

From: Stephen Downing stephen.beachcomber@gmail.com 
Subject: Re: POA PARK AGREEMENT
Date: January 20, 2022 at 8:34 AM
To: Meghan King Meghan.King@longbeach.gov
Bcc: publisher@beachcomber.news



Good day Meghan,
I would appreciate a reply by EOB Friday if Ms Dodd intends to acquire - or not- the records from the POA and provide them to this newspaper.

Thank you
Stephen Downing
Beachcomber News

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 20, 2022, at 8:06 AM, Meghan King <Meghan.King@longbeach.gov> wrote:

Hi Stephen,

As with the other information, I have passed this on to the City Auditor's Fraud Hotline team.
Thank you.

From: Stephen Downing <stephen.beachcomber@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 9:43 PM
To: Meghan King <Meghan.King@longbeach.gov>
Cc: Beck Thomas <thebecklawfirm@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: POA PARK AGREEMENT

-EXTERNAL-

Dear Ms. King,

One element of my email was overlooked today. I wanted to inform - or remind - you of Government Code Section 6253,1 which imposes an affirmative duty "to assist the member of the public to identify records and information that are responsive to the request or to the purpose of the request if stated."

I have stated the nature of the request and the the fact that the financial records are - or should be - in the possession of the LB POA.

The LBPOA building and its offices - as listed on their website is:
2865 Temple Ave.
Long Beach, Ca. 90755

However, please note that the location is not in Long Beach, but rather Signal Hill.

I believe the error is deliberate - for obvious reasons.

Thank you,

Stephen Downing
Columnist



On Jan 19, 2022, at 2:18 PM, Stephen Downing
<stephen.beachcomber@gmail.com> wrote:

Good day, Ms. King

Per your last email, Mr. Chu made contact with me this morning. He first informed me that a Ms. Jennifer Lopez was on the line with us.

Ms. Lopez did not participate in the conversation or offer any information or direction - so I assume her purpose was to witness the conversation..

Mr. Chu's interest was first to solicit the identity and credibility of my sources as a newspaper reporter on this matter. He was told that I would not reveal any source.

Mr. Chu offered the information that he could not conduct a proper investigation without speaking with my source(s).

I corrected that assertion by informing him that the financial records related to income and disbursements from POA Park operations, maintenance and rental income would provide all the information that is of interest to this newspaper at this time.

Mr. Chu was also informed that if we obtained the subject financial records we would not need the results of an audit or investigation by your office.

I informed Mr. Chu that my interest was to solicit the auditors office to obtain the POA Park financial records from the POA, as authorized in the 40-year old contract between the city and the LBPOA.

I further informed him that once the Auditor's office had the financial reports that, if necessary, I would file a PRA to obtain them. I told him that It did not matter if they had not undergone an audit or investigation.

Mr. Chu's responses seemed to be programmed. He would make no commitment to obtain the records requested. He offered only to provide me with the City Auditor hot line numbers to file a request for audit.

I soon concluded that our conversation was not productive, ended the conversation and told Mr. Chu that I would go back to you and ask that this request be considered by a higher level in the Auditor's office - If not Laura Dodd personally. Thus, this email response back to you.

At this point in time I know that the information we are seeking is a public record. In light of the fact that it is in the hands of the POA and that the City Auditor or the City Manager have never once in the 40-year span of the contract conducted an authorized audit of the POA PARK financial records, I do not find it to be an unreasonable request that you help this newspaper obtain the records so that we can inform the public - one way or another - during this election period as to whether public funds from POA Park proceeds have or have not been used for illegal purposes - such as political donations - that also violate the contract with the city.

As you may know, according to data obtained from the Long Beach City Clerk's Office, LBPOA's contributions to political candidates and campaigns between March 2015 and March 2020 totaled \$1,131,025.

\$25,000 of that sum was donated by the POA on July 9, 2018 to the **Mayor Robert Garcia and City Auditor Laura Dodd Committee to Support Good Government Measures** (Measure AA).

I assume that Ms. Dodd would want to help us assure the community that none of the \$1,131,025 - or the \$25,000 that went to her committee - came from public funds and if they did I would expect that as City Auditor she would want to take affirmative action to impose accountability as well as implement affirmative actions to preclude a continuation of the practice during the current campaign season.

Please let me know by end of business Jan. 21 if the City Auditor's office will acquire the requested financial records and provide them to the Beachcomber - or not.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Stephen Downing

Columnist

<Beachcomber.jpg>

On Jan 18, 2022, at 12:04 PM, Meghan King
<Meghan.King@longbeach.gov> wrote:

Hi Stephen,

Thank you for this information. I have forwarded it on to Alvin Chu, our lead on the City Auditor's Fraud Hotline. Can you please provide the best number to reach you at, so he can follow up with you?

Thanks again,
Meghan

From: Stephen Downing <stephen.beachcomber@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 16, 2022 11:07 AM
To: Meghan King <Meghan.King@longbeach.gov>
Subject: Re: POA PARK AGREEMENT

-EXTERNAL-

Good day, Ms. King,

I am following up on my email to you dated Dec. 23 as we have yet to receive a response.

Since the original email I have learned that there are no responsive documents to our PRA on this subject.

Is it possible that we could ask you to use the authority of your office to obtain the financial records - per the contract with the LBPOA - regarding POA Park rentals over the past 40 years so that we can examine them for contract compliance and to insure that the funds have not been co-mingled and used for political purposes.

We ask because the recent shut down of Park rental to the public and unsubstantiated allegations that the funds have been improperly used give rise to both the need for an overdue audit as well as this newspaper's right to acquire public documents in the hands of a private entity.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation

Stephen Downing
Columnist
<Beachcomber.jpg>

On Dec 23, 2021, at 11:11 AM, Stephen Downing
<stephen.beachcomber@gmail.com> wrote:

Good day, Ms. King,

We have observed that the POA Park once advertised as available for rent by the public will no longer be available to private parties per a notice on the LB POA

available to private parties per a notice on the LB POA website.

The Beachcomber would like to know if an audit by your office into the rental practices by the POA is behind that 45 year practice.

We have filed a public records request with the City Manager - pasted below - but would very much like to learn if any recent audits or actions taken by the City Auditor are behind the change.

Thank you,

Stephen Downing
Columnist

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THE PRA REQUEST FILED WITH THE CITY MANAGER
READS AS FOLLOWS:

The Beachcomber requests all documents associated with all audits, books and records obtained by either the City Manager or the City Auditor over the past 20 years related to their responsibility to insure that the Long Beach Police Officers Association accommodate the provisions of the "PICNIC SITE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT? executed on the 6 the day of April 1976 as related to the Associations contractual responsibility to maintain an account, segregated from the general funds of the Association that lists all fees collected by the Association in connection with management of the picnic site, identifying the source of all funds and the identity of all the Association groups or individual using the picnic site, and listing all expenditures relating to the management, maintenance and improvement of the picnic site, together with the identity of all persons to whom such payments are made." Please include in this request the current balance sheet related to the POA Picnic Site Management Account.

Thank You,
Stephen Downing
Beachcomber News

A copy of the Agreement is attached here:



<LB POA-13821-AGR.pdf>