fire and EMS. About 80 percent of
23 the calls are EMS. You break out the dollar
24 amount of the yearly contract based upon the
25 calls we go down there. We get approximately

1 \$728 per call, plus the EMS calls, we also bill
2 for those, so that was additional income. Our
3 paid firefighters and paramedics do respond
4 there. It's part of their contractual agreement
5 with the City, but there's no additional cost
6 to us for them responding down there, because
7 they're already working and already being paid,
8 and like I said, we do bill for the ambulance
9 when they do get -- go down there.

10 There is obviously some fuel and wear
11 and tear on the vehicles, but nowhere does that
12 come even close to \$728 per call.

13 So far this year for January 1st
14 through today, April 7th, we responded down
15 there 37 times, with once again, about 80
16 percent of that was for EMS.

17 PRES. BENDO: Okay. Are you finished?

18 MR. KEMINS: Yes.

19 PRES. BENDO: Okay, any questions
20 from the council? Okay. Did we get any
21 questions from the public, Dave?

22 MR. FRASER: I have nothing in the
23 chat, but give me one second. Folks, if you
24 have a question for this, please post it in the
25 chat, not on the Q and A. I'm having trouble

1 bringing that up. It's not letting me scroll
2 through it. One second.

3 PRES. BENDO: Okay, I'm not seeing
4 any.

5 MR. FRASER: I have one question that
6 is up. Can all of you see it? John, can you
7 see it?

8 PRES. BENDO: No.

9 MS. TRESTON: I don't think that's
10 appropriate.

11 PRES. BENDO: Okay, I'm not seeing
12 any questions.

13 MR. FRASER: There was a second
14 comment.

15 PRES. BENDO: Okay, well -- I'm not
16 even sure what that question means, so all
17 right, let's move on.

18 MR. FRASER: I believe that there was
19 an amendment.

20 PRES. BENDO: Yes. Do you want to do
21 that now or just before we get to the
22 resolution to vote?

23 MR. FRASER: Let's do that right now.

24 PRES. BENDO: Okay. I'd like to
25 propose an amendment to Item 3 where in the

1 last section of the first resolved, where it
2 says "with an option to renew for an additional
3 five-year period upon terms agreed to by the
4 parties," and I'd like to add, "with an
5 approval of the City Council."

6 MR. FRASER: Do I have a second on
7 this motion?

8 MR. MANDEL: I second.

9 MR. FRASER: That was Scott?

10 MR. MANDEL: Yes.

11 MR. FRASER: Thank you. Excuse me.

12 Voting. Councilmember Delury?

13 MR. DELURY: Yes.

14 MR. FRASER: Councilmember Mandel?

15 MR. MANDEL: Yes.

16 MR. FRASER: Councilmember Treston?

17 MS. TRESTON: Yes.

18 MR. FRASER: Vice President McInnis?

19 VP MCINNIS: Yes.

20 MR. FRASER: President Bendo?

21 PRES. BENDO: Yes.

22 MR. FRASER: Okay, we're going to go
23 on to the voting portion. Item 1 was taken off
24 the calendar. Item 2 is a resolution regarding
25 exemptions, exclusions to the Families First

1 Coronavirus Response Act. Who will introduce
2 the adoption of this item?

3 MR. DELURY: I will.

4 PRES. BENDO: I will.

5 MR. FRASER: Voting. Councilmember
6 Delury?

7 MR. DELURY: Yes.

8 MR. FRASER: Councilmember Mandel?

9 MR. MANDEL: Yes.

10 MR. FRASER: Councilmember Treston?

11 MS. TRESTON: Yes.

12 MR. FRASER: Vice President McInnis?

13 VP MCINNIS: Yes.

14 MR. FRASER: President Bendo?

15 PRES. BENDO: Yes.

16 MR. FRASER: Okay, Item 3 is a
17 resolution authorizing the City Manager to
18 renew current contract with the East End
19 Atlantic Beach Fire District. Who will
20 introduce to move the adoption of this item?

21 MS. TRESTON: I will.

22 MR. FRASER: Second?

23 PRES. BENDO: Who'd you put down as
24 the primary?

25 MR. FRASER: Liz.

1 PRES. BENDO: Okay. I'll second it.

2 MR. FRASER: Thank you. Voting.

3 Councilmember Delury.

4 MR. DELURY: Yes.

5 MR. FRASER: Councilmember Mandel?

6 MR. MANDEL: Yes.

7 MR. FRASER: Councilmember Treston?

8 MS. TRESTON: Yes.

9 MR. FRASER: Vice President McInnis?

10 VP MCINNIS: Yes.

11 MR. FRASER: President Bendo?

12 PRES. BENDO: Yes.

13 MR. FRASER: Who will make a motion

14 to close the meeting? Sorry, I didn't get

15 that?

