

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

APPROVED
SEP 03 2008

NO. 08-247

DATE September 3, 2008

C.D. Various

**BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH DR. JAMES P. KALLUSKY DBA JPK CONSULTING TO PROVIDE EVALUATION SERVICES, GATHER RELEVANT STATISTICS, AND RECOMMEND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CLEAN AND SAFE SPACES (CLASS) PARKS PROGRAM

R. Adams _____	J. Kolb _____
H. Fujita _____	F. Mok _____
S. Huntley _____	K. Regan _____
*V. Israel _____	M. Shull _____

RAH

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve a proposed Professional Services Agreement with Dr. James P. Kallusky dba JPK Consulting, substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, to provide evaluation services, gather relevant statistics, and recommend improvements to the Clean and Safe Spaces (CLASS) Parks Program, for a term of nine (9) months commencing upon date of execution, in an amount not to exceed \$23,500; subject to the approval of the Mayor and City Attorney; and,
2. Find in accordance with Charter Section 371(e)(2) and Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 10.15(a)(2) that this Agreement is for the performance of professional, expert, technical or other special services of a temporary and occasional character for which competitive bidding is not practicable or advantageous, as price is not the sole factor and CONTRACTOR possesses unique and special qualifications and expertise and specific knowledge of the CLASS Parks Program not possessed by any other potential contractor for these services; and,
3. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit forthwith the proposed Professional Service Agreement to the Mayor's Office for approval in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, and concurrently to the City Attorney for review and approval as to form; and,

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4. Authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the subject Agreement, upon receipt of the necessary approvals.

SUMMARY:

The Department of Recreation and Parks has operated the CLASS Parks Program since November 2000 with the objective to transform troubled neighborhood recreation centers into clean, vibrant, local community resources equipped with new playgrounds, additional staff, and expanded programs, particularly for young teens.

In recent years, the CLASS Parks Program has implemented a youth development approach based on the developmental asset paradigm to serve young people throughout Los Angeles and has continued the renewal of parks in specific communities. Forty-seven (47) facilities were selected for renewal on the basis of economic conditions, facility degeneration, known crime, or other problems. The Mayor's Gang Reduction Strategy and the Ad Hoc Committee on Gang Violence requires City departments to improve their efforts in targeting communities in need and to evaluate program results in order to justify new and/or continued funding for youth development and anti-gang programs.

The evaluation process has been a critical component of the CLASS Parks Program and calls for accountability in outcomes for the programs. The evaluation provides crucial feedback to the Department on the impact the CLASS Parks Program has had on youth participants, families, and the communities it serves. The evaluation will also measure the degree to which the CLASS Parks Program is achieving its stated objective to transform troubled neighborhood recreation centers.

Since 2001, Doctor James P. Kallusky dba JPK Consulting (Dr. Kallusky) has been a prominent figure in evaluating efforts that serve areas of underserved youth and disenfranchised communities and has played a vital role in the ongoing evaluation of the CLASS Parks Program. Dr. Kallusky has supplied a detailed evaluation of current assets possessed by youth, as well as identifying those which need to be acquired and nurtured. Dr. Kallusky spent 14 years in the youth development field creating, implementing, directing, and researching programs similar to the CLASS Parks Program.

Dr. Kallusky's latest evaluation has enabled CLASS Parks to modify policies and programs accordingly. Dr. Kallusky has worked with CLASS Parks staff to apply these results to improve practices by implementing new asset-building strategies. Dr. Kallusky developed twelve full-day workshops to train staff, which was implemented in the fall of 2007. Staff has been pleased with the thoroughness of the evaluations Dr. Kallusky has conducted and with the soundness of his recommendations to date.

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Staff requests a Professional Services Agreement with Dr. Kallusky be approved to ensure continuity of methods applied to measure CLASS Parks Program's impact on the youth and communities it services. Dr. Kallusky's in-depth knowledge of the current state of research for youth programs and the soundness of his methodology and analytical evaluation strongly benefits CLASS Parks Program with a professional external evaluation. The Professional Services Agreement with Dr. Kallusky will provide professional evaluation services to confirm that the Department continues to properly allocate resources to execute effective programming for youth and communities in areas troubled by gang violence by creating a safe environment in parks and assisting youth in becoming healthy adults.

Dr. Kallusky will develop, distribute, collect, and analyze a bilingual survey for youth and their families to evaluate asset levels, risk-taking behaviors, and thriving indicators for youth. The surveys will be utilized to evaluate the CLASS Parks Program and to mobilize community-wide attention to the need for healthy development of young people. Data collected will be quantitative in nature, producing statistics to document the developmental asset levels of youth, their risk-taking behaviors, and their thriving indicators. Based on the results obtained from the evaluation, Dr. Kallusky will present two (2) full-day training session workshops to staff to explore asset-building strategies to improve programs.

The proposed Agreement with Dr. Kallusky is not subject to the Charter Section 1022 Determination process because it is valued at less than \$25,000 for the term of the contract.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding in an amount not to exceed \$23,500 for this Youth Specialist contract is allocated in Department 88, Fund 302, Account 304, Contractual Services. No additional funding is requested from the Department's General Fund.

This report was prepared by Ann Vollmer, Acting Principal Recreation Supervisor II, CLASS Parks.