

APPROVED

JULY 03 2019

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 19-136

DATE July 03, 2019

C.D. Various

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: DONATION FROM THE NATASHA WATLEY FOUNDATION IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS OPERATED GIRLS SPRING AND SUMMER SOFTBALL LEAGUES AT TWENTY-TWO PARK SITES

AP Diaz	_____	S. Piña-Cortez	_____
H. Fujita	_____	C. Santo Domingo	_____
*V. Israel		N. Williams	_____



 General Manager

Approved X

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Accept a donation from the Natasha Watley Foundation (NWF), consisting of cash and in-kind services, with a total estimated value of Forty-Six Thousand, Six Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$46,620.00), in support of the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) operation of the 2019 Natasha Watley Spring and Summer Softball Leagues (League), and direct that appropriate recognition be given to NWF; and,
2. Direct RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to deposit in the established Sports Organization Account under Fund 302, Department 89, Account 89703H, Sub-Account NW, all funds received from the NWF for the Leagues, and to authorize the payment of League-related expenses from said Sub-Account.

SUMMARY

NWF was founded by two-time Olympic softball medalist Natasha Watley to create softball based development opportunities for girls in underserved communities in order for the participants to learn the game of softball and valuable life-skills. The NWF seeks young women whose financial resources are limited to provide them with the opportunity to train, develop, and compete in a high-quality softball league guided by the League's Coach Mentor Program (CMP).

As a part of RAP's ongoing collaborative operation of the League, NWF will donate the following for the 2019 spring and summer leagues: 1) cash in amount of Three Thousand, One Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$3,120.00) for payment of umpire fees; 2) in-kind contribution and services in the form of equipment and CMP with an estimated in-kind value of up to Forty-Three Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$43,500.00). The collective value of NWF's contribution to both Leagues is estimated to be Forty-Six Thousand, Six Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$46,620.00).

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The 2019 Spring and Summer Softball Leagues will be the twelfth year of the League's operation and the eighth year of CMP and associated Essay Contest. CMP matches top female athletes from universities nationwide with each of the participating recreation centers. Coach Mentors not only coach but also teach the "Four Points of the Diamond" – discipline, dedication, dignity, and duty. With the help of the Coach Mentors, players between the ages of 11 to 15 are given the opportunity to write an essay based on the core values of character and the Four Points of the Diamond and awarded a prize by NWF.

The Valley Region Spring League Opening Day Ceremony was held in April and League play concluded on June 8, 2019. The 2019 Spring League consisted of 35 teams representing 13 recreation centers from the Valley Region. Participating recreation centers from the Valley Region include Branford, David M. Gonzales, Delano, Fernangeles, Hubert H. Humphrey, Panorama, Ritchie Valens, Sepulveda, Studio City, Sun Valley, Sylmar, Valley Plaza, Van Nuys Sherman Oaks.

The Pacific Region Summer League Opening Day Ceremony was held on June 8, 2019, and League play will conclude on August 6, 2019. The 2019 Summer League consists of 14 teams representing 9 recreation centers from the Pacific Region. Participating recreation centers from the Pacific Region include Baldwin Hills, Central, Denker, Green Meadows, Martin Luther King Jr., Ross Snyder, St. Andrews, Van Ness, and Wilmington.

RAP will conduct all administrative functions related to the program, including promoting both Leagues, recruiting and registering players, providing head or assistant coaches who will assist with weekly practices and games, hosting the opening and closing ceremonies. Uniforms were provided by the Girls Play LA Program.

FISCAL IMPACT

Acceptance of this donation results in no impact to RAP's General Fund, but rather supplements the payment of League-related expenses, as RAP does not have the funding resources necessary to conduct these youth programs at the same level, without assistance from supporters like NWF.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

Goal No. 2: Offer Affordable and Equitable Recreational Programming

Outcome No. 2: Achieve and sustain gender parity in recreational program participation

Key Metric: Percentage of female participation in youth sports programs

Result: Natasha Watley Softball League will train and develop approximately 612 girls and young women in softball.

This Report was prepared by Chinyere Stoneham, Principal Recreation Supervisor I, CLASS Parks, Metro Region.