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City Council Meets with Lawmakers in Sacramento Seeking Funds for City Initiatives and Programs, Including Homelessness, Affordable Housing and Parks

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For the second year in a row, members of the City Council are visiting Sacramento in order to meet with lawmakers and state executives about obtaining state grants and critical funding to address ongoing issues in Palm Springs such as homelessness, lack of affordable housing, pension reform and dwindling funds for parks, libraries, historic preservation and other initiatives and programs that serve our community.

Mayor pro tem Geoff Kors, Councilmembers Christy Holstege, Lisa Middleton and J.R. Roberts are meeting with a host of policy-makers today in the state Capitol, including executives from the State of California Parks Office of Natural Resources to discuss grant funding, Cal PERS Chief Executive Officer Marcie Frost regarding pension reform, and Speaker of the State Assembly Anthony Rendon and local Assemblyman Chad Mayes to discuss homelessness and lack of affordable housing in Palm Springs.

Earlier this year, Kors and Holstege, who serve on the City's Homelessness and Affordable Housing Subcommittee, met with Mayes and Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia to ask for assistance requesting that Gov. Gavin Newsom include an additional \$10 million in the State budget for much needed homeless services that would primarily support Palm Springs and the western Coachella Valley. The City of Palm Springs, with assistance from Desert Healthcare District, has allocated more than \$1.4 million in funds towards homelessness and affordable housing over the past year -- despite the fact the County of Riverside is responsible for funding homeless programs.

"This is an opportunity for Council to meet with California lawmakers who have the ability to help Palm Springs obtain the critical funding needed in order to address ongoing issues such as solving homelessness, affordable housing and building new parks that the City cannot accomplish without financial assistance from the State," said Mayor pro tem Kors. "It's also an excellent way to strengthen and leverage our relationships in Sacramento so that we can continue to provide our community with the needed services and programs that make Palm Springs like no place else to live, work and play."

