TO: Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
DATE: April 15, 2021  
FROM: Michael A. Shull, General Manager
SUBJECT: Update on Anticipated Pool Facilities Reopening

Since March 12, 2020, all of RAP’s aquatic centers and pools have been closed due to the health orders of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the onset of the pandemic the Citywide Aquatics team jumped into lifesaving mode and began assisting with emergency operations. Lifesaving staff began supporting all shower operations during the Mass Shelter Expansion program (MSEP) as well as providing logistical support for emergency operations. As MSEP began closing, lifesaving staff pivoted and began administering health screenings and facilitating COVID-19 testing to staff and participants at the Alternative Learning Centers as well as providing logistical support to shelter, trailer, and vaccination sites on park grounds. At this time, the current staffing levels are not adequate to support both emergency operations and open swimming pools with appropriate staffing to maintain safe operations with current COVID restrictions.

As optimism grows for improved staffing, RAP is planning a Summer Pool opening around Mid-June. The Department is currently exploring hiring options or pay grade advancement opportunities in order to appropriately staff aquatic programs. Pool operations will be limited to swim lessons and lap swimming and have some modifications such as health screening, reduced capacities, and modified locker room use.

The Citywide Aquatics division is looking to open as many pools as staffing and budgeting will allow.