

**RE: Agenda Item 2.A.d, Staff presentation on establishing an Aquatics Advisory Committee for Commission discussion and possible action**

**From:** William Krivan

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 9:07 PM

**Subject:** RPC meeting on 6/18/2020: A comment related to the SMAAC and a suggestion to generate additional revenue for the City

To whom it may concern,

I feel honored to be a prospective member of the proposed Santa Monica Aquatics Advisory Committee (SMAAC), and I am writing to express my hope that the SMAAC and its contributions will be enthusiastically embraced by the Recreation and Parks Commission as well as the City of Santa Monica as a whole.

Like innumerable organizations, the City of Santa Monica is facing a dramatic reduction of its revenue flow, and I would like to ask you to please take note of the following and also forward it to the Code Enforcement Division for their consideration to help alleviate the unprecedented budget shortfall:

In 1991, the City of Santa Monica banned the use of leaf blowers; but, almost 30 (!) years later, I have the unequivocal impression that there is significant room to step up the enforcement of the ban. Doing so would not only improve the quality of life in Santa Monica, but it also provides a tremendous opportunity to increase the City's revenue flow.

I am not familiar with the most recent figures, but based on an article from 2017 (see URL below), the City issued only approximately 500 citations for more than 3500 reported leaf blower violations within three years.

On average, this amounts to less than one citation per business day. This number is stunningly low, as I typically observe at least a handful of leaf blowers in use during a time period of 10-15 minutes when I am riding my bicycle from my residence in Midtown Santa Monica to the north-western boundary of the City near Ocean and San Vicente on a weekday afternoon.

Thus, a City employee from the Code Enforcement Division on a bike would likely be able to issue dozens of \$500 tickets during a leisurely ride through the City during his/her afternoon shift

This proactive approach would eliminate a major problem with the current enforcement practice (namely that the City sends someone out after a citizen calls in, and, by the time the official arrives, the gardening work is long done).

Moreover, as some simple arithmetic shows, starting from the current levels of non-compliance, the revenue flow from the citations would be substantial. For example, it could pay for several additional lifeguards for the Santa Monica Swim Center, allow for extended opening hours, and much more.

With improved compliance, we would not need to keep wiping dust off our faces when we go for a walk in our beautiful city. Seriously, once the COVID-19 crisis subsides, we don't want to keep using face coverings to protect ourselves from the harmful particles from sidewalks and driveways.

I thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if you need additional information.

Sincerely,  
Dr. William Krivan

More Than 3,500 Violations of Santa Monica Leaf Blower Ban Reported in Three Years

[https://www.surfsantamonica.com/ssm\\_site/the\\_lookout/news/News-2017/May-2017/05\\_17\\_2017\\_More\\_than\\_3500\\_Violations\\_of\\_Santa\\_Monica\\_Leaf\\_Blower\\_Ban\\_Reopted\\_in\\_Three\\_Years.html](https://www.surfsantamonica.com/ssm_site/the_lookout/news/News-2017/May-2017/05_17_2017_More_than_3500_Violations_of_Santa_Monica_Leaf_Blower_Ban_Reopted_in_Three_Years.html)

**From:** Karen Melick < >

**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 10:33 AM

**To:** Community & Cultural Services <CCS.Mailbox@SMGOV.NET>

**Subject:** Input for item 2.A.e Recreation and Parks Commission meeting on June 18th

Hello,

I would like to comment on agenda item 2.A.e of the June 18th, 2020 Recreations and Parks Commission meeting regarding the establishment of an Aquatics Advisory Committee.

Please approve the formalization of this group. The Santa Monica Swim Center is an outstanding facility that's in demand by many different groups. In the past, without a group like this, the ability of the user groups to provide input to the aquatics staff was limited as was the communications from the staff with the user groups. It was also difficult for the different user groups to communicate and work together.

There are many items that this group can help with the aquatics program making informed decisions. These include:

- The plan for reopening the Swim Center
- The affects of the significant budget reductions on the Aquatics programs and open hours
- Input for the proposed pricing increases and new charges such as for the permit groups to rent the pool during non-operational hours due to the very significant reduction of hours particularly for Fall, Winter and Spring
- The comprehensive fee study, including cost recovery, planned for this year for Community Services
- Reviewing the Pool Allocation Guidelines to ensure a balance of programming
- Providing input for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Thank you very much for your support in making this a formal advisory group.

Karen Melick

SCAQ (Masters (Adult) Swim Program) member since 1986  
Mother of son who learned to swim through Santa Monica swim lessons