



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Arturo Vela, Acting City Manager

PREPARED BY: Ralph Wright, Parks and Recreation Director

MEETING DATE: September 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Update on the Planned Community Garden in the City Owned Lot in the Vicinity of 22nd Street and Adams Avenue

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council receive and file the report.

BACKGROUND:

An update on the Community Garden was requested by Mayor Flynn. The staff affiliated with this project are no longer working for the city so there was a delay in putting the update together.

The City Council of the City of Banning adopted Resolution 2023-14 at their regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council on January 24, 2023 authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement with the Banning Chamber of Commerce to lease the property located at 300 East Adams street in Banning to develop and maintain a community garden. The agreement was executed on March 20, 2024.

Since the execution of the agreement, the Chamber of Commerce has reorganized and under their new leadership, the development of the community garden is no longer in line with their goals and mission and requested. The Banning Chamber of Commerce has requested to terminate the lease for convenience as allowed in the lease agreement in section 10 with a 90 day notice. They have not made any improvements to the lot.

When the Chamber of Commerce informed staff that they were not able to move forward with the Community Garden project at the 22nd Street and Adams Avenue location, staff inquired with the Banning Blue Zones Project to see if this was something they might be willing to Champion.

Blue Zones Project Banning is very interested in championing efforts to provide and make more readily available healthy foods and healthier environments in the Banning Community. This will be one of their adopted goals when their work plan is officially released in the upcoming few months. However, Blue Zones project believes the location site that was leased to the Chamber was too large a site to properly develop and manage, at least at this time. They are looking to partner with churches and non-profits to develop micro community gardens throughout the community. These smaller community gardens will be easier to manage and can be spread out and easily accessible to nearby community members. The Blue Zones project is hoping to have an update on their first micro community garden site in the next month or so.

Additionally, the Blue Zones project is working on bringing other healthy opportunities to the community. Blue Zones is partnering with a certified farmer's market operator to bring a weekly farmer's market to Banning. In collaboration with this operator, city staff have looked at various sites to host this farmer's market and the operator has decided on hosting a weekly farmer's market on Thursday evening in the

Community Center parking lot beginning in the early fall.

The City has also recently been contacted by Supervisor Gutierrez' office as they are collaborating with Bienstar is Well Being, a non-profit that will be bringing a monthly produce distribution to Banning beginning in September. This would be a drive through free produce distribution open to Banning residents. The non profit is attempting to start in September and is also looking at the Banning Community Center Parking lot as the site for this distribution and we are hoping to have details very soon.

The goal of establishing micro community gardens throughout the City of Banning in addition to a weekly farmer's market and a free monthly produce distribution will go a long way to providing healthy produce options to all of Banning.

JUSTIFICATION:

The Banning Chamber of Commerce is no longer able to or interested in developing a community garden.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

ALTERNATIVES:

None provided.

BUDGETED?:

No

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:

No

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [COB &COC_Community Garden Lease_4.20.24.pdf](#)
2. [Resolution 2022-82 - desire to create long term Comm Garden.pdf](#)
3. [Resolution 2023-14 - approving lease agreement with Chamber for Community garden@22nd.pdf](#)