Community Survey Results

A community-wide survey to assess resident priorities, opinions and satisfaction levels with the City was administered to a statistically significant sample of residents between the dates of September 12 and September 22, 2016. The sample was based on the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters’ list of residents who are registered to vote in Palos Verdes Estates. Residents were notified of the community-wide survey in advance through the Fall Newsletter that was mailed to every residence in Palos Verdes Estates, the City website, the City’s e-Notification system, and through the City’s use of the social media platforms NextDoor, Facebook, and Twitter. The survey was first launched online with email invitations to randomly selected residents whose email addresses were available from the voter registration database. After exhausting the list of respondents with email addresses, phone surveys were conducted to ensure the surveyed residents were demographically representative of the overall voter population in the City.

Continued on next page
Community Survey Results, continued

The results of the survey were publicly presented at the October 25, 2016 City Council meeting. The presentation material and raw data collected can be viewed on the City’s website at:

The City is immensely grateful for the public’s participation. As the first citywide community survey, results from this survey will set a bar for resident satisfaction and priorities for the coming years. As stated at previous City Council meetings, findings from the community survey will be used in preparation of the budget, allocation of resources, and prioritization of services to serve the interest of residents. In addition to the survey described above, the City conducted an on-line website, non-statistically significant survey and will post the results in early 2017.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

• The vast majority of Palos Verdes Estates residents think the City offers a high quality of life; in particular, local schools, a safe community and good neighborhoods were identified as key reasons for resident satisfaction.
• More than eight in ten residents are satisfied with the quality of services the City provides, and a majority rated City government as doing an “excellent” or “good” job.
• Public safety is clearly residents’ top priority; the PVE Police Department is rated very highly, and residents are highly satisfied with local police protection services.
• However, two-thirds believe “crime in general” has increased in the City, and more than seven in ten say home burglaries are on the rise.
• Issues related to traffic/street safety, including the interaction of motorists, pedestrians and cyclists on local roads was the top concern of residents, but fewer than half regard such issues to be an “extremely” or “very” serious problem.
• Underscoring this was the finding that among City services surveyed, traffic safety scored higher than average on importance but lower than average on satisfaction.
• About half of PVE residents have contacted City staff within the past 12 months, and most have had positive interactions and rate staff highly.
• Two-thirds are satisfied with the City’s outreach to keep residents informed; most get information about local issues through friends/neighbors or the Peninsula News.

The survey results have an overall margin of error of +/- 5.4% at the 95% confidence interval.
Date Reminders

Tuesday, December 27, 2016
City Council Meeting canceled.

Tuesday, January 10, 2017
Palos Verdes Homes Association Membership Meeting at 8 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall (City Council meeting rescheduled).

Wednesday, January 11, 2017
City Council Meeting scheduled.
City Council meetings resume to the regular schedule of the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month beginning January 24, 2017.

City Hall Closures
Monday, December 26, 2016 in observance of the Christmas Holiday
Monday, January 2, 2017 in observance of the New Year
Monday, January 16, 2017 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, February 20, 2017 in observance of Presidents’ Day
To connect with the City, call (310) 378-0383 or visit www.pvestates.org.

Brief History of Fire and Paramedic Services Parcel Tax

The City of Palos Verdes Estates operated its own Fire Department until 1986 when Proposition 13 property tax cuts became too severe to fund fire and paramedic services in the community. In May 1986, the City closed its Fire Department and entered into a contract with the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) to provide fire protection, paramedic services, and the enforcement of the Fire Code. The contract is evergreen; in other words, recognizing fire and paramedic services are an essential public safety need, the contract is constructed to continue indefinitely unless, with 12-months advance notice to the LACoFD, it is canceled.