16 MS. TRESTON: I will.

17 MR. FRASER: Thank you. Second?

18 VP MCINNIS: I will.

19 MR. FRASER: Voting. Councilmember

20 Delury?

21 MR. DELURY: Yes.

22 MR. FRASER: Councilmember Mandel?

23 MR. MANDEL: Yes.

24 MR. FRASER: Councilmember Treston?

25 MS. TRESTON: Yes.

1 MR. FRASER: Vice President McInnis.

2 VP MCINNIS: Yes.

3 MR. FRASER: President Bendo?

4 PRES. BENDO: Yes. All right, I
5 guess for good and welfare, I'd ask people to
6 (inaudible) their questions in, in advance, so
7 we could get some questions, so we'll get to
8 those.

9 So the first one is, I guess more of
10 a question, more of a comment than a question,
11 but talking about having an increased police
12 presence on the beach, especially at the east
13 and west ends of the boardwalk.

14 Yes, we've talked to the police
15 department. They're responding to calls when
16 people -- down there when people do call about
17 issues and they now incorporate the beach
18 entrances into their normal patrols. The
19 problem is, of course, like I said earlier,
20 they just can't be everywhere at once, but we
21 are -- they are doing these spots.

22 Next was: Can the City increase
23 enforcement of social distancing guidelines to
24 private establishments?

25 Obviously, like I said, the police

1 are enforcing it when they're there and they
2 see it. We've seen quite a bit of improvement
3 in the West End. We know that there was some
4 establishments that weren't necessarily up to
5 par early on, but did their -- they've been
6 getting better. I know the City Manager and I
7 have been going around, walking around the West
8 End some evenings, just keeping an eye on this
9 stuff as well, and the police also, the cars
10 that patrol the West End have been asked to,
11 again, enforce the social distancing.

12 Just one thing you need to remember,
13 it's really the -- even though we can shoo
14 people along, it's still the responsibility of
15 the establishment, itself, to enforce the
16 guidelines. That's just the way it's
17 structured.

18 The County Fire Marshal, not the
19 City, but the County Fire Marshal is actually
20 the entity that's ultimately responsible for
21 enforcing this in the private establishment,
22 but if you do see a gross violation, you can
23 call it in to the LBPD, please. Use the non-
24 emergency number. Don't call 911, and sorry, I
25 don't have the non-emergency number in front of

1 me. If you have a City calendar, it's on
2 there.

3 The next one was asking us to urge
4 people to keep dogs off the beach. As I stated
5 earlier, dogs are not supposed to be on the
6 beach, of course, unless it's a service animal.
7 So please, like I said, we get it. The dogs
8 like the beach, but you know, please be
9 respectful of others.

10 Ah, let's see. Yeah, this one's been
11 coming up quite a bit: Can crossovers be
12 opened to allow passage to the beach from the
13 boardwalk?

14 You know, as you know, the boardwalk
15 is closed. We do have patrols going up and
16 down the boardwalk, trying to keep people off.
17 So quite frankly, we continue, we're kind of
18 evaluating this on a day-by-day basis. At this
19 time, we're really not inclined to open up. I
20 mean, really, we're all supposed to be staying
21 home as much as possible right now, so we just
22 don't want to make it easier to kind of not
23 social distance. So you know, the beach is
24 technically open -- well, I guess the beach
25 park is actually closed, technically, the beach

1 is open, because there's a lot more room to
2 spread out there. The boardwalk was just
3 concentrating people, especially we're getting
4 a lot of people coming in from out of town to
5 enjoy it.

6 So at this particular time, we're not
7 inclined to do that. We understand it's --
8 especially for those in the middle of town,
9 it's not convenient, to be able to easily
10 access the beach, you have to go to one of the
11 ends of the boardwalk. We do get it, but
12 hopefully you'll take advantage of other
13 avenues, you know, walking around your block or
14 something, if you are going to go out, and
15 please like I said earlier, too, please note
16 the new guidelines do say if you go outside, to
17 please wear a mask out, but we're going to
18 continue to monitor this. Like I said, we're
19 monitoring it each day and we're making
20 adjustments as needed.

21 So the next one was: In light of the
22 COVID-19 will beach concerts be taking place
23 this year?

24 Truth be told, it's too early to know
25 at this point. We don't know what the impact

1 is going to be yet on the summer season.

2 Certainly, it would be nice, but it's just at
3 this point, it's too early to know how long
4 this is going to drag out.

