BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: JIM GILLIAM CHILD CARE CENTER AND EXTENDED DAY CARE (LATCHKEY) AT VARIOUS FACILITIES AND EXPANSION OF GENERAL CHILD CARE AT VARIOUS FACILITIES – APPLICATION FOR CONTINUED FUNDING FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE 2008-09 GENERAL CHILD CARE

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the submission of an application to the California Department of Education (CDE) for continued funding for Fiscal Year 2008-09 of the General Child Care ($207,074) at Jim Gilliam Child Care Center and Extended Day Care (Latchkey) Programs ($456,992) at various facilities;

2. Approve the application for expansion of the General Child Care Funding ($1,740,830) at Evergreen, Downey, Ira C. Massey, Ralph M. Parsons, Algin Sutton, and Roger Jessup;

3. Authorize the General Manager, subject to approval by the Mayor and City Council per Administrative Code Section 14.6 et seq., to execute the agreement on behalf of the City, and any subsequent amendments thereto, pursuant to Administrative Code Section 14.8 et seq. as may be amended, on behalf of the City, subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form; and,

4. Direct staff to transmit a copy of the application to the Mayor and City Clerk.
SUMMARY:
The Department is a current recipient of CDE General Childcare Program Funds, which provide grant monies to the Jim Gilliam Child Care Center for its subsidized pre-school program. The Program is the Department's first licensed pre-school program and serves children of families with incomes at or below the 75% State median income level. Since January of 1996, the Department has received CDE funds to operate the child care services at this facility. Prior to the CDE subsidy, many parents could only afford to enroll their children for a portion of the day. The center is licensed by the State to serve 45 children from three to five years of age, and is currently operating at full capacity. The grant funded program at Jim Gilliam Child Care Center makes it possible for children to remain at the center all day.

This year, CDE is giving the opportunity to expand the General Child Care Program. The Department currently offers a preschool program at Ralph M. Parsons. Downey and Roger Jessup will be licensed for school aged child care. Evergreen, Ira C. Massey and Algin Sutton currently offer school aged child care. All of these sites can benefit from receiving General Child Care Program funding which will offer parents a subsidy for free or reduced child care based on income eligibility. The Department is applying for $1,740,830 in additional General Child Care Funding. The additional funds do not require a match.

The Department is also a current recipient of Latchkey Program grant funds which are utilized for subsidized after school child care services at the following seven licensed Department child care centers: Baldwin Hills, Echo Park, Eagle Rock, Evergreen, Loren Miller, South Park, and Hubert Humphrey. Since 1986, the Department has used these grant funds to subsidize latchkey services to children of families with incomes at or below the 75% State median income level. This grant will continue to require 50% of the program's participants to pay full or partial fees to match the 50% of participants being subsidized.

Mayor and Council approval is required by Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 14.6(a) prior to accepting and receiving the grant award.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Without these funds, the Department loses the ability to offer participants subsidized child care. Approximately 95% of the participants would not be able to afford the program cost and there would not be enough enrollees to continue operating the child care centers. The expanded funds will provide needed subsidies to the communities at those centers where enrollment is not currently at full capacity.

This report was prepared by Debby Rolland, Superintendent, West Region.