Over the decades, the City instituted a variety of mechanisms to fund the on-going cost of fire and paramedic services. During the 1980’s, voter-approved parcel taxes for police/fire/paramedic and parklands maintenance covered a portion of the costs of these municipal services. In 1991 and then again in 1996, property owners voted their approval of a Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment District (FSBAD) that covered 100% of the cost of the contract with LACoFD through 2001. However, with voter approval of Proposition 218 in 1996, the FSBAD could only be used to fund fire protection, not paramedic services. Paramedic services represent 40% of the cost of the fire contract, and it is an essential service. Therefore, in 2001, after examining long-term financing options, the City placed before voters a ballot measure to fund fire and paramedic services through a parcel tax. Voters, in turn, overwhelmingly approved the tax (by 87%) and renewed it again in 2007 for ten years (by 87%), expiring in June 2017. To continue the funding of fire and paramedic services through the parcel tax, a ballot measure will be before voters for consideration at the March 7, 2017 General Municipal Election.
Fire and Paramedic Services Funding Update

June 2017. At its January 13, 2016 meeting, the City Council agreed to evaluate funding alternatives for LACoFD services. To proceed, a Citizen Committee was assembled, comprised as follows:

Ronald Buss (Chair) - Lunada Bay
Tom Connaghan - Lunada Bay
Kristin Curren - Valmonte
Robin DeBraal - Lunada Bay
Amy Friedman - Montemalaga
Valerie Gorsuch - Malaga Cove
Helaine Lopes - Valmonte
Clark Margolf - Lunada Bay
Ellen Perkins - Lunada Bay
Lynn Solomita - Malaga Cove
William Um - Malaga Cove
David Wagman - Montemalaga

The Committee assessed the City’s current and future financial positions and deliberated over alternate funding options. Committee members also received a report from NBS, an independent auditor with which the City contracts to provide oversight of the funds collected through the parcel tax. The Committee received factual and historical information, educational materials and public information.

The Committee recommended continuing the existing parcel tax based on the existing formula that has been in place since 1991. The Committee was satisfied that the management of funds collected through this parcel tax, which includes a regular audit and deposit in a special fund dedicated to fire and paramedic services, prevents the use of these funds for any other purpose. The Committee also relied on the City Council’s annual review of the funding mechanism and management of the parcel tax.

At its November 8, 2016 meeting, the City Council voted to place the parcel tax on the ballot for consideration in the March 7, 2017 election. The ballot measure includes a 12-year sunset provision through 2029 to coincide with future City elections being held in November beginning in 2020.

To access the most up-to-date information regarding this matter, please visit www.pvestates.org/services/fire-and-paramedic-department or contact the City at (310) 378-0383.
Fire and Paramedic Services Parcel Tax FAQ

1. Why is this on the ballot?
   The parcel tax for fire and paramedic services will be on the ballot in March 2017 because the existing funding source for this public safety service expires in June 2017. Without the funding, City reserves would be utilized for these services until another election can be held, at the earliest in April 2018, and/or service level reductions would be implemented.

2. What services will the LA County Fire Department (LACoFD) provide? Are there any other benefits in the City’s contract with the County?
   The City’s contract with the County Fire Department provides personnel and equipment for:
   - Fire suppression
   - Emergency medical response
   - Dispatch service for 911 calls
   - Brush inspection
   - Disaster response
   - Cliff rescues
   - Emergency roadway clearance
   - Hazardous material responses
   - New construction inspections
   - Plan review

   Unique specifically to the Palos Verdes Estates contract, LACoFD is obligated to pay 80% of the upgrade to Palos Verdes Estates Fire Station 2. However, at this time, there are no plans in place for any construction project.

3. What kind of incidents and how often is the Los Angeles County Fire Department called upon to provide services?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services Provided in 2015</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outside Rubbish Fires</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Fire Calls</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescue &amp; Medical Emergencies</td>
<td>725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous Materials &amp; Conditions</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Service Calls</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Alarm/False Calls</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. What percentage of the City’s budget is allocated to providing fire and paramedic services?
   In FY 2016/2017, fire and paramedic services represent 26% ($4,703,818) of the City’s $17.7 million annual operating budget.

