

Date: October 1, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Councilmember Kristina Duggan

Subject: Renaming the new Junior Lifeguard Facility in honor of Pat Flynn and Dick Miller

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to refer to the Marine Advisory Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Government Operations and Efficiency Committee for consideration of naming the new Junior Lifeguard Facility the Pat Flynn and Dick Miller Junior Lifeguard Facility.

DISCUSSION

The Long Beach Junior Lifeguard Program, established in 1971 with just 63 participants, has grown to teach approximately 1,000 participants each year. Through hands-on instruction in lifeguard rescue techniques, first aid, ocean sports, physical conditioning, and marine ecology, this program has shaped over 20,000 Junior Lifeguards since its inception. This invaluable program not only teaches participants critical water safety skills, but it has also created a pipeline of lifeguards, firefighters, and other public safety professionals for Long Beach.

Last year, the City of Long Beach celebrated the grand opening of the new Junior Lifeguard Facility to replace the original facility built in the 1930s and home to the Junior Lifeguards since the 1970s. This new facility features a new foundation, new utilities, new bicycle racks by the pedestrian pathway, and offices for the City's lifeguards. It will also provide a year-round first aid stingray response area with a treatment room.

The success of the Long Beach Junior Lifeguard Program is due in large part to the dedication of Pat Flynn and Dick Miller. To honor their legacy and lasting impact on Long Beach and its Junior Lifeguard Program, I propose naming the new facility the Pat Flynn and Dick Miller Junior Lifeguard Facility.

Pat Flynn's Legacy

Pat Flynn dedicated an incredible 47 years to the Long Beach Lifeguards, serving from 1951 to 1998. He began his career on the beach and later became a skipper on the rescue boats while

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also serving on the Long Beach Search and Recovery Team. His unwavering commitment to safety and excellence was recognized with his induction into the Lifeguard Hall of Fame in 2000.

In 1971, Pat, with Dick Miller, started the Long Beach Junior Lifeguard Program, which started with 63 youths and has since grown to nearly 500 participants each year. His initiative has left a lasting impact on the community, shaping generations of young lifeguards. Pat also conducted lifeguard assemblies on water safety for the Long Beach Unified School District for over a decade, educating countless students on the importance of water safety.

In 1972, Pat, along with Gary Drent, became the National Dory Champion, and in 1994, he was honored with the Century Club Tom and Georgie Gleason Award for his unwavering encouragement and support of Long Beach Youth Programs.

Dick Miller's Legacy

Dick played water polo and swam in at Wilson High School before matriculating to San Jose State, where he was a member of the swim and water polo teams. From 1950 to 1974, Dick was a seasonal lifeguard for the City of Long Beach. Dick was a highly successful swim and water polo coach at Millikan and Poly High Schools. In 1974, he was appointed Chief of the Long Beach Lifeguards a position he held for 11 years. Dick was responsible, with Pat Flynn, for developing the Junior Lifeguard program, which started with 63 Junior Guards and has developed into a program with over 500 participants.

During his career as Chief, Dick was responsible for many innovations, including introducing the EMT program from St. Mary Hospital, starting the Dive Team, developing the Lifeguard Code of Ethics, initiating a program where Rescue Boat Operators could write citations. He completed his career with the City of Long Beach as the head of the Marine Bureau from 1984-1995.

Dick is a past President of the California Surf Lifesaving Association and the United States Lifesaving Association. He was heavily involved in international lifesaving competitions, taking U.S. teams to compete in South Africa, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Australia. He has been the mentor for the STEM program teaching kids how to be safe in and around our waters. Chief has also been a part of numerous foundations and groups supporting our community and youth.

This matter has been reviewed by Budget Manager, Rebecca Bernstorff, on September 20, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total cost for fabrication and installation of signage is unknown at this time. If approved, Marine Safety – Long Beach Fire Department will work with the Public Works Department to obtain appropriate cost estimates for the signage and identify funding for this project. For previous similar projects to replace existing facility signage, it was determined that costs were approximated to be between \$20,000 and \$30,000. Fabrication and installation of the signage

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will not move forward until funding is identified. Once funding is identified, the Fire Department will return to City Council to appropriate funding for this project. This recommendation is anticipated to result in a moderate impact to staff hours beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties. Local job impact is unknown until a vendor is selected.

SUGGESTED ACTION

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristina Duggan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kristina Duggan, Councilmember, Third District