



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: December 17, 2014

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Recognition of Officer Kent Wojciechoski

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission recognize Office Kent Wojciechoski for his role with the Santa Barbara Police Activities League (SBPAL), his commitment to providing recreation programming for the youth in this community, and his many efforts to partner with the Parks and Recreation Department to provide high quality, affordable and accessible programs for youth.

DISCUSSION: The SBPAL program was established in 1999 with a mission to provide educational, cultural, and athletic programming for the youth of Santa Barbara in order to foster positive relationships between the Police Department and members of the community. Since its inception, SBPAL has grown from serving 50 children to over 1,500 youth. During his 23 years of service to this community as a police officer, Kent Wojciechoski's name has been synonymous with the SBPAL program for 15 of those years.

Officer Wojciechoski has served as a Police Department and community liaison to the Parks and Recreation Department, during which time he has been instrumental in establishing partnerships and expanding recreation programs for youth and teens in this community. Under his leadership, SBPAL developed successful, low cost, or free junior high afterschool sports programs, the Campership Alliance program, a Youth Leadership Council, and numerous teen activities, excursions, and cultural events.

During the financial recession when the Department was facing significant budget reductions and service cuts, Officer Wojciechoski was instrumental in working with the Department for SBPAL to assuming the operation of the Twelve35 Teen Center from the Department. SBPAL committed to funding all programs and expanding services for teens, which they have done quite effectively over the years. The Twelve35 lease agreement with SBPAL enabled the Department to re-direct staffing and programming resources to other areas while working collaboratively with SBPAL to continue providing essential recreation and cultural programming for youth and teens in this community.

It is with great gratitude that the Parks and Recreation Department recognizes Officer Kent Wojciechoski for enriching the lives of so many youth in this community, and wishes him a well-deserved retirement.

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