5. How long has the City contracted with Los Angeles County Fire Department?
   The City has contracted with LACoFD since 1986. LACoFD is legally known as the Consolidated Fire Protection District.

6. Why is Palos Verdes Estates not in the Fire Protection District with Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills Estates and Rolling Hills? Can Palos Verdes Estates join with the other cities? If not, why can’t the City join the Fire Protection District?
   The City of Palos Verdes Estates is different than other cities on the peninsula for funding fire and paramedic services. The City operated its own Fire Department after voters approved Proposition 13; this precludes the existing LACoFD from receiving property taxes from Palos Verdes Estates for fire and paramedic services even though Palos Verdes Estates subsequently eliminated its Fire Department. The City, in turn, has chosen to contract with the LACoFD for fire and paramedic services. In contrast, property owners in the other three cities on the peninsula, having always been in the LACoFD, contribute a portion of their existing property tax to the LACoFD and automatically receive their services.

7. How are fire and paramedic services costs calculated in Palos Verdes Estates compared to the cities in the Fire Protection District?
   Funding in Palos Verdes Estates is determined by a specific, voter approved formula which is designed to only cover fire and paramedic service costs. Property owners in the LACoFD, in contrast, pay for the service based on the assessed value of their property.

8. How is the total parcel tax amount determined and apportioned among property owners for fire and paramedic services in Palos Verdes Estates?
   The proposed parcel tax is calculated annually based on a formula that directly matches and corresponds to the annual contract expenditure for service. The proceeds of the tax are deposited into a dedicated account established for the single purpose of covering the fire and paramedic services, and the proceeds of the tax are audited annually by the City’s external auditor.

   The formula distributes the annual contract cost for service among properties; the City contracts with a specialized firm (NBS) that allocates and updates the formula and distribution of costs to match the annual expenditures. Specifically, the formula utilizes a flat-rate stand-by availability charge plus an additional amount based on each square foot of improvement on the property. Annual updates are based on the percentage change in the LACoFD budget. The illustration to the right
demonstrates the tax levy.

In contrast, property owners in the LACoFD pay for fire and paramedic services through their existing property tax payment based on the assessed value of the property. These property owners are subject to the pre-Proposition 13 property tax allocation formula that cannot be changed. Property owners in Rancho Palos Verdes, for example, contributed a cumulative total of $20.2 million in fiscal year 2015/16 to the LACoFD for the two fire stations in comparison to $4.7 million paid by property owners in Palos Verdes Estates for the one fire station. Of every dollar paid in property taxes in Rancho Palos Verdes, approximately $0.18 is allocated to the LACoFD and $0.06 is received by the City for municipal services for a total of $0.24 for general and public safety services. In Palos Verdes Estates, only $0.11 of every dollar in property taxes received is for municipal services and public safety services. Therefore, the proceeds of the parcel tax are collected and directed for fire and paramedic services.

9. How is the cost calculated for homeowners in the Fire Protection District for service?

The following illustration demonstrates how the post-Proposition 13 assessment levy is applied in cities like Rancho Palos Verdes:

10. How much would homeowners in the Fire Protection District pay if they utilized Palos Verdes Estates’ formula?

Using the same example above with the Palos Verdes Estates’ tax formula, the property owner would pay a 20% lower levy, excluding LACoFD’s per-parcel special tax. For a savings of $191.32 ($951.77-$760.45) as illustrated by the following for a Palos Verdes Estates resident.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Type: Single Family Home - Structure Size: 2,300 Sq. Ft.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base Rate: $328.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvement Rate: $0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply Base Rate: $328.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply Improvement Rate: 2,300 SF x $0.187952 = $432.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Special Tax Amount: $760.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Why can’t the City pay for services from the property taxes property owners already pay?

