RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve the temporary modification of the operating hours of Runyon Canyon Park to close at 5:00 p.m. on July 2, 3, and 4, 2010.

SUMMARY:

July 4th weekend brings a plethora of fireworks displays to the skies over Los Angeles to celebrate America's independence. The City's parks, such as Runyon Canyon, are popular fireworks viewing areas where many people gather to view the fireworks.

The fireworks, however, pose a potential fire risk to the various hillsides and brush areas throughout the City, including Runyon Canyon. Due to the risk that the fireworks pose to the hillsides, it is imperative to ensure that the public is safe from any potential fire danger. The Office of Public Safety (OPS) has recommended that Runyon Canyon be closed early during the July 4th weekend (July 2, 3, and 4). Runyon Canyon's current hours of operation are from dawn until dusk, but during the July 4 weekend, OPS recommends that the park close at 5:00 p.m. (1700 hours). Per OPS, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) is working with the Los Angeles Fire Department to have a rig stationed at Runyon Canyon. LAPD is also planning to have a unit at Runyon Canyon from 5:00 p.m. until all fire danger from possible fireworks has subsided.

Council District 4 and Metro Region Staff concur with the OPS recommendation to temporarily modify the hours of operation at Runyon Canyon Park, to close at 5:00 p.m. during the July 4th 2010 weekend.
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The temporary change in hours of operation will have no fiscal impact on the Department’s General Fund.

This report was prepared by Jason Kitahara, Sr. Recreation Director II, Metro Region.
GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:
10-167
RUNYON CANYON PARK - EARLY CLOSURE DURING THE JULY 4, 2010 WEEKEND

The above item was described and presented to the Board by Department staff, and the Board further discussed the item in detail. Public comment was invited on the item; however, no public comments were received.

It was moved by President Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Stanley, that the General Manager’s Report be approved as amended, and that the Resolution recommended in the report be thereby approved. There being no objections, the Motion was unanimously approved.

Further, President Sanders moved that the Commission urge City Council to amend current law to provide that in the future staff may implement the closure annually at Runyon Canyon without further Commission approval. The motion was duly seconded and unanimously approved.