



NEWS FROM

CITY CONTROLLER LAURA N. CHICK

City Hall East, Room 300, 200 N. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

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CHICK REPORT FINDS FUNDS FOR PARKS GOING UNSPENT

Los Angeles— Saying that, “The City’s collection and use of Quimby funds falls short in fulfilling its goals to provide additional parks and enhance existing ones,” City Controller Laura Chick released her audit of the developer fees.

“To be truly great, a City must have ample and safe parks and recreation facilities. It is no secret that Los Angeles suffers from a lack of open space...a problem that we have long grappled with to find adequate solutions<” wrote Chick in a letter to the Mayor, City Attorney and City Council.

“Part of the problem rests with the Recreation and Parks Department and the fact that they have been operating without a comprehensive plan to effectively use Quimby monies. The Department has been painfully slow in using these needed dollars to address the shortfalls in open space and recreational facilities in the areas with the greatest population growth,” continued Chick.

“It is hard to fathom, that as the City faces a \$300 million dollar budget shortfall, we have \$129 million intended for our youth, families, seniors and pets sitting unused and gathering dust,” said Chick.

"It is no surprise that the Quimby fee collection system is broken. The Controller’s Audit presents us with an opportunity and the direction we need to streamline the process, update the ordinance, and create a real means of using these funds to create parks and recreation spaces where they are needed most," said Councilwoman Jan Perry, who requested the audit of the Quimby fees. "I am confident that we can use the recommendations outlined in this audit to aid us as we move forward and improve our Quimby fee collection and usage."

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Chick Quimby

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“It is more than clear that we are overdue in rewriting our City Quimby codes so that these funds can be more quickly utilized and maximized. The current Municipal Code states that Quimby funds must be spent for parks within two miles of the development which pays the fee. The arbitrary two mile rule greatly restricts our options to provide more parks and should be changed to something that makes more sense for the Los Angeles of 2008. For decades our City has come up against this obstacle, yet there is no evidence that there have been any serious attempts to change the rule,” said Chick.

“My audit also found that the Planning Department, which sets Quimby fees, has miscalculated in the past, resulting in overcharges to developers of more than \$4 million. The City Attorney and Recreation and Parks Department should address the issue of repayment of these overcharges,” said Chick.

In her seventh year as City Controller, Chick has released over 100 audits since taking office. Chick has sought to eliminate waste and fraud and protect taxpayer dollars. Her audits and reports are available on her website at www.lacity.org/ctr.

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