The allocation of property taxes received by Palos Verdes Estates is not sufficient to cover the $4.7 million cost of fire and paramedic services along with other routine, public safety, and municipal functions and services. The City of Palos Verdes Estates will receive a cumulative total of $7.8 million in property taxes in fiscal year 2016/17. With other revenue sources, the City has a total of $12.9 million in revenue for annual operations. Combined with one-time funding for supplemental activities and projects, fiscal year 2016/17 operating costs are comprised of $7.1 million for the Police Department, $3.8 million for Planning and Public Works functions, and $2.0 million allocated to Finance and Administration. Of the $12.9 million, 64.9% is allocated to personnel; 28.5% is allocated to supplies & services; 2.8% is allocated to equipment replacement; and 3.7% is allocated to insurance. The remaining amount is allocated to capital outlay.

12. Could the funds collected from this tax be used for other purposes?

Multiple levels of review preclude the parcel tax from being used for any purpose other than fire and paramedic services. The parcel tax proceeds are deposited into an account established for the single, dedicated purpose of covering the cost of fire and paramedic services; the Fund is audited annually by the City’s external auditor. The Fund is also reviewed and adjusted every year by a specialized firm (NBS) that calculates the tax levy; NBS audits the cost of services in comparison to taxes received and necessary to cover the cost of the fire and paramedic service. NBS provides a second independent external review of the Fund to validate the accountability of the funds. Furthermore, and required by the previous and proposed ballot measure, the levy must be reviewed and approved annually by the City Council at a publicly noticed meeting before the annual assessment can be placed on the tax roll. Finally, through the approval of payment warrants at each City Council meeting, the City Council reviews and approves all City expenditures.
Traffic Law Compliance

When the City founders designed the City’s streets in the 1920’s and 30’s, they did not take into consideration that 75 years later such a large number of vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians would be using the roads. Since many of the main streets are not wide enough to accommodate vehicular traffic, bicycle lanes, and street parking, we all must cooperate, be respectful, exhibit patience, and follow the law to share the roadway. In order to mitigate hazards, roadway users should keep in mind the following rules of the road:

• Bicycles and motor vehicles need to stop at all posted Stop Signs. (CVC 22450(a))

• The speed on the roadway needs to be safe for conditions. (CVC 22350)

• Bicyclists riding on the roadway need to ride as close to the right of the roadway as safely possible, unless special circumstances exist such as passing another bicyclist, a parked vehicle or some other roadway obstruction. (CVC 21202(a))

• Prior to turning, vehicles must signal (100 feet prior). If a vehicle lacks turn signals, appropriate hand signals must be used. (CVC 22110(a))

• Handheld cell phones are unlawful to use while driving a motor vehicle. (CVC 23123(a)) A person operating a motor vehicle or bicycle may not wear a headset covering, earplugs in, or earphones covering, resting on, or inserted in, both ears. (CVC 27400)

• Before passing a bicyclist, motorists should make sure there is at least 3 feet of clearance between the motor vehicle and the bicyclist. If there is insufficient safe space for a car to pass a bicyclist (3’) then the car must allow the bicyclist to take the full lane and the car must follow the bicyclist until such a time when it can pass safely. (CVC 21760)

• Motorists and bicyclists should check blind spots prior to changing lanes or turning.

• If parked, motorists should check their mirror before opening their car door to prevent causing a collision with a bicyclist approaching from behind.

Most importantly, share the road. The California Vehicle Code equally applies to motor vehicles and bicycles alike. All roadway users must equally adhere to the rules of the road, which means that everyone needs to abide by the same laws and be tolerant of one another. If everyone is respectful and works together, it will be a safer and more enjoyable experience for all. For more information, please see http://www.pvestates.org/services/police-department/bicycle-information.

The Palos Verdes Estates Police Department is committed to ensuring the safe use of the roads. For information about enforcement of traffic laws, please call Captain Mark Velez at (310) 378-4211.
Storm Safety Tips

Despite the continuing drought, winter storms can bring danger of mud and debris flows in steep hillside areas. Being prepared is your best defense. Know your property’s risk factors and maintain clear drainage paths. Use sandbags to direct runoff and protect structures. Residents must prevent mud and debris runoff onto City streets and storm drains.

