



REPORT to the MAYOR and MEMBERS of the CITY COUNCIL
From the CITY MANAGER

DATE: July 8, 2025

SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION AND THE FIRST READING
ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
LA MESA AMENDING THE LA MESA MUNICIPAL CODE
(INCLUDING CHAPTER 2.32, SECTION 2.16.15(D)(6),
CHAPTERS 9.04, 9.05 AND 9.06) TO DO THE
FOLLOWING:

DESCRIPTION: (1) RENAME (A) "COMMUNITY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT" TO "PARKS AND RECREATION
DEPARTMENT," (B) "COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMISSION" TO "PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION," AND (C) "DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY
SERVICES" TO "DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND
RECREATION;" AND, (2) SHIFT THE SUPERVISORY
RESPONSIBILITY OF LANDSCAPING AND
MAINTENANCE OF PARK AREAS TO THE CITY
MANAGER OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE.

ISSUING DEPARTMENT: City Manager

SUMMARY:

Issues:

Should the City Council introduce and conduct a first reading of an ordinance amending the La Mesa Municipal Code (Including Chapter 2.32, Section 2.16.15(D)(6), Chapters 9.04, 9.05 And 9.06) to do the following:

1. Rename (A) "Community Services Department" to "Parks and Recreation Department," (B) "Community Services Commission" to "Parks and Recreation Commission," and (C) "Director of Community Services" to "Director of Parks and Recreation;" and,

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2. Shift the supervisory responsibility of landscaping and maintenance of park areas to the City Manager or his or her designee.

Recommendation:

Introduce and conduct a first reading of the following:

An ordinance amending the La Mesa Municipal Code (Including Chapter 2.32, Section 2.16.15(D)(6), Chapters 9.04, 9.05 And 9.06) to do the following:

1. Rename (A) "Community Services Department" to "Parks and Recreation Department," (B) "Community Services Commission" to "Parks and Recreation Commission," and (C) "Director of Community Services" to "Director of Parks and Recreation;" and,
2. Shift the supervisory responsibility of landscaping and maintenance of park areas to the City Manager or his or her designee.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the recommendation.

City's Strategic Goals:

- Promote a high quality of life that current and future generations can afford to call home.

BACKGROUND:

In 1990, the City renamed the Parks and Recreation Department to the Department of Community Services and updated the Commission's name accordingly to reflect a broader service-oriented focus. Overtime, the term "Community Services" has caused confusion among residents, who often associate it with social services, public safety, or community outreach rather than parks and recreation programming.

At the April 8, 2025, City Council meeting, at the request of Mayor Arapostathis and Councilmember Suzuki, the City Council directed staff to:

1. Draft the necessary amendments to the La Mesa Municipal Code to rename the Department of Community Services back to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

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2. Update all associated commissions' names accordingly and return to the City Council within 90 days with a draft ordinance for consideration. Update all position titles currently associated with the Department of Community Services to reflect the Parks and Recreation name.
3. Conduct outreach to inform employees, residents and stakeholders of the transition and provide information about the changes.

DISCUSSION:

In response to City Council direction, staff has reviewed the La Mesa Municipal Code and is proposing amendments to reflect the renaming of the Community Services Department and Commission to the Parks and Recreation Department and Commission. Several sections of the Municipal Code require updates to reflect this change, including Chapter 2.32, Section 2.16.015(D)(6), and Chapters 9.04, 9.05, and 9.06.

Additionally, staff recommends amending the La Mesa Municipal Code to shift supervisory responsibility for the landscaping and maintenance of park areas to the City Manager or their designee. This change is intended to provide greater administrative flexibility by allowing the City Manager to assign these responsibilities to the most appropriate department based on organizational needs.

The proposed changes are outlined in Attachment A.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the City Council introduce and conduct a first reading of the following:

An ordinance amending the La Mesa Municipal Code (Including Chapter 2.32, Section 2.16.15(D)(6), Chapters 9.04, 9.05 And 9.06) to do the following:

3. Rename (A) "Community Services Department" to "Parks and Recreation Department," (B) "Community Services Commission" to "Parks and Recreation Commission," and (C) "Director of Community Services" to "Director of Parks and Recreation;" and,
4. Shift the supervisory responsibility of landscaping and maintenance of park areas to the City Manager or his or her designee.

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Reviewed by:



Greg Humora
City Manager

Respectfully submitted by:



Amanda Lee
Assistant City Manager

Attachments: Ordinance