5 Another one: In light of COVID-19,
6 are residents allowed to surf if social
7 distancing? Plain and simple answer, yep.
8 Sure are. So have fun.

9 What do we have here? By laying off
10 142 part-time workers, what is the budget
11 impact and how much are we saving?

12 So for the remainder of this fiscal
13 year, so the City's fiscal year runs July 1st
14 to June 30th, so June 30th will be the end of
15 the current fiscal year, so between now and
16 June 30th, the -- we're estimated that we will
17 save \$672,000 for the remainder of the year.

18 But what's important to know is that,
19 that number that the City Manager gave earlier
20 about the six and a half million dollar
21 deficit, that takes into account that \$672,000
22 savings, so had the layoffs not taken place,
23 the deficit would have been well over \$700,000.
24 I'm sorry, well over \$7 million. Annualized,
25 meaning if this was to continue the entire next

1 fiscal year, starting July 1 of 2020 to June
2 30th of 2021, we'd save almost \$1.6 million
3 dollars for the year. But keep in mind there's
4 a good chance some people will be asked to
5 return as things begin to reopen, but that
6 will, like I said, will be done on a case-by-
7 case basis, based on the City's needs to
8 provide the services.

9 Another question: Are full-time
10 employees currently being paid and are they
11 actually working? Yes and yes on that. The
12 full-time employees are being paid. That
13 includes ones that may be working from home.
14 We have been having discussion with each of the
15 City's unions to see where we can additional
16 savings. There have been meetings all week.
17 There were some more today, so we're working
18 very closely with the collective bargaining
19 units here in the City on how to move forward.

20 And I guess our last question is:
21 Can you restrict access to Long Beach to only
22 City of Long Beach residents, based on concerns
23 regarding COVID-19? That's a question we've
24 been getting quite a bit. I'll ask our corp
25 counsel to jump in, if I miss anything on this

1 but the answer is: Legally, maybe.
2 Logistically? It's probably not something we
3 could pull off for a few reasons: One, we
4 would do things like after Sandy where we had
5 to show our licenses to get back in. Now, what
6 we have to do is we have to put employees at
7 the access points, which would basically be, I
8 guess, in the West End, it would be Beech
9 Street and Park Avenue. In the East End it
10 would be Park Avenue and then we're probably
11 looking at the Long Beach Bridge, but we'd have
12 to put employees at all those. Just the
13 traffic nightmare alone, but now we're exposing
14 people to each other by having to check ID's
15 and things like that. So it's putting a lot of
16 risk and the other thing, quite frankly, it's
17 man-power issue. After Sandy, we had the
18 National Guard and the State Police that we
19 were enforcing that. We don't have that now.

20 So it's a man-power issue. It's just
21 not realistic for us to do right now. Rich, I
22 don't know if there's anything you want to add
23 to that?

24 MR. BERRIOS: I think you covered it.
25 Yeah, you're good.

1 PRES. BENDO: Okay. That was the
2 final question, so --

3 MR. MANDEL: John? John, if I
4 could, somebody just contacted me. Sergeant
5 Curtis with the Long Beach Police Department?
6 Is this coming through? The Long Beach Police
7 non-emergency number, 516 -- is this backwards,
8 or can you see it?

9 PRES. BENDO: No, we can see it.

10 MR. MANDEL: 516-431-1800.

11 PRES. BENDO: Okay, so there you go.
12 So if you see clusters of people, you know,
13 that's the number to call. And I just -- let
14 me just point something out real quick, too.
15 You know, obviously, we're getting sent a lot
16 of pictures. Unfortunately, sometimes we're
17 getting pictures that are hours old, so then by
18 the time we send someone over there, there's
19 nothing going on. We had it happen today. We
20 were told there was people congregating at
21 Pacific on the beach. They were all clustered
22 together. The Police Commissioner himself went
23 over there, took a picture and there were two
24 people there.

25 So like I said, we're doing what we

1 can as we get information, so we all have to do
2 our best and move ahead. So I guess with that,
3 that was the final question. Thanks everyone
4 for coming. I know this is a little unusual.
5 We don't know if we'll have to do this again
6 for the next meeting, but we're trying to make
7 sure everybody stays in contact.

8 So thank you. I'm not going to tell
9 everyone to get home safe, since we're all --
10 I'm guessing, most of us are there already, but
11 we'll be seeing you again soon. Thanks and
12 take care.

13 MS. TRESTON: Thank you, everybody.
14 We have to vote. Oh, we did that. Take care.

15 (Meeting Concluded)

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17 [Audio, concluded]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lisa Previti, certify that the foregoing transcript of City Council Meeting, City of Long Beach, was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the recording.

Lisa Previti

Lisa Previti

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