Sand and sandbags are available to residents at the sandbag station located next to the Fire Department at 340 Palos Verdes Drive West (west side of City Hall). If residents need more than 10-15 bags, please make arrangements with a home supply store.

Simple Ways to Prepare

• Create an emergency kit, today! If you already have an emergency kit prepared, review it regularly.
• Check your car. Make sure your car's tires have good tread and that your windshield wipers work well. Your headlights should always be on in the rain!
• Check your house. Clear your outdoor drains and gutters of any leaves, dirt or debris. Secure trash, recycling bins and any other items that have the potential of blowing or floating away. Weakened trees should be inspected by an arborist.
• Use sandbags. Sandbags can be utilized to help protect your home and property before a storm.
• Don’t risk your life. During significant storm events, avoid waterways, flood control channels and the ocean, which can all rapidly swell and become extremely dangerous. NO PLACE outside is safe when lightning is in the area!
• Have Emergency Alerts sent to your mobile phone and email. Register for the City’s e-Notifications by visiting its website (www.pvestates.org) and the Police Department’s Nixle text alerts by texting your zip code to 888777.
• Report storm-related problems to the Public Works Department online at www.pvestates.org/how-do-i/report-a-concern or by calling (310) 378-0383.
• Prevent stormwater pollution. Rain washes everything into storm drains that lead to our rivers and ocean. Secure household hazardous waste with tight-fitting lids and store these items in covered areas.
• Capture rainwater. Prepare your landscaped areas to capture and retain more water by using compost. Collect rain that falls on your roof by installing rain barrels.
Holiday Safety

The holiday season is a joyous time to celebrate with friends and family. However, safety is of critical importance as accidents can happen at any time of the year. Whether it's safety at home, in a car, at holiday parties, or traveling, residents should make preparations in advance.

Here are some quick and easy tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe this holiday season:

**At Home**
- Don't overload electrical circuits.
- Make sure decorations are not blocking doors and passageways.
- If you have a fireplace, wood stove, or use gas logs/furnace, be sure you have an operable UL approved carbon monoxide detector.
- Keep candles, Yule logs and Menorahs away from drapes, trees or other flammable objects.
- Extinguish all candles before leaving home or going to sleep.
- If you have a Christmas tree, be sure it is mounted on a sturdy base that cannot be easily tipped.
- If you have a real, live Christmas tree, place it in water or wet sand to keep it green. If the tree is an artificial tree, make sure it is flame resistant.
- Never place wrapping paper in, or near, your fireplace.
- Keep large displays of holiday gifts out of view through windows and doors.
- When someone comes to your door, don’t be afraid to ask questions and request identification. Sometimes criminals will pose as couriers delivering gifts. It's also not uncommon for people to go door-to-door and ask for charitable donations when there is no charity involved.
- Be ready with disaster preparedness by storing extra food, water, supplies, etc.

**In the Car**
- Always wear a seatbelt and use child safety seats.
- Get a good night's sleep before starting on the road for a long drive.
- Never get behind the wheel after drinking alcohol.
- Avoid driving alone, or at night. If driving at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Keep all doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car.
- Do not leave packages or valuables in plain view in your car.
- Locate your keys prior to going to your car.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area. Ask security to escort you.
- Keep a car charger for your cell phone in your car.

**Holiday Parties**
- Have non-alcoholic beverages available for party guests.
- Use alternative transportation, or have a designated driver, if you have consumed alcohol.
- Refrigerate foods that require cold storage.
- When cooking meats, use a thermometer to ensure the right temperature.
- Leftovers should not be left out for more than two hours at a time.

**Traveling**
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.
- Have a neighbor or friend watch your home.
- Have your mail and newspaper deliveries stopped, or picked up by your neighbor or friend.
- Request a “Vacation Check” through the Police Department by going to the City's website at [www.pvestates.org](http://www.pvestates.org) and typing in “vacation check” in the top right search box.

