

APPROVED
JUN 11 2014

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 14-149

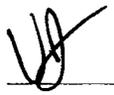
DATE: June 11, 2014

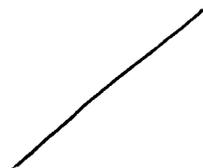
BOARD OF RECREATION
1 PARK COMMISSIONERS

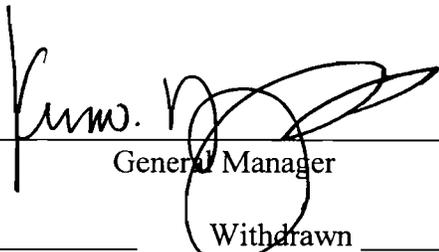
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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: PARTNERSHIP DIVISION – DONATION OF FUNDS AND EQUIPMENT FROM THE NATASHA WATLEY FOUNDATION IN SUPPORT OF A DEPARTMENT-OPERATED GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE AT NINE PARK SITES

R. Adams	_____	*V. Israel	<u></u>
R. Barajas	_____	K. Regan	_____
H. Fujita	_____	N. Williams	_____

Approved 

Disapproved _____
Withdrawn _____

General Manager

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Accept a donation from the Natasha Watley Foundation (NWF), consisting of funding, uniforms, equipment, and in-kind services, with an estimated value of up to seventeen thousand, fifteen dollars (\$17,015.00), in support of the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) operation of the Natasha Watley Softball League 2014 season and for the benefit of girls ages eight (8) to twelve (12), and that appropriate recognition be given to NWF; and,
2. Direct the 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 Program and authorize the payment of League-related expenses from said sub-account.

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SUMMARY:

NWF was founded by two-time Olympic softball medalist Natasha Watley to create developmental opportunities for girls in underserved communities, so that they may play the game of softball and learn valuable life-skills along the way. The NWF desires to see young women whose financial resources are limited be able to train, develop, and compete in a high-quality softball league such as the “Natasha Watley Girls Softball League” (League), and be guided through the League’s youth-mentor program.

As a part of RAP’s ongoing collaboration with the NWF for the operation of the League, the NFW proposes to donate the following for the 2014 summer season: sports uniforms with an estimated value of \$5,900.00; softball equipment estimated in value up to \$1,365.00; cash in the amount of \$2,250.00 for the payment of umpire fees; and in-kind services in the form of a Coach Mentor Program (CMP), including materials, supplies and an essay contest for participating players all estimated in value up to \$7,500.00. The CMP, as explained further below, is a service provided by the NWF at no cost to RAP, with a value up to \$6,500.00. The NWF provides manuals and other materials and supplies with an approximate value of \$1,000.00, which are essential in providing guidelines for the implementation of a successful League for female youth at nine (9) City parks. The collective value of the NWF’s contribution to the League is estimated up to the total amount of \$17,015.00.

The 2014 League will be the third year for the CMP and Essay Contest. The 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, each player is given the opportunity to write an essay based on the core values of character and the Four Points of the Diamond.

The League is a summer program which takes place each year from June through August. The

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NWF has supported the League every year with financial and in-kind contributions since 2011. In 2013, the League consisted of eleven (11) teams at the following nine (9) recreation centers located in the Pacific Region: Algin Sutton, Baldwin Hills, Central, Green Meadows, Jackie Tatum/Harvard, Jordan Downs, Rosecrans, Van Ness, and William Nickerson. Over one hundred-sixty (160) girls between the ages of eight (8) and twelve (12) participated in the 2013 League. The 2013 essay contest winner Liyah Ferris and a chaperone attended the National Pro Fast Pitch Championship Game in Chicago, and participated in softball clinics taught by top female athletes with all expenses paid by the NWF.

The 2014 League will consist of two divisions/age groups: ages 8-10 (eight to ten) and ages 11-12 (eleven to twelve). Twelve (12) teams representing nine (9) recreation centers and their respective communities will be formed. The recreation centers are Algin Sutton, Baldwin Hills, Green Meadows, Central, Van Ness, Jordan Downs, Harbor City, William Nickerson and Ross Snyder. Opening Day will be held on June 10, 2014, at Algin Sutton Recreation Center. Games begin June 17, 2014 and end on or around August 19, 2014. Each team will play nine (9) games. All games will be played on Tuesday evening. RAP will conduct all administrative functions related to the program, such as promoting the League, recruiting and registering players, providing assistant coaches who will assist with weekly practices, providing players with transportation to and from games as needed, and hosting the opening and closing ceremonies. The registration fees collected from players participating will be used to pay these related expenses.

As with prior seasons, the NWF will enhance the League experience with activities such as the CMP and Essay Contest. Other than requiring that the donated funds and equipment be used for the implementation of the League at participating parks in the Pacific Region, the NWF is asking for nothing else in return. Upon receipt and deposit of the funds into the Sports Organization Account, RAP will have full control of the funds through its Partnership Division, in coordination with Pacific Region Operations staff, for the operation of the League.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

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

This report was prepared by Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst, and Chinyere Stoneham, Senior Recreation Director II, Partnership Division.