



## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

### PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** November 18, 2009

**TO:** Park and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Parks Division, Parks & Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Cabrillo Ball Field Fencing Improvements

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission receives an update on Cabrillo Ball Field and approves an application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to install new fencing.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

For the past four years, the Department has been working with the Police Department and the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force to find solutions to reduce the people loitering at Cabrillo Ball Field. The Police Department receives daily calls for service to respond to illegal activities such as alcohol use, drug use, and illegal camping and loitering around the bleachers. An increasing number of people also interrupt the nightly softball games by sitting down in the infield or the outfield during the game. The Police have to be called to remove them from the field. The interruptions and illegal activities discourage softball players and their families from participating in league games.

Due to the many challenges with this park, the Police Department, Neighborhood Improvement Task Force, and Parks and Recreation Department recommend that the bleachers and restrooms be surrounded with a six-foot chain link fence with gates. Eliminating access to the bleachers, which facilitate loitering, is a step towards improving the safety of the Cabrillo Ball Field for patrons and the neighborhood. The bleachers and restrooms would be available during scheduled events. As a result of the additional FY 2010 budget reductions, the Department already limits use of the restrooms to scheduled events. Keeping the restrooms closed reduces maintenance costs. Installation of the fencing would also reduce park maintenance and clean-up costs.

With Commission concurrence that the new fencing will improve safety and recreational use of the park, the Department will apply for FY 2011 CDBG funds for the project. If the grant application is approved, the funding would be available in summer 2010.

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