**Important Phone Numbers**
- Emergency: 911
- Palos Verdes Estates Police Dept. (310) 378-4211
- Los Angeles County Fire Department Station #2 (310) 373-6539

Residents should report issues to the Police Department after business hours, holidays, and weekends when City Hall is closed.

Hazard and crime prevention begin with you. Do your part to make the holidays a safe and happy time for you and your family. So if you see something you know shouldn’t be there—or someone’s behavior doesn’t seem quite right—say something.
Palos Verdes Homes Association Annual Meeting

The PVHA’s 91st annual meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2017 at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Palos Verdes Estates City Hall, as required by the Association’s bylaws. The annual meeting notice, member verification, and election ballot will be mailed to property owners. The property owner(s) of record must sign the member verification and return with the ballot in the envelope provided, which is preaddressed to the Inspector of Elections. PVHA cannot accept drop-off ballots. All signed member verification and ballots must be received by the Inspector of Elections via U.S. Mail by the close of voting on January 4th at 4:20 p.m. As PVHA requires a quorum of 2,712 to conduct business, please sign and return your member verification as soon as possible.

Malaga Cove Library Book Sales

Friday, January 20, 2017 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday, January 21, 2017 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday, February 17, 2017 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday, February 18, 2017 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Poll Workers Needed - General Municipal Election, March 7, 2017

Calling all volunteers! Residents are encouraged to consider serving as a poll worker or inspector for the City’s Election on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, which will be conducted by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder’s office. Poll workers play a vital role in making democracy work; plus, it is a great way to see your neighbors! Poll workers will be compensated by the County: $140 for precinct clerks and up to $240 for Poll Inspectors. These pay rates include a stipend for attending a training session. Poll workers are not required to be registered voters. High school students with appropriate administer/parental approval and college students 16 years of age or older may also serve as a poll worker. Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Contact the Registrar’s Polls and Officers Section at 800-815-2666 (option 7) or visit www.lavote.net to sign up.

For more information regarding the City’s General Municipal Election, visit the Elections Page on the City website at www.pvestates.org.
Holiday Events and Services

Christmas Tree Pick-Up
The City’s waste hauler, will once again provide FREE Christmas tree removal. Service will be provided on your normal weekly trash pickup starting December 26, 2016 through January 6, 2017. Trees will be removed from your regular trash removal area. Be sure to remove all tree stands, lights, ornaments and other decorations. Lightly flocked trees are acceptable. For more information, please contact Athens Services at (888) 336-6100.

PV Transit Will Offer FREE New Year’s Eve Rides
PV Transit will offer its annual FREE New Year’s Eve transportation service on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. This service will be provided from 6 p.m., December 31, 2016 until 2 a.m., January 1, 2017. Advance reservations, one-way or round trip, may be made beginning December 23 by calling (310) 544-3710, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Residents may also call for same day service before 6 p.m. by calling (310) 544-3710. For additional information, call PV Transit directly at the number above.

We hope you have a safe Holiday Season!

Stay Connected to the City

The City’s website is the official source for all City information on meetings, agendas, reports and background information. The City does not receive or monitor social media sites for comments or for receiving public reports and requests. NextDoor, other social media tools (such as Nixle), Neighborhood Watch e-blasts, and the City Newsletter are utilized to share some key information, such as event notification and general information, but residents are encouraged to monitor the City’s website (www.pvestates.org) for official and comprehensive information.

To receive email notifications from the City, select SIGN ME UP to register on the City’s website at www.pvestates.org.
As always, residents can contact the City at (310) 378-0383 with any questions or concerns.

In an effort to have even greater outreach to residents, the City and Police Department maintain accounts on several social media platforms and post information on a regular basis.

Official City Social Media Accounts:

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/CityofPVEstates
Twitter: https://twitter.com/CityofPVEstates
Nextdoor

Official Police Department Social Media Accounts:

https://www.facebook.com/PalosVerdesEstatesPD
nixle https://nixle.com/palos-verdes-estates-police-department
Nextdoor
https://nextdoor.com/agency-detail/ca/palos-verdes-estates/palos-verdes-estates-police-department
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