

Long Beach City Council inaction is the root of this problem: Letters

POSTED: 07/20/16, 4:34 PM PDT

UPDATED: 1 DAY AGO

0 COMMENTS

Root of this problem is City Council inaction

Re “[Long Beach parks officials paid \\$81K for maintenance never performed, auditor finds](#)” (June 29):

City Auditor Laura Doud is the only Long Beach elected official who gets anything done. Her recent expose on the scandalous decline and poor management of Long Beach’s trees and parkland is just a glimmer of how city officials do business.

Attend City Council meetings, read district newsletters and learn of countless studies that the city orders to make the public think it’s being productive. Most of these studies are useless, as they get no funding for actual research or strategic planning, and reports are filed away to be considered at another time.

Two recent studies ordered by the City Council were to learn the extent of homelessness problems in the city and the need for a comprehensive plan to care for Long Beach’s growing senior citizen population. One solution for both was to seek fickle grant money rather than commit to fund sustainable and long-term solutions.

This lack of oversight and future vision is systemic. For years, Long Beach has neglected to protect the investment of millions of dollars in its urban landscape. In light of current practices, I’m not hopeful that this council has the courage or creativity to manage or help to heal our city parks and trees.

Thank you to Doud and her office for helping our citizens and leadership be accountable. Let’s see if anything comes of it.

— *Lynn Wood, Long Beach*

Tree City? Long Beach no longer deserves the title

Re “[Long Beach park system’s problems must be worked out](#)” (Editorial, July 7):

I would add to the Press-Telegram’s editorial that not only are our trees dead or dying, but they are not being replaced when they die. Every week, trees are removed from parkways and there is no effort to replace them. All we have to remind us of our once-beautiful tree canopy are the stumps which are left behind.

We should remove signs depicting Long Beach as Tree City USA. We are not even close to earning that title. The sad thing is, we could do something about this tragedy. Link up with Tree People and start a Long Beach chapter. Get the community involved. The problem is our City Council members show no interest.

Additionally, the El Dorado Lakes are dark green with a disgusting miasma of algae bloom, which can kill animals. The sidewalks and grassy areas surrounding the lakes are covered in a thick layer of goose excrement.



Advertisement

We need to stop bragging about our Gold Medal Award for park management, because our parks are an embarrassment.

— *Jerry L. Shultz, Long Beach*

It starts with education

Re “[Is there a solution to America’s racial divide?](#)” (Question of the Week, July 11):

All lives matter. Most of us believe that life is precious, whether one is killed under questionable circumstances by the police or when police officers who are protecting us are killed by a cowardly

sniper, as in the recent Dallas murders.

We must work together to stop this unnecessary violence. Education is key to building greater trust and understanding, through more involved parenting and more lessons on tolerance, appreciating our diversity and building self-respect.

Another potential solution would be to lesson violence through banning assault-type weapons, stricter enforcement of our gun control laws, and restricting access to bomb-making substances such as Tannerite, which the gunman who killed the Dallas police officers reportedly had.

Yes, all lives matter.

— *Isadora Johnson, Seal Beach*